

September 9, 2011

best of the BEST

The finest-looking features
from New York's ritziest rentals

BY JASON SHEFTELL

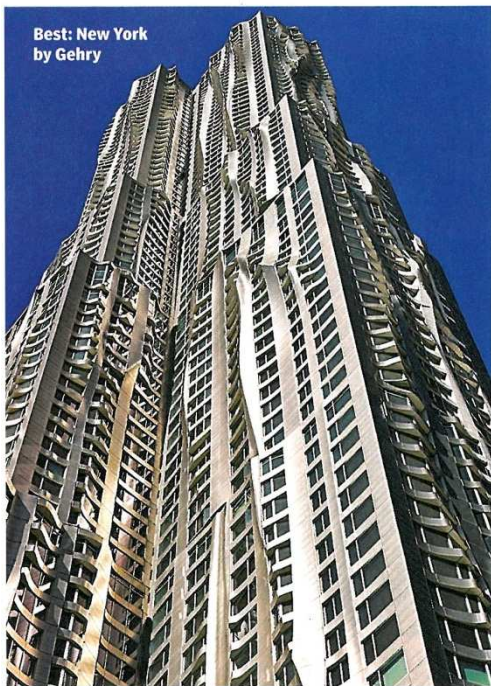
Best indoor pool: Continental, 885 Sixth Ave. The beige tile looks like limestone with double-height windows overlooking Herald Square with views of the Empire State Building. But where's the snack bar?

Unsung: Schomburg Plaza, 1295 Fifth Ave. Two towers and one low-slung building on Madison Ave. might be the top rental building above 96th St. for value seekers. The lobby is inviting. The apartments, most of them, have Central Park views. Pay less than \$2,000 for a one-bedroom ... for now.



ANDREW SAVILICH/DAILY NEWS

Fitness center: Aldyn and Ashley, 60 Riverside Blvd. This made us say a lot more than "wow." It made us use a four-letter word. Maybe that's why more than 10 professional athletes live here.

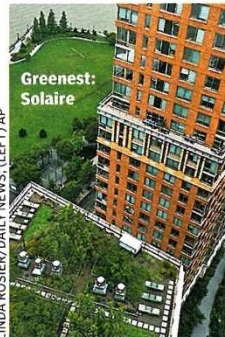


Best: New York
by Gehry

Newcomer: Mercedes House, 555 W. 53rd St. Designed by Enrique Norten, it's the second most architecturally interesting rental in the city (after Gehry, below). They're almost all taken. What's left? One-bedrooms for \$3,300 and two-bedrooms with terraces for \$5,200.

All around: New York by Gehry, 8 Spruce St. Frank Gehry likes this building so much he had his birthday party there. Bono showed. Why? It's a design and development triumph. Best skyscraper in New York City since the Chrysler Building, but you can live in this one.

Green: Solaire, 20 River Terrace, Battery Park City. Mirror mirror on the wall, oh stop, the Solaire is the still greenest rental of them all. Officials from China toured it. The air inside, it just feels cleaner because it is.



LINDA ROSIER/DAILY NEWS; (LEFT) AP

Underrated: Grand Tier, 1930 Broadway. Its owner, Glenwood, has been building luxury rentals for nearly half a century. They got it



DBOX

Most
luxurious:
MiMA

figured it out here. The pool feels like a Roman bath. The lobby tells you that money lives here. Across the street from Lincoln Center helps. Two-bedroom, two baths go for \$7,995.

Lounge: Beatrice, 105 W. 29th St. They call it the Cloud Lounge. Up 54 floors, this 2,600-square-foot furnished space puts the Empire State Building in your face. The electric fireplace and romantic lighting could chill just about anyone out.

Location: Caledonia, 450 W. 17th St. It's on the High Line on a quiet strip steps from the Meatpacking District. It's on the High Line on a quiet strip steps ... just keep repeating that. The lobby is a study in full-block Zen.

Commissary: Truffles Tribeca, 450 Washington St. This place could have taken home about

three other bests (lounge, courtyard, location), but we like what you can't see. Owner Jack Parker put a commissary in when he realized how far a walk it was for residents get sundries. And there's a naked woman on their Web site. We'll let you find her.

Lobby: 25 Broad, 25 Broad St. Perfectly restored Art Deco lobby belongs in a real estate design museum.

Luxurious: MiMA, 450-60 W. 42nd St. Marble, granite, reclaimed wood, not a spec of dust anywhere. Yes, they have a 24-hour concierge. But that's not enough here. Here, you get a personal assistant, and someone to manage your move-in.



GARY HE

Views: 4720
Center Blvd.

Best views: 4720 Center Blvd., Long Island City. Full-on Manhattan views. At night, the city is so bright, you don't even need lights.

Owners: Not all landlords are evil. These three actually do what they say and fix things and don't kick everyone out. Two are multi-generational family owned, the other has been around since the 1960s. Gotham, Manhattan Skyline and Glenwood.



Landlord:
David
Pickett,
Gotham

JULIA XANTHOS/DAILY NEWS



JON ORTNER

Lobby:
25 Broad