

BUSINESS INSIDER

The biggest real estate development in American history is getting a \$150 million M.C. Escher-like stairwell

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On Manhattan's Far West Side, a \$25 billion neighborhood called Hudson Yards is set to be the biggest real estate development in American history. The project's developers expect full build-out by 2024.

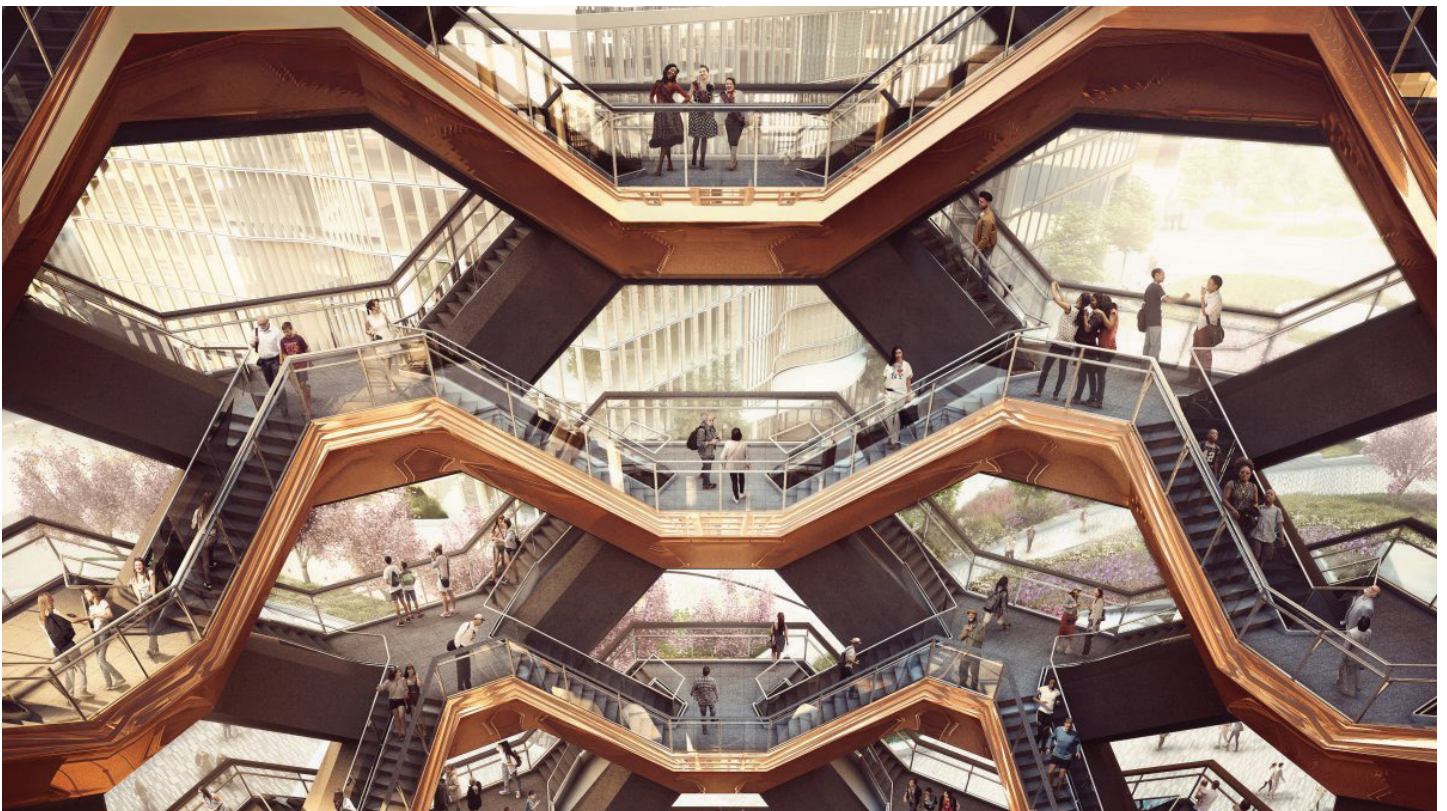
Beyond its new residential skyscrapers, gardens, restaurants, shops, and offices, Hudson Yards will also feature a public landmark that appears to be inspired by M.C. Escher.

Called the Vessel, the \$150 million structure includes 15 stories of intertwining staircases that visitors will climb. The project topped out on Wednesday morning.

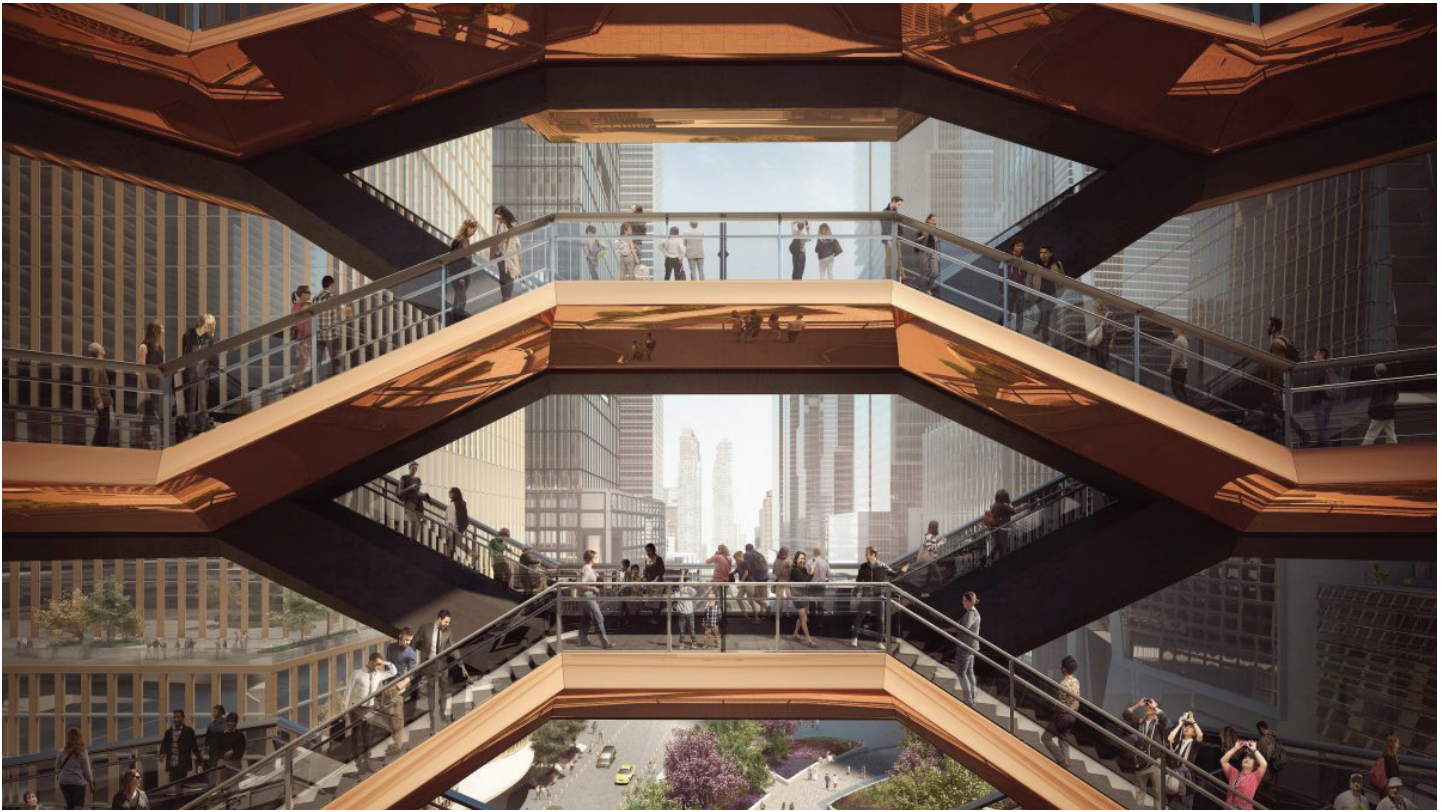
Take a look below.



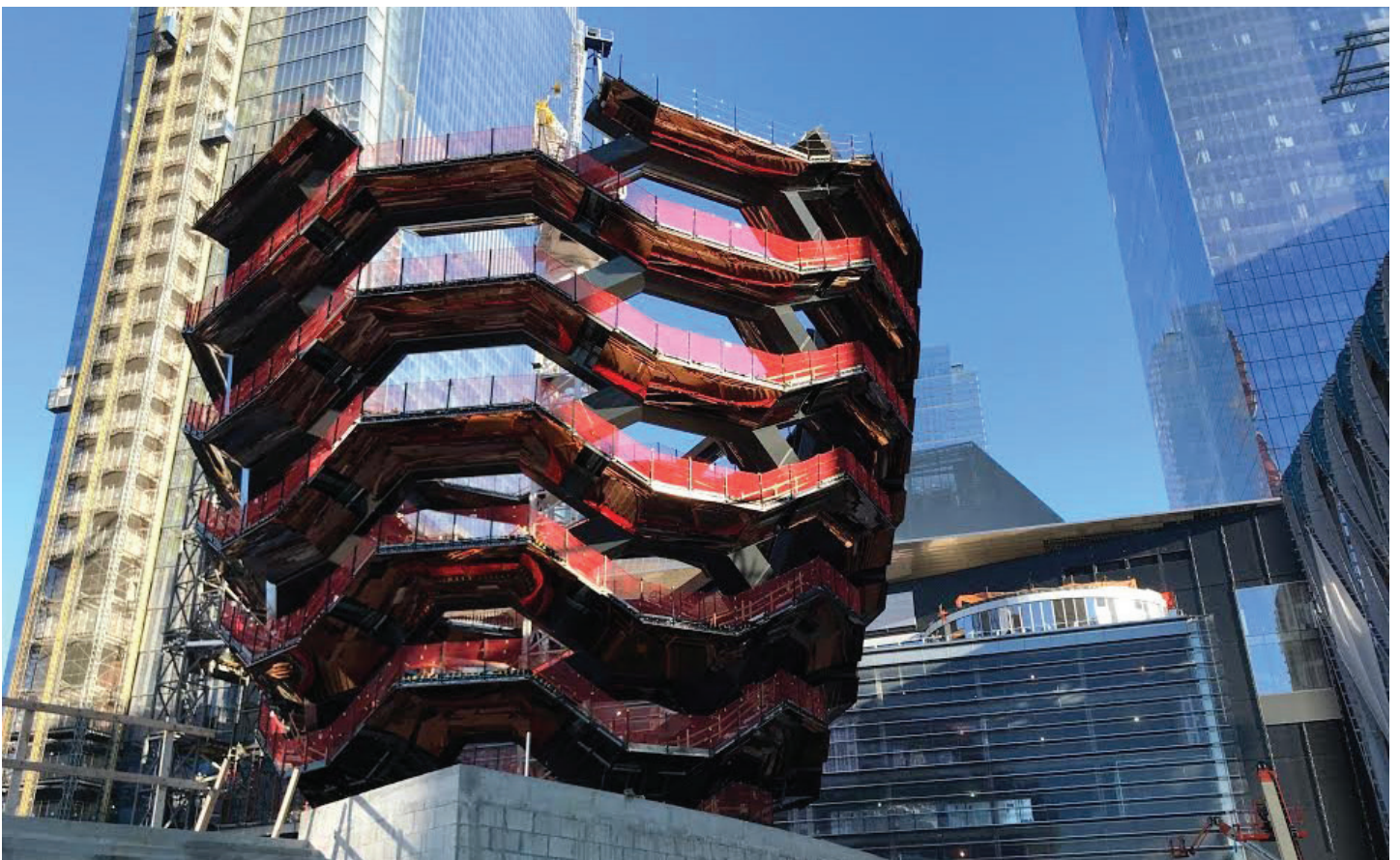
Vessel is in the outdoor public space of Hudson Yards, which is still under construction. Here's what the NYC neighborhood looked like in October 2017.



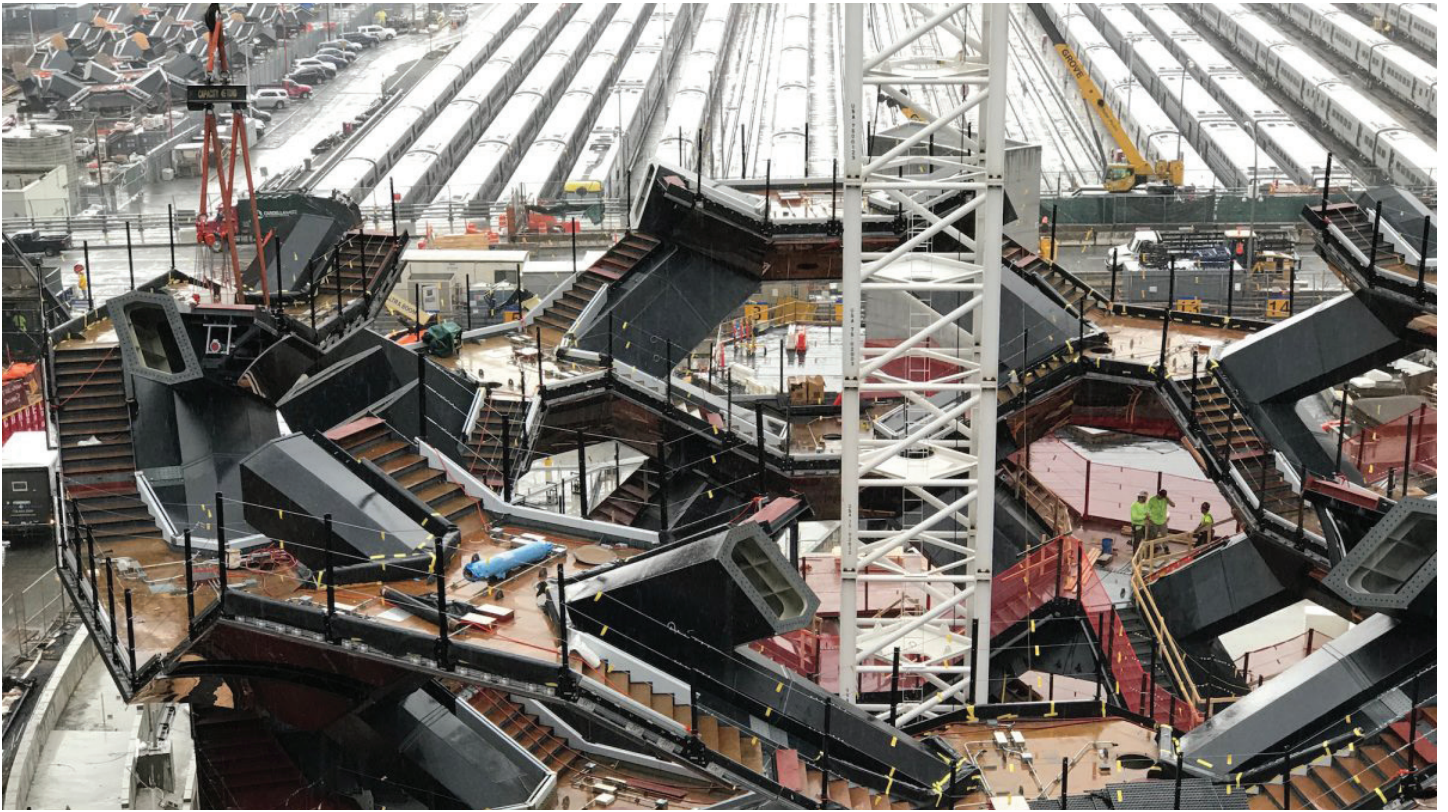
The 600-ton structure features 154 flights of stairs and 80 landings, which connect to form a lattice of walkways. Thomas Heatherwick, founder of London's Heatherwick Studio, designed it.



Visitors will be able to climb 2,500 steps, totaling a mile of pathway above the plazas and gardens below.



Construction workers attached Vessel's last piece on Wednesday morning. The sculpture widens from 50 feet across at its base to 150 feet at its top.



Since a few of the surrounding buildings are still under construction, Vessel will not open to the public until early 2019.



The site's 5-acre plaza will feature more than 28,000 species of trees and plants, a 200-foot long fountain, walking paths, benches, and open squares with tables.



"In a city full of eye-catching structures, our first thought was that it shouldn't just be something to look at. Instead we wanted to make something that everybody could use, touch, relate to," Heatherwick wrote in a statement.