

## THE HIGHLINE STRIP

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In 2009, Manhattan's elevated urban park-- the Highline—was publicly inaugurated. Along its banks are some of the borough's hottest real estate, and birthing grounds for new architectural icons. While the city's skyline remains unchanged on T-shirts and keychains, new architecture is being added every year. The landscape of New York is always shifting, as neighborhoods are constantly in flux.

Many of the newer architectural designs have been dominated by two main parties: corporate firms and a select handful of design celebrities known as *starchitects*. Over on the Far West Side, where hopeful visions of future Olympic athletes have overshadowed the rapid development schemes of the Hudson Yards, only 10 blocks southward is a new booming district. Chelsea, also dubbed New York's arts district, is home to the majority of New York's art galleries. It borders and bleeds into the Meatpacking district.

In the heart of Chelsea and the Meatpacking district along the Highline, designed by landscape architecture firm Field Operations and architects Diller & Scofidio, new icons dominate the skyline: Frank Gehry's claw-shaped IAC headquarters, Jean Nouvel's 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue residential tower, the flasher-friendly Standard Hotel, Neil Denari's condominium tower HL23.

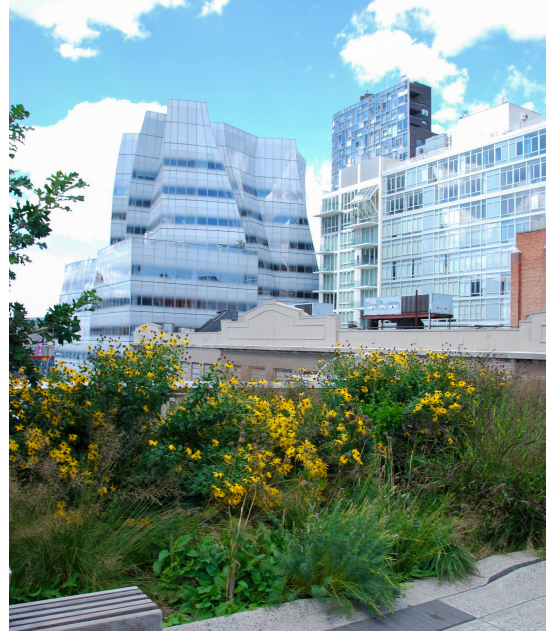
The riverbank of the Highline, under the reign of smaller-scale starchitecture, is continuously being transformed into a more glorious Potemkin corridor. The relationship between the Highline and adjacent new developments is funny: privatized developments flank this strip of public greenway. The iconic buildings *are* the view: they compete for attention from those taking a carefree stroll along the Highline. At the same time, most are inaccessible to the general public. Between older relics and dazzling icons are occasional windows to the cityscape outside of this strip. But really, how private or public will this urban parkway be?



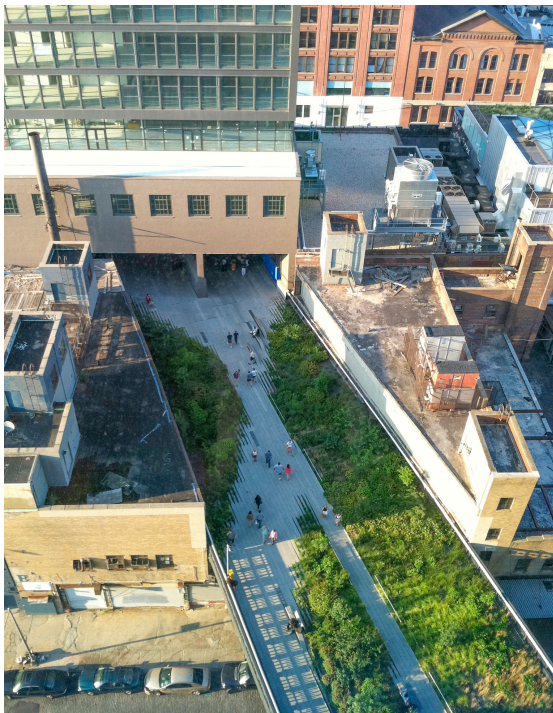
*The skyline along the Highline.*



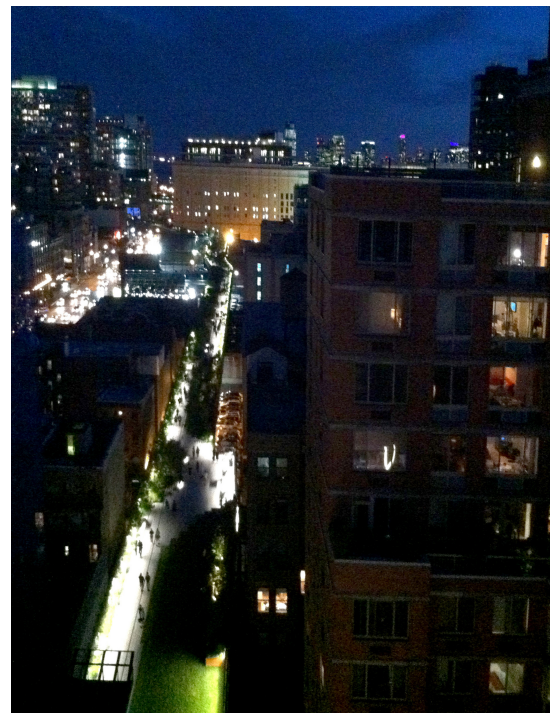
*Neil Denari's HL23, as seen from the Highline.*



*Frank Gehry's LAC building, as seen from the Highline.*



*View from the Standard Hotel.*



*View from HL23.*