

HOW DOES MADONNA GET SO JACKED? (page 18)

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Why you'll want to live in Midtown

Future residents at 20 W. 53rd St. will have no excuse for returning library books late. That's the address where the Baccarat Hotel & Residences New York is currently under construction, and there are three main public entrances planned for the building: one for the hotel, one for the residences and one for a public library. You see, the building takes over the Donnell Library's spot.

"The public library is part of the mixed-use side of the project," says Mark Gordon, a partner in Tribeca Associates, which is developing the project

"The Baccarat name is synonymous with luxury, and that sets the tone for the project. But with the library, it will enhance the neighborhood for everybody."

GORDON

alongside Starwood Capital Group. "Rebuilding it was part of our negotiations to acquire the property. The Baccarat name is synonymous with luxury, and that sets the tone for

the project. But with the library, it will enhance the neighborhood for everybody."

Along with three entrances, the building has three designers, too: Skidmore Owings and Merrill designed the striking 50-story glass tower, and Gilles et Boissier are the interior designers for the hotel. The 61 apartments will have a separate designer — "A high-profile international designer," says Gordon, whose name for now is under wraps.

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► Residents at the Baccarat enjoy a pool and the library.

Residential details

While the library is set to open in 2015, the hotel and residences are due for completion in 2014. Though pricing has yet to be announced, residence sales are scheduled to begin in mid-March. Floor plans range from one to four bedrooms, including four full-floor units, plus one five-bedroom penthouse duplex with an outdoor terrace. Besides having a library, shopping and entertainment at their doorstep — the property's across from the Museum of Modern Art — Baccarat residents will have access to the hotel's pool, spa and health club. "Our residents will have a more social environment from the hotel," says Gordon. "They will have all the amenities of a first-class hotel and the privacy of their home."