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Shigeru Ban redesigns New York's landmark Cast Iron House

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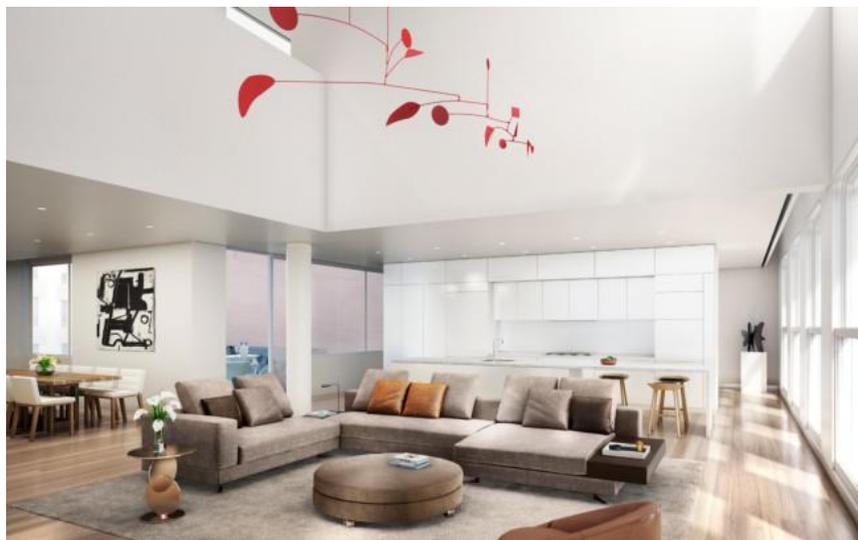


The 2014 Pritzker-Prize-winning Japanese architect will delicately update the heritage building and add 'floating' penthouses in glass and steel.

Built in 1882 in New York City's Tribeca, Cast Iron House is something of a landmark for its ornate, neoclassical, cast-iron façade. Knightsbridge Properties (a company dedicated to design-led redevelopments of buildings in New York, Berlin and London) commissioned 2014 Pritzker Prize winner Shigeru Ban for the project, and have announced that the 11 duplex apartments and two penthouses within the building have launched sales and are due for completion in 2015.



For his first ever historic conversion, Shigeru Ban and his partner, executive architect Dean Maltz, preserved the façade of the building, which was sent in over 4000 pieces to a foundry in Alabama for restoration, but completely redeveloped the interior. “We liken the architectural concept for Cast Iron House to a ship in a bottle,” explains Ban. “The original cast iron façade is the bottle, while the newly built-out modern interior, which has been completely reimagined, is the ship.”



All of Cast Iron House's kitchen and living areas are double-height, meaning they retain the original high ceilings. The duplex condominiums (including the 4th-floor apartment, pictured) feature three, four or five bedrooms, a private elevator landing, and spacious kitchen, dining and living areas with select white oak

flooring. The upper level of each apartment offers complete privacy with bedrooms separated from main living areas.



Ban deftly incorporated his own aesthetic with subtle details, like rounding the edges of the windows on the inside without greatly altering the façade.



The crown jewel of the project is the glass and steel penthouse structure that, cantilevered above the building, seems to float when viewed from street level.



Both penthouses include open living areas and double-height ceilings with telescoping glass walls that open to connect the interiors with large surrounding terraces, including more than 130 square metres of private outdoor space.



The bath house, complete with steam room, sauna and specialty water features.



The building's reception area embodies Ban's signature elegant yet utilitarian minimalism.