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The View from the Top

History meets modernity in Tribeca's Cast Iron House

As Manhattan real estate prices continue to soar ever higher, developers are continually attempting to outdo one another to attract the world's wealthiest (and most discriminating) buyers. New York-based developers Knightsbridge Properties have teamed up with Pritzker Prize-winning architect Shigeru Ban to create the Cast Iron House, a collection of duplexes and two superlative penthouses at a 132-year-old Tribeca address.

Before the introduction of steel during the Industrial Revolution, cast iron was often used in construction, a heritage the developers honoured by including original cast iron accents throughout the 11 duplexes that make up the Cast Iron House's main offering.

The units attracting the most attention, however, are Shigeru Ban's airy, modern penthouses (the largest of which is 4,500 square feet, including 1,500 square feet of terrace and priced at just under \$13 million) that appear to float atop the landmark structure. Thanks to clever cantilevering, the penthouse units boast sliding glass walls that create a seamless transition between the interiors and the large outdoor areas—and offer offering stunning uninterrupted views.

A spectacular achievement of both design and engineering, the Cast Iron House will surely provide a worthy challenge for the next developer looking to make an impression.