

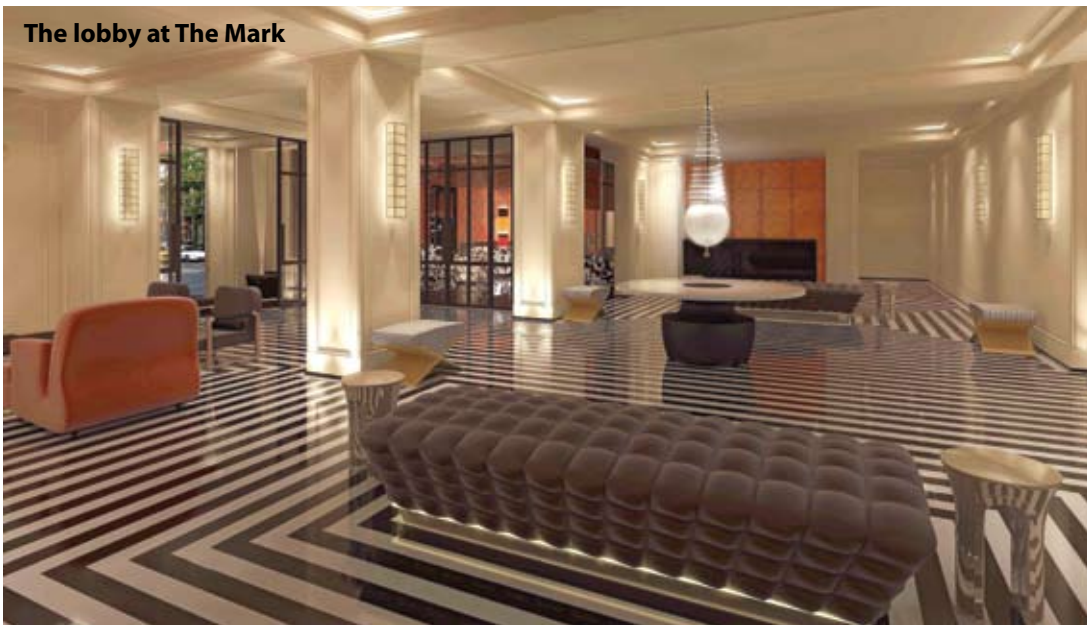
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## THE CLOSER

# High-end, High-design Is In

*Disclosures, appraisals, flips and splits of New York's real estate community*

The lobby at The Mark



\* The upper East Side just got a jolt of world-class design that could send ripples of fresh style through the musty hallways of stodgy Park Ave. co-ops. Set to open in August on 77th St. between Fifth and Madison Ave., The Mark Hotel is more of a modern furniture showplace than a combination hotel/ residence. Everything you see and touch in the hotel will have been made specifically for it. Headed by interior designer Jacques Grange, the design team was chosen by Pierre Passebon, a Parisian furniture gallerist known for spotting young talent and working with Europe's biggest designers.

Floors one through eight of The Mark will be a hotel. The apartments on floors nine through 12 are being sold as furnished units designed specifically for the project by Grange himself.

"You won't see these pieces anywhere else in the world but here," says Louise Sunshine, director of development for the Alexico Group,

the same outfit that brought us 165 Charles by Richard Meier. "Not just anyone gets the chance to live in a Jacques Grange-designed environment. It just doesn't happen."

With lines of white marble accented by striking black granite, the lobby floor of The Mark may become the new signature of upper East Side elegance. The interior lobby is fresh, colorful, alive and eclectic — The Mark may threaten to draw the downtown set uptown. The plush bar's orange accents and metallic stools, complemented by cowhide seats, make the Carlyle Hotel across the street seem dowdy.

Sitting in the lobby, which will open to the public in early August, will be a treat. Living in one of the apartments will be a dream. Prices for a two-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, 1,643-square-foot Grange-designed unit start at \$6.6 million. Go to [www.themarkhotel.com](http://www.themarkhotel.com) for more information.