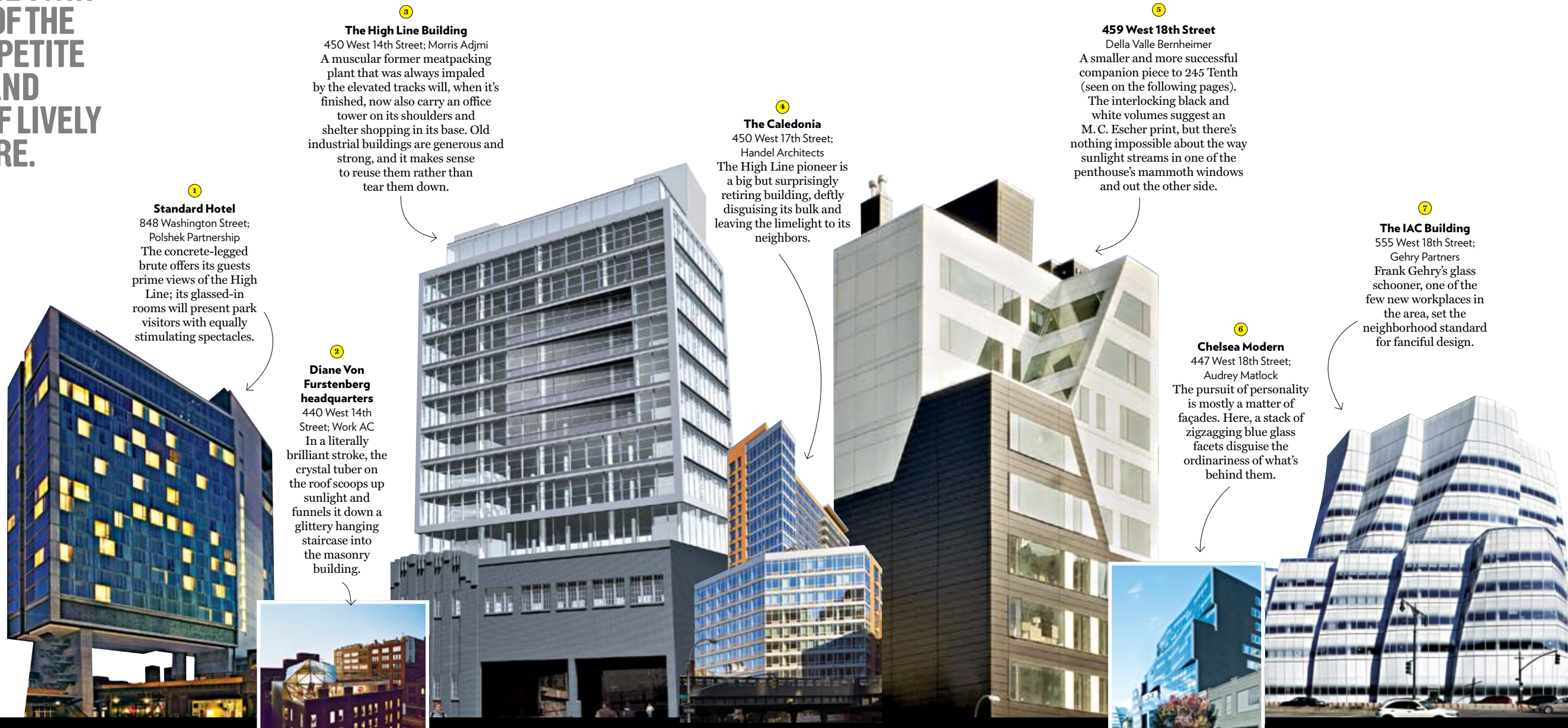


ELEVATED THE TWIN PLEASURES OF THE HIGH LINE: A PETITE NEW PARK, AND A DISTRICT OF LIVELY ARCHITECTURE.

BY JUSTIN DAVIDSON

A Walking Tour

The High Line runs through an architectural theme park that's still in development. At the Gansevoort Street end, the Whitney Museum dreams of a new branch; uptown, the park runs into the future Hudson Yards complex. In between, you'll find New York's densest thicket of ambitious early-21st-century design.



1 **Standard Hotel**

848 Washington Street; Polshek Partnership
The concrete-legged brute offers its guests prime views of the High Line; its glassed-in rooms will present park visitors with equally stimulating spectacles.

2

Diane Von Furstenberg headquarters

440 West 14th Street; Work AC
In a literally brilliant stroke, the crystal tuber on the roof scoops up sunlight and funnels it down a glittery hanging staircase into the masonry building.

3

The High Line Building

450 West 14th Street; Morris Adjmi
A muscular former meatpacking plant that was always impaled by the elevated tracks will, when it's finished, now also carry an office tower on its shoulders and shelter shopping in its base. Old industrial buildings are generous and strong, and it makes sense to reuse them rather than tear them down.

4

The Caledonia

450 West 17th Street; Handel Architects
The High Line pioneer is a big but surprisingly retiring building, deftly disguising its bulk and leaving the limelight to its neighbors.

5

459 West 18th Street

Della Valle Bernheimer
A smaller and more successful companion piece to 245 Tenth (seen on the following pages). The interlocking black and white volumes suggest an M. C. Escher print, but there's nothing impossible about the way sunlight streams in one of the penthouse's mammoth windows and out the other side.

6

Chelsea Modern

447 West 18th Street; Audrey Matlock
The pursuit of personality is mostly a matter of façades. Here, a stack of zigzagging blue glass facets disguise the ordinariness of what's behind them.

7

The IAC Building

555 West 18th Street; Gehry Partners
Frank Gehry's glass schooner, one of the few new workplaces in the area, set the neighborhood standard for fanciful design.



START THE TOUR

WEST 13TH

WEST 14TH

WEST 17TH

WEST 18TH



8
520 West Chelsea
 520 West 19th Street;
 Annabelle Selldorf
 The terra-cotta tiles at the base are so sumptuously glazed they look edible, but they're really just an accent on an otherwise bland box.

9
Metal Shutter Houses
 524 West 19th Street;
 Shigeru Ban
 The Hudson dispenses more stiff winds than balmy breezes, so it's hard to know how regularly residents will raise the glass garage doors or their bodega-style shutters and turn their apartments into open-walled Caribbean cabanas. They're certainly paying for the privilege.

10
100 Eleventh Avenue
 Ateliers Jean Nouvel
 This irresistible, ostentatiously inventive tower, with its harlequin window pattern and its observation-deck living rooms, is either the last boom's aftershock or the next one's portent.

12
HL23
 515-517 West 23rd Street;
 Neil Denari
 Adaptive, vaguely retro, and undeniably cool, the building balloons once it clears the High Line and holds itself together with a pleasingly asymmetric web of struts and leaning columns.

11
High Line 519
 519 West 23rd Street; Lindy Roy
 The amoeboid shapes of perforated steel looked pretty arbitrary hanging on this skinny building's glass façade—until its organic-looking neighbor HL23 came along to complete the biological motif.

13
245 Tenth Avenue
 Della Valle Bernheimer
 Architectural ambitions collide with a cumbersome site, resulting in an ungainly building clad in diamond-pattern stamped steel and windows that look haphazardly, rather than inspirationally, arranged.

14
200 Eleventh Avenue
 Annabelle Selldorf
 Not even finished, and already so 2007. Luxuriantly wavy window frames, terra-cotta with a gunmetal glaze, and private parking just outside the apartment door. The marketing term for that perk—"en suite sky garage"—could spark a class war all on its own.



WEST 19TH

WEST 23RD

WEST 24TH