

# Forbes

## Cool New Condo Conversions Highlight NYC History

By Heather Senison  
October 26, 2018

Not all of New York City's luxury apartments are in post-financial crisis new developments. Residential potential is often envisioned in the city's oldest buildings, too.

A few recent condo conversions gave new purpose to architectural gems from the nineteenth century, such as a Beaux-Arts former school on the Upper West Side and a three-story firehouse in Brooklyn.

Here's a look at some recent and unique transformations in the Big Apple:

### **555 West End Ave.**



The castle-like 555 West End Ave. was formerly a private boys' Catholic school. HAYES DAVIDSON

Built in 1908 by famed architect William A. Boring, the castle-like 555 West End Ave. is located in the Riverside-West End Historic District and is a staple in the minds of Upper West Siders.

Formerly occupied by the St. Agnes Boys High School, the building was purchased directly from the archdiocese by architect and developer Tamarkin Co. and developer CL Investment Group.

The Beaux-Arts structure now houses 13 three- to five-bedroom units with staggering 12- to 20-foot ceilings. Prices start at \$7.9 million.

“When you walk in and you’ve got a 13-foot ceiling and these enormous double-hung windows, which we’ve restored, the light that comes in from these windows into these spaces is extraordinary,” doted Cathy Taub, of Sotheby’s International Realty.



The \$18 million, 3,420-square-foot penthouse features a 19-foot arched ceiling and a skylight. HAYES DAVIDSON

And while all its offerings are beautiful, she noted that the school’s top-floor gymnasium lent itself to a particularly jaw-dropping "Solarium Penthouse."

The \$18 million, 3,420-square-foot space features a 19-foot arched ceiling and a skylight.

Designers also had fun with the former library, which retains some of its original elements, giving the apartment a literary-feel.

Because the structure is so cherished by its community, many potential buyers are native New Yorkers looking to raise their families in the Upper West Side, Taub added.

“This is a building that we anticipate will be primarily occupied by primary homeowners,” she said.