



The Views from Four Freedoms Park

The Freedom Tower soars 1,776 feet and 104 stories. Officially, it is now the country's tallest building. It shares its name, 1 WTC, with the northern tower destroyed September 11, 2001.

United Nations International School was founded in 1947 by parents working at the U.N.

Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village. Opened in 1947 and covering over 80 acres, the combined complexes house over 25,000 people. They are among the most iconic and successful post-World War II private housing communities.

Waterside Plaza is a rental complex in Kips Bay. It is Manhattan's only residential complex east of the FDR Drive. The platforms beneath its three buildings are supported by more than 2,000 concrete piles driven into the East River.

The United Nations Complex was completed in 1952. It contains the seats of the principal organs of the U.N., including the General Assembly and Security Council. From February to June 1947, the architectural team produced at least 45 design variations. While the U.N. wanted an independent city for its new world capital, multiple obstacles soon forced a downsizing. The 17-acre site necessitated a Rockefeller Center-type vertical complex. The Secretariat is housed in the tall office tower. Although it is situated in New York City, the land occupied by the United Nations Headquarters and spaces it rents are under the sole administration of the United Nations. They are technically extra-territorial through a treaty agreement with the U.S. government.

Bellevue Hospital is the oldest hospital in the United States, founded in 1736 when New York City did not extend much farther north than Wall Street. When the grid system of streets was established in 1811, the survey had to take Bellevue into account, and the placement of First Avenue on the grid is entirely due to its location. Bellevue has been the site of many advances in medicine, including the first maternity ward and first ambulance service.

Tudor City is considered the first residential skyscraper complex in the world. Only a few of its apartments face the U.N. because when the area was completed in 1928, there were slaughterhouses to the east; most units faced west to avoid the stench and filth. In the 1940s, the slaughterhouses were demolished. The land later went to the U.N.

The Empire State Building was the first building to have more than 100 floors. It was the world's tallest building for nearly 40 years. Its construction was part of an intense competition for the title of *world's tallest building*. Two other projects fighting for the title, 40 Wall Street and the Chrysler Building, were still under construction when work began on the Empire State. Each held the title for less than a year, as the Empire State Building surpassed them upon its completion in 1931.

The Chrysler Building is a classic example of Art Deco architecture. At 1,046 feet, it was the world's tallest building for 11 months before being surpassed by the Empire State Building. It is still the tallest brick building in the world, albeit with an internal steel skeleton. The Chrysler building was the headquarters of the Chrysler Corporation from 1930 until the mid-1950s. Although the building was built and designed specifically for the car manufacturer, the corporation did not pay for the building's construction and never owned it. Instead, Walter P. Chrysler paid for it himself, so that his children could inherit it.

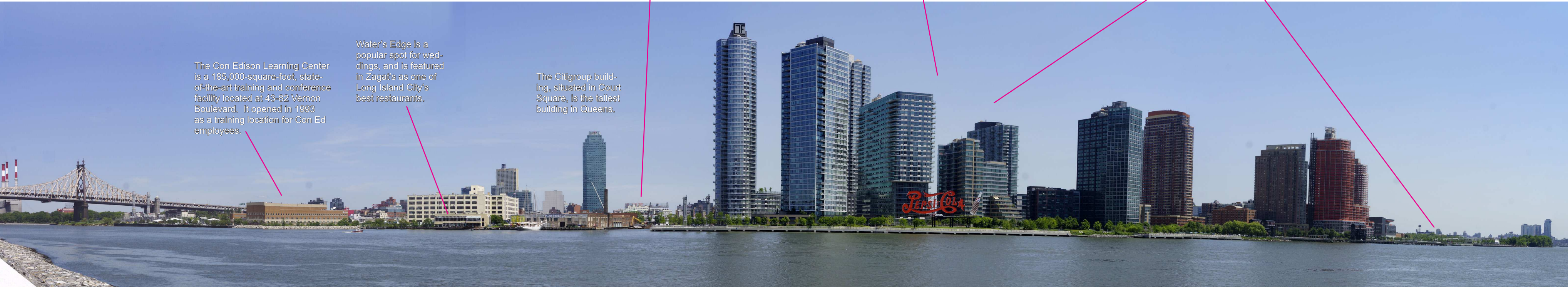
The Met Life Building at 200 Park Avenue and East 45th Street above Grand Central Terminal. Built in 1958–63 as headquarters of Pan American World Airways. It is one of the 50 tallest buildings in the United States and was the last tall tower erected in New York City before laws were enacted preventing corporate logos and names on the tops of buildings. It originally bore 15' tall "Pan Am" displays on its north and south faces and 25' globe logos east and west. It once offered helicopter service to JFK, a 7-10-minute flight.

The Citicorp Building, 601 Lexington Avenue, was built in 1977 as headquarters for Citibank. With its distinctive 45-degree diagonal crown, it is one of the most recognizable skyscrapers in the skyline. At 59 stories, it's the third tallest building in Midtown. At the time of its completion, it was the seventh tallest in the world. It had to be built on stilts, but to accommodate St. Peter's Church, the columns are centered on each side rather than being placed on the corners. After its completion, an architecture student asked the designer how much diagonal wind the building could withstand. The concerns proved correct, and construction crews worked at night to correct the mistake. Because there was a newspaper strike at the time, no one learned of the corrective work until *The New Yorker* magazine reported on it in 1995.

One57 has its infamous crane at the peak. When completed, this will be the tallest residential building in the City. In the high winds of Superstorm Sandy, the crane tipped over and dangled off the building for days.

Sutton Place sits to the right in the foreground, its name referring to both an avenue (originally Avenue A) running alongside the East River from 53rd Street to 59th, and a neighborhood, extending west to Second Avenue. At the river's edge on 53rd and 57th Streets, there are two public vest-pocket parks with views of the East River, Southpoint Park, and the Queensboro and Williamsburg Bridges. They are cantilevered over the FDR Drive and not visible from most of Sutton Place.

The Queensboro Bridge was built in 1909, and was first known as Blackwell Island Bridge (the former name of Roosevelt Island). Popularly known as the 59th Street Bridge, its official name is now the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.



The Con Edison Learning Center is a 185,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art training and conference facility located at 43-82 Vernon Boulevard. It opened in 1993 as a training location for Con Ed employees.

Water's Edge is a popular spot for weddings, and is featured in Zagat's as one of Long Island City's best restaurants.

The Citigroup building, situated in Court Square, is the tallest building in Queens.

The Pepsi-Cola sign stands 147 feet above the river's edge. Once regarded as an eyesore, it is now embraced as a symbol of Long Island City's industrial past, as a colossal work of pop art, and as a way for those who live in the six buildings of developer TF Cornerstone's Long Island City complex to orient friends and family.

Gantry Plaza State Park and Hunter's Point State Park. The southern end of Gantry Plaza State Park is a former dock facility. It includes restored "contained apron" transfer bridges once used to load and unload rail-car floats that served industries on Long Island, via the Long Island Rail Road tracks that used to run along 48th Avenue (now part of Hunter's Point Park). The northern portion of Gantry Plaza State Park is a former Pepsi bottling plant. Hunter's Point State Park is directly south of Gantry Plaza State Park. Until recently, it was an abandoned post-industrial area. Now it includes a central green, a playground, a dog run, a bikeway, a waterside promenade, a basketball court, and a 13,000-square-foot pavilion with comfort stations, concessions, and an elevated café plaza.