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Puck vs. Woolworth

As two iconic buildings get ready to turn condo, a breakdown of the La Cornue stoves and Crema Marfil bathrooms to choose from.



PUCK BUILDING

Neighborhood: Soho.

Architect: Albert Wagner, whose concept was influenced by the Rundbogenstil (rounded arch) style of architecture popular in Germany.

Style: Neo-Romanesque.

Claim to fame: Satirist Joseph Keppler was one of the developers—he also co-founded *Puck*, a humor magazine that published from 1876 to 1918 and was headquartered here. Built in 1885 and landmarked in 1983, it also housed *Spy* magazine and the office of Grace Adler and is now home to a 39,000-square-foot REI.

New incarnation: After months-long volleying with the Landmarks Preservation Commission about a new loft to be built on its roof, the Puck's owners—Kushner Companies—finally launched the "Puck Penthouses," six penthouses carved from the eighth and ninth floors (plus the new addition) by architects Jose Ramirez and Sherida Paulsen. Apartments have barrel-vaulted ceilings and are kitted out with La Cornue stoves, Arabescatto Oro marble, and smart-home technology. Building perks include in-house catering and room service.



Asking prices: \$22 million for Penthouse VI, a three-bedroom, to \$66 million for Penthouse I, a four-bedroom with three terraces. Penthouse IV sold for \$28 million.

WOOLWORTH BUILDING

Neighborhood: Financial District.

Architect: Cass Gilbert, who started out as Stanford White's assistant and later designed the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

Style: Neo-Gothic.

Claim to fame: Built by five-and-dime retailer Frank Woolworth, it opened in 1913 with a dinner for nearly a thousand movers and shakers. It held the record for tallest skyscraper in the world until 40 Wall Street usurped it 17 years later. In 2009, part of its basement was turned into a party space known as the Woolly.

New incarnation: Floors 29 and up are now condos developed by Alchemy Properties, designed by Thierry Despont, and bearing a new name: the Woolworth Tower Residences. There'll be Woolworth-branded doorknobs; Crema Marfil marble bathroom floors and Toto and Dornbracht fixtures; a spa floor with a 55-foot-long indoor pool and sauna; and a wine cellar and tasting room. From the 28th floor down, it's still offices, including plenty of law firms, architects, and the Police Pension Fund.



Asking prices: \$4.575 million for a 1,290-square-foot one-bedroom; \$110 million for a 9,403-square-foot penthouse spread over five floors with a double-height living room, a library, and an observation deck.