

**Dear Friend: This update brings news of four grandes dames: great old buildings on which we've been working. We close with the story of a remarkable coincidence in Helpern Architects' recent history.**

**There's music in the air.** Carnegie Hall has selected Helpern Architects to create a master plan for the renovation of its "Front of House". We are exploring and re-imagining the public spaces that welcome visitors to the iconic music venue. The extent of the assignment, including comments from Executive and Artistic Director Clive Gillinson, are [here](#).



*"At the Hall, architecture and mission are completely linked."*



*A beautiful, century-old commercial building overlooking Madison Square Park was transformed into special new residences.*

**What's behind the crown?** As *Crain's New York Business* put it: "Amazon may no longer be bringing a headquarters to New York, but CEO Jeff Bezos is buying up some major square footage for a new home." Congratulations belong to our client Madison Equities, developer and project manager for [212 Fifth Avenue](#) for closing out sales following a long and challenging renovation. The story of the gut rehab - including finding, then recreating the cornice - is [here](#).

**We return to work on the last of the great university clubs on Club Row** [44th Street west of Fifth Avenue]. The University of Pennsylvania's Penn Club of New York has been a welcoming destination and commercial success since we salvaged the building from certain demolition in 1987. Now we are gently updating "public" areas. Taste and technology have changed, so how to make the space seem unchanged is the challenge. We have the help of [Lynne Beyer Design](#) on the interiors. [Here's](#) what's going to happen.



*Workmen gently remove the laylights' antique stained-glass panel.*



**We have updated the master plan to transform another great old building,** now a TV production venue. Built as a clubhouse in 1869, the individually landmarked building at 111 East 15th Street was occupied by the Century Association until that venerable cultural organization moved at the end of the 19th century. Fast way forward, in 2010 we converted and modernized the building for Trinity Broadcasting Networks, "America's most-watched faith channel." This latest project sets in motion further transformation, this time for a new TV set-up, a complicated project scheduled for 2020.

*The home of the Century Association appears in in an 1890 etching from NYC Landmarks Commission Designation Report.*

**May 7, 2012 was an auspicious day at Helpern Architects:** Both [Elizabeth McClure](#), whom we call Betty, and [Karl Lehrke](#) started to work here. We celebrate their efforts and note how their strong suits - Karl's is design, Betty's is project management - have contributed to exciting projects. Today Karl is a Principal and Betty, a Senior Associate. [Here](#) is that story.



*They share an anniversary.*

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