

Brick

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**Brick in
the Urban Skyline**



Design #4 Trump Palace, New York City, New York

*Architect:
Frank Williams Associates*



Trump Palace, located on Manhattan's Upper East Side, unites a 54-story residential tower with a base of neighboring townhouses and a 7-story low-rise. In all, the complex contains 280 residential units, plus first-floor commercial space, and underground parking. The architects conceived of the design as a modern continuation of New York's romantic, skyscraper tradition. With its art deco-inspired profile and highly articulated roofline, the Palace is at home beside Manhattan's older and best known skyline structures.

The massing of this skyscraper was determined by the need to maximize the number and size of windows, exposures, and balconies in the residential structure. Brick was chosen as the exterior material because its size and flexibility allowed the architects to easily downplay the scale of the



building.

The architects selected a buff-colored 12-inch long Norman brick for the exterior, with mortar matched to the brick to emphasize overall form. At each balcony level, the brick is set in a slightly projected soldier course, creating a horizontal shadow line that adds detail as it downscales the vertical. To further redefine the building's scale, the architects alternated strong horizontal bands of white and buff soldier courses at setback levels. This strong horizontal pattern is varied into a rhythmic frame surrounding the tower's louvers, with white coping brick capping each vertical pier. Finally, in art deco style, the buff and white horizontal banding motif is transformed into a vertical motif at the top of the tower, emphasizing the triumphant height of the building—and its ability to scrape the sky.



Photography by Jennifer Lévy

"We decided to use brick because it is used throughout the Upper East Side. We wanted to use a material that would be compatible."

—Richard Kotz, Frank Williams Associates



"We tried to design a romantic skyscraper form reminiscent of New York art deco in the thirties, in which you have a picturesque profile and a highly articulated roofline."

—Richard Kotz, Frank Williams Associates



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For more information or assistance, please call the Brick Institute of America or the BIA regional office in your area:

**Brick Institute of America
Mid-East Region**
P.O. Box 3050
N. Canton, Ohio 44720
(216) 499-3001

**Masonry Institute of Iowa
Region 6**
820 First Street
Suite 200
W. Des Moines, Iowa 50265
(513) 274-9166

Brick Association of North Carolina
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Greensboro, North Carolina 27415
(919) 273-5566

Brick Association of South Carolina
625-C Taylor Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 252-5571

**Brick Institute of America
Region 9**
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Suite 507
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(601) 944-1395

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Suite 251
Austin, Texas 78752
(512) 451-4668

**Brick Institute of America
Region 12**
1780 S. Bellaire, Suite 602
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 691-2141

Brick Institute of California
3130 LaSelva, Suite 302
San Mateo, California 94403
(415) 578-0894