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4 Architecture Exhibitions To See in New York City This Spring

[John Hill](#) | 3. March 2026



Michael Sorkin, *Tracked Houses*, 1990. Penn Central Rail Yards, New York. Model courtesy Joan Copjec. From *People Cross Against the Light: Michael Sorkin's New York* at Arthur Ross Gallery, Columbia GSAPP. (Photo: John Hill/World-Architects)

Here we highlight four exhibitions in Manhattan and Brooklyn that opened recently or will open soon, ranging from a historical look at a swath of Midtown and alternative proposals for houses to monographic exhibitions on a late visionary architect and critic, and an architect from Austria.

The Invention of Park Avenue



Installation view of *The Invention of Park Avenue* at The Skyscraper Museum. (Photo courtesy of The Skyscraper Museum)

At the Skyscraper Museum from February 11 until the end of September

With the recent completion of 270 Park Avenue, the headquarters of JP Morgan Chase designed by Foster + Partners, the architectural world has been reminded once again that the towers lining Park Avenue north of 42nd Street are built over train tracks leading to Grand Central Terminal. A model of the supertall tower in *The Invention of Park Avenue* reveals its steel superstructure but also the foundation walls that its massive fan columns rest upon—walls that are carefully slotted between railroad tracks. Although the word *invention* in the title indicates how this exhibition at the Skyscraper Museum in Battery Park City is historical, looking at the circumstances leading up to the completion of Grand Central Terminal in 1913 and the towers that rose in its wake, Foster's tower signals the relevance of the exhibition today. If anything, 270 Park Avenue is just the first of what could be numerous towers built to replace outdated mid-20th-century skyscrapers along the avenue,

thanks in great part to a rezoning that allows for taller towers. And with the city's Department of Transportation working with Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners on a transformation of the avenue's namesake median, Park Avenue will see some dramatic changes in the near future.



Models of 270 Park Avenue, from *The Invention of Park Avenue* at the Skyscraper Museum. (Photo courtesy of The Skyscraper Museum)

That potential drama is nothing compared to the actual invention of Park Avenue, though, which is illustrated through a slew of archival images and many architectural models in the exhibition curated by museum founder Carol Willis and Daniel J. Borrero. The shift from steam locomotion to an electrical railroad in the early 20th century led to a massive construction site north of GCT, as the railyard was double-decked, and visions of a “Terminal City” were envisioned by architects and planners. The buildings erected on air rights above the railroad tracks have risen (and fallen) in waves: hotels and apartment buildings in the 1920s, office towers fronting plazas after World War II (think Lever House, Seagram, and Union Carbide), and supertall skyscrapers like 270 Park Avenue this century. Not only does *The Invention of Park Avenue* clearly present this evolution, it illustrates how the wedding of railways and real estate is paramount in New York City, and how much of Midtown Manhattan today is a product of Park Avenue's creation more than a century ago.



Installation view of *The Invention of Park Avenue* at The Skyscraper Museum. (Photo courtesy of The Skyscraper Museum)