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## OLAYAN AMERICA AND CHELSFIELD UNVEIL PLANS FOR \$300 MILLION RENOVATION OF 550 MADISON AVENUE AND ANNOUNCE SELECTION OF SNØHETTA AS LEAD ARCHITECT

# Former AT&T/Sony Building Set to Begin Multi-Tenant Commercial Leasing for First Time in Building's History

**New York, N.Y.** – Olayan America and Chelsfield today unveiled plans for 550 Madison Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, including the selection of internationally acclaimed architecture and design firm Snøhetta to reimagine the lower levels of the office tower and update the building with state-of -art systems. Olayan America acquired the property in May 2016 for \$1.4 billion as a multi-generational asset.

The \$300 million renovation of 550 Madison, formerly known as the AT&T Building and then the Sony Building, will bring life back to the property. The plan modernizes the interior spaces to meet the needs of the modern office worker, and adds high-quality amenities, world-class retail and restaurants. Moreover, the proposed public space will nearly double in size to create a lush and verdant outdoor garden for the public's enjoyment.

While the recognizable top of the tower will remain a fixture of the New York City skyline as it has since its completion in 1984, the new design will transform the base into an inviting street front, extending the lively activity of Madison Avenue further south to 55th Street.

The renovation is the first major project to be announced for New York City's East Midtown, since its revitalization plan was approved earlier this year.

"We're pleased to be working hand in hand with Chelsfield and Snøhetta to achieve a new vision for 550 Madison. Across the board, our team is committed to the long-term success of 550 Madison and the broader Midtown community," said Tony Fusco, Managing Director and head of real estate at Olayan America. "The plans developed offer a vibrant enhancement of Philip Johnson's postmodern design, and we believe the renovation will create a space that continues to draw top-tier tenants for generations to come. We look forward to restoring 550 Madison to prominence as a premier location for office and retail in Midtown, as well as an urban oasis for the public."

"550 Madison is a remarkable building, and we're thrilled to work with our partners at Olayan America and Snøhetta to revitalize the property," said David Laurie, Managing Director at Chelsfield America. "At 550 Madison, we have planned a building that puts employees first, from top of the line amenities, market-leading technology, better air quality, inspiring views of Central Park, to a deeply relaxing and



serene public urban garden right next door. When our team is through, 550 Madison will be the office building that employees across New York and beyond are nudging their bosses to move in to."

Snøhetta's design will breathe new life into the building's public, retail and office spaces for the contemporary needs of one of the world's most recognized avenues.

Highlights of Snøhetta's design include:

- A proposal to nearly double the size of the nearby public space, allowing the area to breathe
  with more access to open air and daylight
- Creating an outdoor garden (the largest in a 5-minute walking radius) for public enjoyment
- Stitching the life of the building back into the street, including new food offerings and retail
- Partially replacing the building's eye-level façade with an undulating glass curtainwall, to both highlight the multi-story arched entry and reveal the energy of the building's existing steel structure

"The re-imagined 550 Madison reflects how we work and live in New York today," said Craig Dykers, founding partner and architect at Snøhetta. "The design sensitively transforms a sculpturally monumental building and improves the experience of the building where it meets the street. By updating this inward-looking tower for contemporary society, the redesign will foster a more vibrant, dynamic relationship between the building, the city, and the people who inhabit it. It's been exciting to work on this project with the teams at Chelsfield and Olayan, and build on our growing portfolio of impactful projects in New York."

Completed in 1984, 550 Madison was originally designed by Philip Johnson for single-tenant occupancy, serving as the eponymous world headquarters for its corporate owners. Since the departure of the Sony Corporation over a year-and-a-half ago, its office floors have sat vacant.

Snøhetta's design approach connects the life of the building with the life of the street. Since 550 Madison was first completed, its fortress-like base created an uninviting street front, which was then further compromised by a series of ground-floor renovations that effectively visually closed the building off from its surroundings.

# 550 MADISON



Photography Credit: Alex Fradkin

With the updated design, the stone façade will be partially replaced at eye level by an undulating glass curtainwall. From the street, the reconceived façade dramatically highlights the multi-story arched entry, while revealing the craftsmanship of the building's existing steel structure. Scalloped glass references the sculpted forms of fluted stone columns, creating a lively and identifiable public face for passersby. With this increased transparency, the activity within the lobby, atrium, and first 2 levels of the building will become part of the vibrant energy of the street.



Rendering Credit: DBOX



Rendering Credit: DBOX

As part of the renovation, 550 Madison's proposed public space will be nearly doubled in size and converted to an outdoor garden, providing a verdant landscape with water features and trees as a respite from the dense urban fabric of Manhattan. The existing mid-block passageway at the rear of the tower connecting 55th and 56th Street will be transformed into a serene public space. The design will allow access to open air and daylight.

The garden is designed to encourage a variety of human experiences: to meet over lunch and socialize, to find a moment of peace, or just to take a stroll through nature. With more than 10 times the amount of planted area as the previous public space, the garden will provide a flourishing urban ecosystem. A sensitively curated planting palette will celebrate the dynamic seasonality of the Northeastern climate, transformed over the course of the year by colorful flowering trees and bulbs in spring, warm autumnal colors, and the stark elegance of evergreens in winter. These plantings will allow smaller species of birds and butterflies to flourish in their new environment, a unique urban habitat.

The renewed 550 Madison aspires to be a leader for commercial tower renovations in the future, targeting LEED Gold for sustainability, WELL-certification for healthy materials and well-being, and Wired-certification for digital infrastructure. It will employ a Dedicated Outdoor Air Ventilation System (DOAS), ensuring tenants have access to a continuous supply of clean fresh air, while consuming less energy than typical VAV mechanical ventilation systems.

In leading the transformation of East Midtown for the rapid changes of the contemporary workforce, 550 Madison will ensure the area remains a thriving, world-class business district.

The renovated 550 Madison will be ready to hand over to tenants in 2019. Lead brokers for the project are Mary Ann Tighe, CEO, New York Tri-State Region, CBRE; Howard Fiddle, Vice Chairman, CBRE; and Scott L. Gottlieb, Vice Chairman, CBRE. More information is available at <u>550Madison.com</u>.



#### 550 Madison Team:



Olayan America is an investment arm of The Olayan Group, a private, multinational enterprise with an actively managed portfolio of international investments and diverse commercial and industrial operations in the Middle East. Founded in 1947, the Group has main offices in Athens, London, Riyadh and New York, where Olayan America is based and where the Group has had a continuous presence for more than 45 years. Investing both directly and in partnership with leading developers, the Group has a diverse real estate portfolio that includes commercial, residential, and mixed-use properties. Among them are a number of well-known trophy assets: the Paris Portfolio of historic buildings in that city's prestigious 8th Arrondissement, the Knightsbridge Estate in central London, and the historic Ritz Hotel of Madrid.

### Chelsfield

As a leading visionary property developer, active investor and asset manager, Chelsfield takes pride in its ability to unlock the outstanding potential behind each of its commercial, residential, hotel and leisure projects. For more than 30 years, Chelsfield inspires some of the most influential development and investment projects in London and around the world, from Paris to New York and now Hong Kong to Tokyo.

With a strong strategic approach to new markets and opportunities and with \$9.4bn of transactions since 2005, Chelsfield continues to enhance its reputation for consistently delivering market-leading returns for investors. Chelsfield takes pride in building long term relationships with both partners and investors and in partnering with the best in class for each of its projects.

### Snøhetta 🖄

For nearly 30 years, Snøhetta has designed some of the world's most notable public and cultural projects. Snøhetta kick-started its career in 1989 with the competition-winning entry for the new library of Alexandria, Egypt. This was later followed by the commission for the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo, the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center in New York City, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Expansion in California, among many others. Since its inception, the practice has maintained its original trans-disciplinary approach, integrating architectural, landscape, interior and brand design in all of its projects.

Among its many recognitions, Snøhetta received the World Architecture Award for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet, and the Aga Kahn Prize for Architecture for the Alexandria Library. Since its completion in 2008, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet has also garnered the Mies van der Rohe European Union Prize for Architecture and the EDRA (Environmental Design Research Association) Great Places Award, as well as the European Prize for Urban Public Space,

# 550 MADISON

The International Architecture Award and The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2010. In 2016, Snøhetta was named the Wall Street Journal's Architecture Innovator of the Year.

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# Investing in the Future of New York

Olayan America and Chelsfield have unveiled plans to restore 550 Madison Avenue to excellence and, for the first time in its history, make the property available for multi-tenant commercial leasing.

As part of this transition, the building will undergo a \$300 million renovation in partnership with the internationally acclaimed architecture and design firm, Snøhetta. With refreshed state-of-the-art infrastructure and a reimagined design to foster a vibrant, dynamic relationship between the building, the city, and the people who inhabit it, 550 Madison will reclaim its position as the premier commercial property in Midtown Manhattan.

Olayan America, the U.S. arm of The Olayan Group, acquired the property in May 2016 for \$1.4 billion as a multi-generational asset.

#### **BUILDING HISTORY**

Designed by Philip Johnson, 550 Madison was built in 1984 to serve as the headquarters of AT&T. In 1992, the Sony Corporation leased and then later purchased the building from AT&T. During this period, the base of the building underwent notable alterations.

In its lifetime, 550 Madison has only been occupied by two firms, AT&T and the Sony Corporation. This is the first time in the building's history that the space will be available for multi-tenant office leasing.

#### **550 MADISON AVENUE FAST FACTS**

- 850,000 square feet of commercial space
- Cross streets: Madison Avenue, between 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Construction completed: 1984; 1992
- Original architects: Philip Johnson and John Burgee
- Fully vacant; first multi-tenant leasing opportunity
- Direct views of Central Park, Madison Avenue, Hudson River. East River
- Location: Midtown Plaza District
- Post Modern Architectural style
- Height: 647'
- 14' slab to slab heights with select floors ranging from 16'-20' slab to slab
- Average floor plates of 24,000-25,000 sq. ft.
- Column-free floor plates
- First major project announced following approval of East Midtown Rezoning
- Car parking available
- Space for 3,000+ employees



#### A GROUND FLOOR REJUVENATION

550 Madison has a powerful presence atop the New York City skyline, but the building's base is inaccessible and uninviting. It's fortress-like character creates an uninviting street front, an issue compounded by earlier ground floor renovations that visually closed the building off from its surroundings. Our renovation, in partnership with the architects at Snøhetta, seeks to bring life back to the property and help the base of the building better engage with its surroundings.

#### Plan highlights include:

- A proposal nearly doubling the size of the adjacent public space, allowing the area to breathe with more access to open air and daylight
- Creating a lush outdoor garden with water features for public enjoyment
- Stitching the life of the building back into the street, including new food offerings and retail
- Partially replacing the building's eye-level façade with an undulating glass curtainwall, to both highlight the multi-story arched entry and reveal the energy of the building's existing steel structure

## INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE OFFICE SPACE

Our renovation will modernize and update 550 Madison's interiors, creating a more efficient, more environmentally sustainable property that works better for the tenants inside.

#### 550 Madison will feature:

- Flexible, high quality office spaces, including column-free floor plates; min 14' ceilings
- 360° views of Central Park, Madison Avenue, and the Hudson and East Rivers
- Targeted LEED Gold, WELL and WIRED certification
- Planned 30% reduction in indoor water use;
   10% less energy use than current NYC energy code
- Improved air quality for a healthier work environment through market leading mechanical system (Dedicated Outdoor Air System - DOAS)
- Top-of-the-line amenity spaces to attract and retain the best performers in the modern workforce

#### **OUR MIDTOWN LOCATION**

Olayan American and Chelsfield are committed to Midtown as New York City's premier business, shopping, cultural and transportation hub.

We're also proposing to create a public open space oasis that's 21,300-sq. ft. (larger than the MoMA Sculpture Garden), and will have over ten times the existing vegetation and greenspace, water features, seating for the community and curated seasonal plantings.



## THE OLAYAN/CHELSFIELD APPROACH

The Olayan Group and Chelsfield have been developing real estate together for more than 25 years.

With deep experience incorporating public and private spaces, we take a collaborative approach in all our developments. We embrace our sense of place in the existing urban landscape and work to create developments that leave our surrounding community in a better place than when we started.

We believe that 550 Madison and its public spaces will help revitalize Midtown at large.

At 550 Madison itself, we seek to instill in the building a distinct place and identity-one that not only improves the daily experience of those who work in the building, but positively impacts the experience of its neighbors.

#### A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

#### Knightsbridge Estate

Acquired in 2010 by Olayan and developed with Chelsfield, The Knightsbridge Estate is a rare 3.5-acre freehold between Harrods and Harvey Nichols in prime central London. Our redevelopment includes preserving the historic fabric of the space while improving its architecture, public transport and place in the public realm.

The first stage of the redevelopment will deliver a mix of world-class retail, Grade A office accommodation, rental apartments and new garden space. The project will also deliver a new underground station entrance that will help increase capacity by 60%, alongside the widening of surrounding walkways.

#### **Paris Portfolio**

Acquired in 2014 by Olayan, the Paris Portfolio is an 820,000-square foot portfolio comprised of nine mixed-use buildings in the heart of Paris's Golden Triangle.

The redevelopment by Chelsfield and Olayan is an opportunity to transform an under-performing portfolio of buildings through façade renewal, altered building layouts, and improved landscaping, public space and art, all while preserving the rich heritage of the urban Parisian landscape.

#### hollandgreen

Chelsfield redeveloped the 3.5-acre site housing the former Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, London, into new space for the award winning 100,000 square foot Design Museum, including reinvigorated landscaping by West 8, and three luxury residential buildings designed by Rem Koolhaas and Reinier de Graaf.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) named Chelsfield's high-end residential development in Kensington by OMA and The Design Museum by John Pawson as one of 50 winners of the 2017 RIBA London Regional Awards.

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