



Hugh Hardy and Ronald Javier at the GNYCUC panel

GNYCUC sets out to determine who will dominate tomorrow's skyline

The Greater New York Construction User Council (GNYCUC) hosted a program, "Going Higher: The Quest to Dominate the NYC Skyline," at 7 World Trade Center.

The program was moderated by Hugh Hardy, FAIA, founding partner of H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture and author of *Higher: A Historic Race to the Sky* and the *Making of a City*.

Panelists included Michael M. Samuelian, vice president of Related Companies, Janno Lieber, president of World Trade Center Properties, LLC of Silverstein Properties, Inc., and Tom Durels, executive vice president of Malkin Properties and Malkin Holdings.

Samuelian shared how Related Companies has changed the game of city real estate to develop the Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project, a \$15 billion master plan for 13 million square feet of mixed-use development on Manhattan's west side.

"Our architects, KPF, have brought back global experience to create a unique skyline and neighborhood," said Samuelian.

Lieber expressed that the rebuilding of the World Trade Center buildings presents an opportunity to build something better than New York had before. The World Trade Center project takes the tragedy of 9/11 and attempts to reconnect with New York and New Yorkers through the ethos of tall buildings.

Durels, meanwhile, expressed the challenges that Malkin Properties and Maklin Holdings face in keeping the legendary Empire State Building relevant and competitive in a market of new construction.

Durels demonstrated many of the innovative solutions that Malkin has come up with to revitalize the iconic building, including the recent LED light show choreographed for Alicia Keys' hit album.

As Hugh Hardy described in his book, *Higher: A Historic Race to the Sky and the Making of a City*, "The great race to build the world's tallest building still continues in Asia, but nowhere was the gamble undertaken with such intense competition as New York in the 20s and 30s. Out of it came iconic structures that define the city's profile and inspire generations of designers."