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CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN, SECTION B

INSIDE CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN

575 Fifth stands apart in Bklyn

Ground broke last month at a new supportive housing development in South Park Slope designed by Amie Gross Architects to be one of the first publicly funded Green projects in Brooklyn.

The 30,000 s/f mixed-use development will provide studio apartments and social services for 48 individuals in need, including the elderly, the formerly homeless and young adults coming out of foster care. In addition, the building has been designed to achieve a LEED Gold rating and will be one of the first LEED-rated publicly-funded buildings in Brooklyn.

The project is being developed by the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC), a not-for-profit developer that creates affordable housing in South Brooklyn. The organization was designated developer of the 9,600 sq. ft. former municipal parking lot at 575 Fifth Avenue (on the corner of 16th Street) from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development in 2005. Its aim is to build housing for those with low incomes that will both benefit a neighborhood where affordable housing is disappearing due to gentrification and displacement and help the City achieve its goal of creating 165,000 new affordable housing units.

One of the main design criteria for Amie Gross Architects was to create a project that both responded to its surroundings and achieved a level of sus-

tainability that will allow FAC to greatly reduce its operating costs and contribute to the good health of the building's residents.

These green elements at times overlapped, most notably through the use of regionally manufactured materials including terracotta and brick for the building's façade. By sourcing indigenous materials the firm scored extra LEED points, and at the same ensured the building respected the local architectural vernacular.

Street level retail units have been included in the project along the Fifth Avenue side to continue the row of neighboring storefronts, while the residential portion of the project is kept to the four floors above which steps down to three stories of apartments along the 16th Street frontage.



575 Fifth Avenue