

DAILY NEWS

June 12, 2009

* **The Closer:**
Enrique Norten
opens Cassa
in midtown

THE CLOSER

Disclosures, appraisals, flips and splits of New York's real estate community



Cassa

* Monday night at the **Four Seasons Restaurant** on E. 52nd St., Mexican architect **Enrique Norten** was honored for 25 years of designing buildings. Norten, who designed the **Guggenheim Museum** in Guadalajara, has five New York City projects in different phases. His first New York building, **One York**, is a glass structure on top of two white brick buildings on Canal St. just west of Sixth Ave.

Cassa is Norten's firm's **TEN Arquitectos'** latest city structure. The 48-floor slightly convex building took four years to design because of zoning variances and additional air rights that kept allowing the building to increase in height. Already, sales reps at **The Marketing Directors** from the building report 25% sold with 603-square-foot studios listed at

\$965,500. It will house 57 residences and 166 hotel rooms. Every unit in the silver-white tower will have corner views.

The party was held in the **Grill Room**, the same space where President **John F. Kennedy** held his 45th birthday. Guests included the Mexican ambassador to the United States, key staff members and Norten's local clients, including **Stan Perelman** and **Sean Ludwick Assa Properties**, Norten's developer for Cassa, threw the architect the birthday party. Humble, mellow, and soft-spoken with nothing but a kind word, Norten wants to work only with honest developers.

"The feeling about the person you work with must be right," he said, looking around the room with shimmering goldenrod shades and aged hardwood walls designed by **Philip Johnson**, one of the greatest architects of the 20th century. "That relationship comes out in the building's design."

Go to www.cassanyc.com for more information.