



Via Verde / The Green Way

Bronx, New York

"The rebirth of the South Bronx isn't news. But Via Verde is. And it makes as good an argument as any new building in the city for the cultural and civic value of architecture."

Michael Kimmelman
NY Times Architecture Critic

Firm Role

Co-Developer with Phipps Houses

Project Profile

New construction of 222 mixed-income residential units / 7,500 sf of retail and community facility space / 40,000 sf green roofs and open space for residents

Project Team

Architects: Dattner Architects,
Grimshaw Architects
Landscape Architect: Lee Weintraub
Contractor: Lettire Construction Corp.

Total Project Size / Budget

294,000 square feet / \$98 million

Completion

2012

Selected Awards

Urban Land Institute, Global Awards for Excellence, Winner, 2013
American Institute of Architects, Multifamily Housing Award, 2013
American Institute of Architects/ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary's Housing and Community Design Award, Excellence in Affordable Housing Design, 2013
American Society of Landscape Architects (NY Chapter), Honor Award, 2013
The Bruner Foundation Inc., Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence, Silver Medal, 2013
Society of American Registered Architects NY, Sustainability in Design Award, 2013
Urban Land Institute Terwilliger Center for Housing, Jack Kemp Workforce Housing Models of Excellence Award, Winner, 2012
American Institute of Architects New York, Andrew J. Thomas Housing Award, 2012
New York City Brownfield Partnership, Big Apple Brownfield Green Building Award, 2012
Society for Marketing Professional Services-NY, Industry Award, 2012



Co-developers Phipps Houses and Jonathan Rose Companies, in partnership with Dattner Architects and Grimshaw, have created a new approach to green and healthy urban living in the South Bronx with Via Verde / The Green Way, the winning response to the New Housing New York Legacy Competition. The 1.5 acre site in the South Bronx is located in the Melrose neighborhood with access to mass transit and other urban amenities.

The mixed-use project serves a range of income levels by providing 151 rental apartments affordable to low-income households and 71 co-ops affordable to middle-income households. The diversity of unit layouts includes simplexes, innovative duplex units, and live-work units with a first floor 'work' space.

Via Verde's stepped form is inspired by the integration of nature and city. At the heart of the project is a dynamic garden that serves as the organizing architectural element and spiritual identity for the community. The connected green rooftops of low-rise town homes, a mid-rise duplex building, and a 20-story tower are used to harvest rainwater, grow fruits and vegetables, and provide open space for residents. Other amenities that contribute to the project's theme of healthy living includes open air courtyards, a health education and wellness center operated by Montefiore Medical Center, health oriented retail space, a fitness center, and bicycle storage areas.

Via Verde meets LEED Gold New Construction certification standards for environmentally responsible and energy-efficient design. The project utilizes low-tech strategies like cross ventilation, solar shading, and smart material choices, as well as planted green roofs, photovoltaic panels, high-efficiency mechanical systems, and energy-conserving appliances.