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Cycle Project Awarded NYC Buildings of Excellence Award 2019

A proposed new 10-unit apartment building in Crown Heights, Brooklyn was awarded for energy efficient, low – to – zero carbon design under the Buildings of Excellence competition, administered by The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Buildings of Excellence is the only competition of its kind in the nation and is leading the way to achieve carbon neutral building performance in New York State. The award winners represent significant advancement in construction practices and point the way towards a zero-carbon future for buildings that can be replicated at scale.

The project is being developed by Masmak LLC, a real estate developer with a record of completing award-winning energy-efficient buildings in Italy. The project is Masmak's first development venture in the U.S. and has been pre-certified as a Passive House by the Passive House Institute. Passive House is a building standard for energy use, demand and construction detailing that is substantially more stringent than building codes. Buildings constructed to the Passive House standard are known to improve the interior comfort of buildings while significantly reducing a building's energy demand.

The project team was led by Cycle Architecture + Planning, a firm known for its commitment to sustainable and resilient design. Engineering services were provided by EP Engineering (MEP and Fire Protection) and Structural Engineering Technologies (Structural and Foundation.) Passive House Academy provided energy modeling services and PHB Catalyst provided cost estimating services during design.

Masmak LLC principal Massimo Cocco said, "I'm very proud of this important achievement for our first project in New York. Bringing our expertise and experience developing NZEB buildings to New York is our mission. We strongly believe that this is the only way to build new buildings and with this project we want to inspire others to follow this path. And It's not just about having very low energy consumption, it's also about improving the quality of life inside our homes that makes them a better place to live."

NYSERDA President and CEO Alicia Barton said, "Congratulations to Masmak, LLC and Cycle Architecture and Planning on this award and for their commitment to demonstrating how low-to-zero carbon buildings can create healthy, comfortable and affordable homes while making communities greener and cleaner by reducing harmful emissions. Public-private partnerships are the cornerstone of Governor Cuomo's climate and energy agenda and are key to driving change, lowering consumer energy costs and bringing these buildings to scale."

Cycle Principal Tony Daniels, RA, Certified Passive House Designer, said, "We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this innovative and forward-looking project with Masmak and our team of consultants. Earning this recognition is the icing on the cake, and we are excited to go into construction and build a net-zero energy building.

Cycle Partner Caitlin Martusewicz, Certified Passive House Designer said, "It has been a really great learning experience working with a team of committed individuals who believe in, and practice quality energy efficient design as 'business as usual.' It's a great honor to be recognized as such, and I am looking forward to further developments in innovation and knowledge-sharing that the Buildings of Excellence Award will make possible."

EP Principal Evan Parganos said, "How refreshing it is to work with a developer who cares about sustainability and an architect that can marry this passion with execution. This truly was a dream team and a project that EP is very excited and proud to have worked on."

Learn more about this project and Cycle Architecture + Planning by visiting **c-ap.net**

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For more information about the Buildings of Excellence Design Competition:
<https://www.nysenda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Multifamily-Buildings-of-Excellence>
For more information about Passive House Construction:
https://passiv.de/en/02_informations/01_whatisapassivehouse/01_whatisapassivehouse.htm