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## The Visionaire Wins 2010 Urban Land Institute Award of Excellence

### ***-America's Greenest Residential High-Rise One of Only 10 Buildings in the Americas to be Recognized-***

NEW YORK – Just in time for Earth Week, America's greenest residential high-rise, [The Visionaire](#), has earned an Award of Excellence from the Urban Land Institute ([ULI](#)). The Battery Park City project, developed by sustainable pioneer The Albanese Organization in partnership with Starwood Capital, is one of only 10 developments in the Americas and the only New York-based project to be recognized. The annual honors are considered the land use industry's most prestigious recognition program.

"The Urban Land Institute takes into consideration the full development process and we are very proud to be recognized for the high standard of excellence we've achieved at The Visionaire," said Russell Albanese, president of The Albanese Organization. "The Visionaire is a culmination of a true team effort, which includes the Battery Park City Authority's vision and the collective expertise of our design and construction teams."

The criteria for the ULI awards include leadership, contribution to the community, innovations, public/private partnership, environmental protection and enhancement, response to societal needs and financial viability. The 2010 winners were selected from more than 170 entries.

"Many of these developments involve environmentally sustainable features, public/private partnerships and innovative financing," said awards jury chair Marty Jones, president, Corcoran Jennison Companies. "All have proven to be financially successful in their industry class while enhancing and strengthening the surrounding community. Especially in these challenging times, ULI hopes to inspire others by sharing the stories of these creative, high-quality finalists."

In addition, this year the ULI honored the Battery Park City Master Plan with a Heritage Award, which is not an annual award, but rather bestowed periodically to developments that have demonstrated industry excellence and made substantial contributions to the greater community's well-being for at least 25 years.

The Visionaire and two other Albanese Organization residential buildings, [The Solaire](#) and [The Verdesian](#), have been instrumental components of the Battery Park City Master Plan, a private-public partnership. The plan, adopted in 1979, has facilitated the private development of 9.3 million square feet of commercial space, 7.2 million square feet of residential space, and nearly 36 acres of open space in lower Manhattan.

The Visionaire, which has received the U.S. Green Building Council's highest rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED® Platinum), includes innovative sustainable features such as a high-efficiency air filtration system that conditions, filters and supplies fresh air into each home, as well as programmable thermostats and other measures that yield 35 percent more energy savings than code-compliant buildings. The building harvests a portion of its electric load through building-integrated solar panels, and the building elevators save approximately 60 percent of its usage energy through regenerative brake drive technology.

A water treatment system in the building recycles water and provides make-up water for the HVAC system cooling tower. The building also harvests rainwater and stores 10,000 gallons of recycled water for irrigation of a rooftop garden, which provides an important benefit to the environment of New York City and helps conserve energy.

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Overlooking Manhattan harbor in Battery Park City, the 35-story condominium, designed by Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, is distinguished by a striking glass and terracotta tower featuring a unique curved façade. Interiors include kitchens with river-washed absolute granite countertops, art glass backsplashes and rift-cut oak wood flooring harvested according to Forest Stewardship Council certified standards, which promotes forest re-growth. The custom kitchens boast renewable bamboo cabinets, custom paneled Sub-Zero refrigerators and stainless steel Wolf dual convection ovens and gas cook tops. Franke under-mounted sinks and single lever faucets with integral spray and built-in pantries with concealed microwaves are included, and the paints, adhesives and sealants used are environmentally friendly. Master baths feature rich limestone floors and countertops, glass mosaic tiled walls, Waterworks deep soaking tubs with limestone decks and separate glass-enclosed showers for a personal spa-like sanctuary.

The Marketing Directors, Inc. is the exclusive sales and marketing agent of The Visionaire. For more information visit: [www.thevisionaire.com](http://www.thevisionaire.com).

***The Albanese Organization** is a full-service real estate firm that pioneered green development in 2003 with the completion of the first green residential building in North America, **The Solaire**, followed by **The Verdesian**, which became the first residential high-rise in the United States to be awarded Platinum LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The developer's latest project, **The Visionaire**, is the greenest residential high-rise in the country. For nearly 60 years, the Long Island-based company has been dedicated to creating residential and commercial buildings of distinction, quality and architectural merit that optimize value and quality of life, introduce innovative concepts, are environmentally responsible and enhance the communities in which they are located.*

***Starwood Capital Group Global, LLC** is a privately held investment management firm that specializes in real estate-related investments on behalf of select private and institutional investment partners. Starwood Capital is one of the nation's most active and successful real estate investment firms and has acquired equity interests in residential lots, multifamily and condominium units, hotels, office, retail and industrial space, golf and leisure-related properties.*

***The Urban Land Institute** ([www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)) is a nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the Institute has more than 33,000 members representing all aspects of land use and development disciplines.*

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