



Brownstoner



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Building of the Day: 554 Prospect Place



Architecture

Crown Heights

Sep 22, 2011 • 03:30pm

by Suzanne Spellén (aka Montrose Morris)



Brooklyn, one building at a time.

Name: Former Temple Isaac, now Faith Chapel Baptist Church

Address: 554 Prospect Place

Cross Streets: Classon and Franklin Avenues

Neighborhood: Crow Hill (Crown Heights North)

Year Built: 1922

Architectural Style: Moorish Inspired with a hint of Art Deco

Architect: Martyn N. Weinstein

Other Buildings by Architect: Ocean Parkway Jewish Center

Landmarked: No

The story: The western part of Crown Heights North, now called Crow Hill by many, and ridiculous acronyms by others, was home to a very large Jewish population in the 1920's. So much so that the large hospital complex, Jewish Hospital, still dominates as the tallest and largest buildings in the area. The surrounding row houses, flats buildings and apartment buildings were home to thousands of observant Jews who needed to have a *shul* nearby. Today, almost all of these buildings are gone, with only a few exceptions.

In an article in the *Jewish Daily Forward*, published in 2010, the author, Paul Berger, writes about 73 year old Rabbi Elkanah Schwartz, who walked from his home in Boro Park all the way to his congregation at one of the few remaining Orthodox temples in Crow Hill, Kol Israel, on Franklin Avenue, across the street from the popular watering hole, Franklin Park. The rabbi made this 6 hour round trip every Sabbath to take part in services at Kol Israel. He remembered when “there was a synagogue or a little room, known as a *shtiebel*, on almost every street. Most have disappeared or have been converted for other uses. The nearby Orthodox Temple Isaac is today a Baptist church. Opposite the former Temple Isaac, the once-imposing Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn is now an apartment block.”

The former Temple Isaac was built for \$64,000, designed by Martyn N. Weinstein, an architect who had offices at 16 Court Street, in downtown Brooklyn. Weinstein designed temples and synagogues, as well as apartment buildings, with commissions taking place between 1920 and 1940. He was the architect of the beautiful Ocean Parkway Jewish Center, on Ditmas Avenue and Avenue F, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. He also designed an Art Deco apartment

building on 8th Avenue in Park Slope, opposite Montgomery Place.

This temple has great soaring Moorish inspired arches, also on the side, with geometric patterned stained glass and very interesting diamond patterned brickwork. The temple was sold to the Faith Baptist Temple in 1972. The Jewish Hospital, whose patients, visitors, and staff probably frequented the temple, went bankrupt about the same time, probably prompting the sale. This building is part of the area's rich heritage, as a home, over the years, to many different people and traditions. [GMAP](#)



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blofeld of boerum hill 23 Sep 2011

great choice

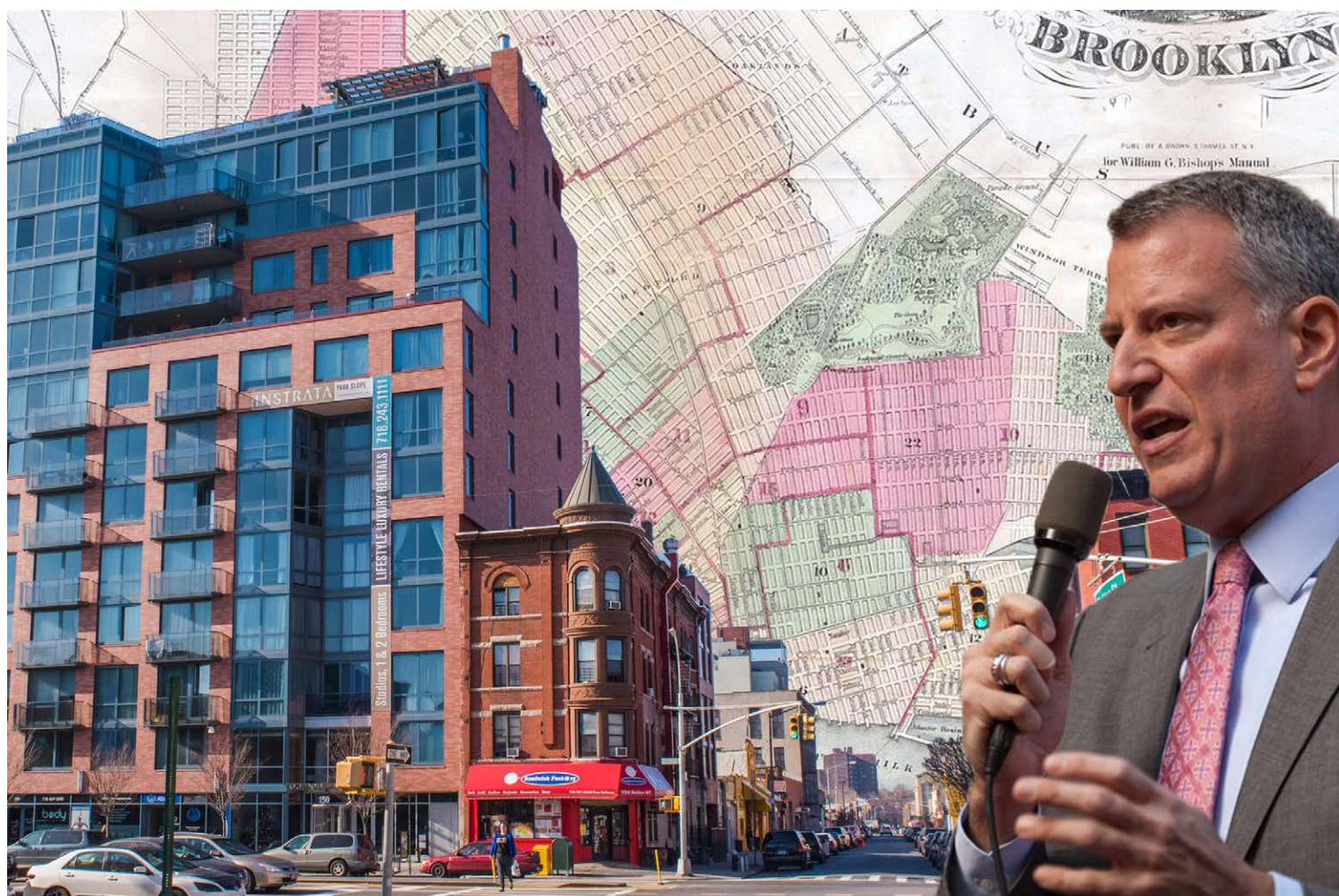


bxgrl 23 Sep 2011

Lovely building. I love the sunburst window and the beautiful brickwork.

Post...

Top 5 Stories on Brownstoner This Week: New Zoning Initiatives and Redlining in Brooklyn



Brooklyn Life by Laura Leebove

Apr 2, 2016 • 09:30am

This week's top stories cover the city's recently passed zoning initiative, Brooklyn's old discriminatory lending practices and more.

Home Inspection Tips From the Pros



Ask Brownstoner by Jeff Scherer

Apr 1, 2016 • 04:48pm

What do home inspectors do, exactly? And do you need one? For answers to these questions, and more, we turned to our Brownstoner Services professionals.

Park Slope Historic District Could Be

Expanded Again This Month



Architecture

Park Slope

by Hannah Frishberg



Apr 1, 2016 • 03:00pm

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will vote soon on the expansion of the Park Slope Historic District to include close to 300 more buildings.

Afternoon Links: Zoning Accountability in East New York, Underground Explosion in Sunset Park



Brooklyn Life by Barbara Eldredge

Apr 1, 2016 • 02:00pm

An underground explosion in Sunset Park, an LIC beer garden is searching for space in Brooklyn and more happening in Brooklyn.

Four Townhouses With Charm to See This Weekend



Real Estate Market by Chris Erikson

Apr 1, 2016 • 01:00pm

On the open house front this weekend we've got three in move-in condition and one with seemingly good bones that needs updating. They're found in Carroll Gardens, Bed Stuy, Crown Heights and Dyker Heights.

Open House Picks Six Months Later: One Brownstone Sold, Another in Contract

Real Estate Market

by Hannah Frishberg

Apr 1, 2016 • 12:00pm

Our Open House Picks from six months ago fared well over the course of this past half year, with all but one making it off the market.

REBNY to Release Report at Brooklyn Real Estate Conference

Sponsored

Apr 1, 2016 • 11:31am

Offering the opportunity to hear from and network with industry leaders, the Brooklyn Real Estate Conference comes to Weylin B. Seymour's on April 7.

4 Magnificent Historic Homes to Visit in Upstate New York



Upstate New York boasts opulent, antique and utterly fascinating structures that — with the help of staff who may even dress in period pieces — transport you to yesteryear. Check out these four fabulous stops, all close to NYC and perfect for a weekend getaway.

Real Estate's Busy Season Brings New Names for Brooklyn Neighborhoods

Real Estate Market

by Jeff Scherer



13

Apr 1, 2016 • 10:00am

If a real estate agent wanted to show you an apartment in the CarGo Triangle, would you know what neighborhood he or she was talking about?

Borough Pres Adams Proposes Moving Municipal Offices to East New York

Development

East New York

by Hannah Frishberg

 9

Apr 1, 2016 • 09:05am

To bring economic development to the area, Borough President Eric Adams has proposed relocating government offices to Broadway Junction in East New York.

Morning Links: Controversial Park Slope Senior Home Sale Might Be a Money Loser



Brooklyn Life by Hannah Frishberg

Apr 1, 2016 • 08:30am

You can try chicken-heart skewers and espresso banana pudding at Smorgasburg this season, bikers can ride the Pulaski Bridge starting April 30 and more Brooklyn news.

Did You Know Brooklyn Is Home to Two Uninhabited Islands?



Brooklyn Life

Marine Park

by Hannah Frishberg


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Mar 31, 2016 • 03:30pm

In 2016, in a city as densely populated as New York, the existence of an uninhabited island is even more surprising than a Park Slope brownstone selling for under \$1 million. Yet, Brooklyn has two of them.

Which Brooklynites Have the Best Commutes? The Answer May Surprise You



Brooklyn Life by Hannah Frishberg  6

Mar 31, 2016 • 02:30pm

According to a new report, the majority of New Yorkers spend over 40 minutes commuting to work every day — almost double the 26-minute national average.

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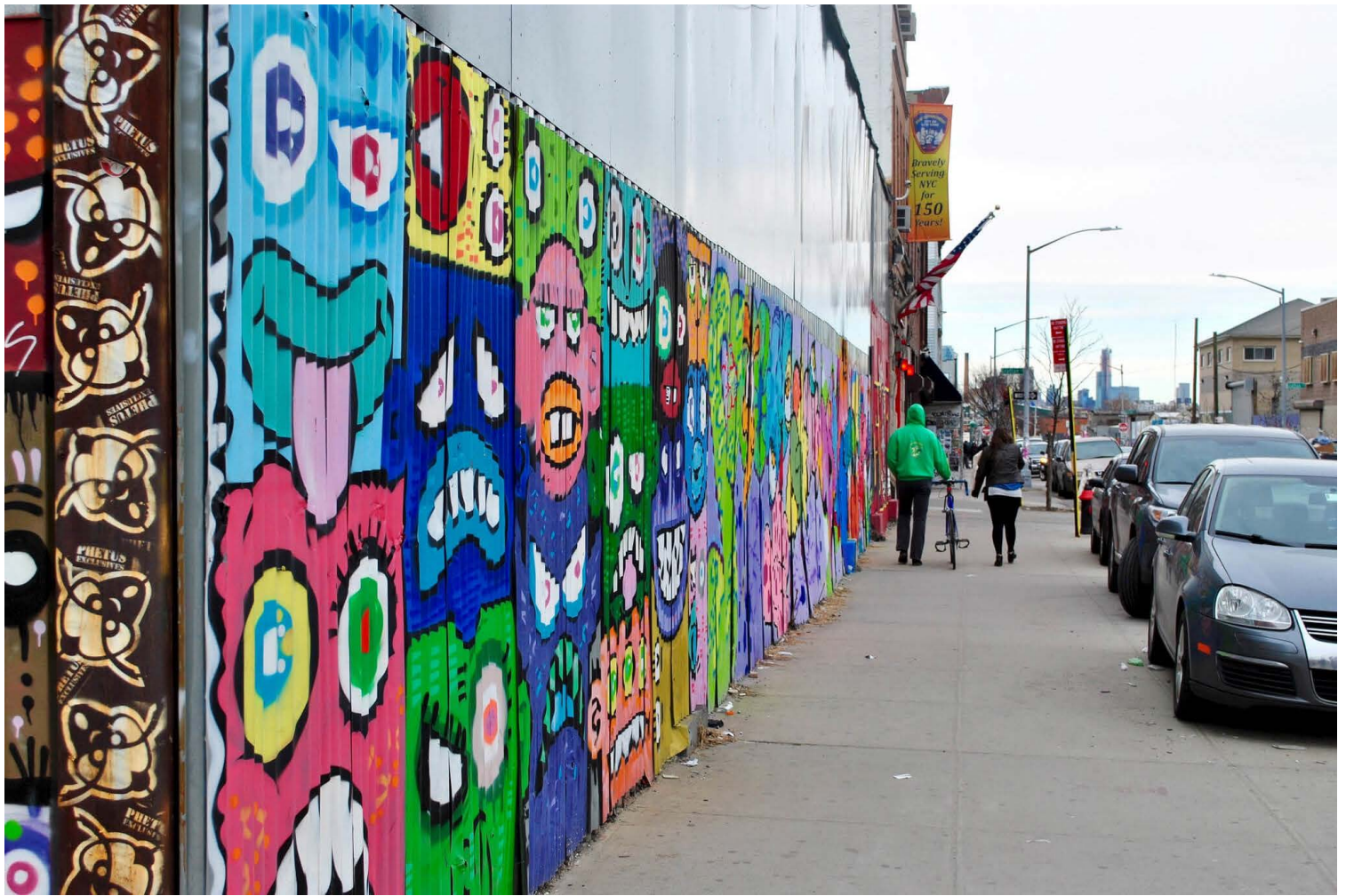
GOWANUS BROOKLYN

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Afternoon Links: 500 Homing Pigeons Killed in Bushwick Fire, Remembering Actress Patty Duke



Brooklyn Life by Barbara Eldredge



Mar 31, 2016 • 01:30pm

Bushwick fire killed 500 trained pigeons, the fancy names for Bay Ridges 1st and 2nd avenues, and more Brooklyn news.

Duplex With Harbor Views, Private Roof Deck in Brooklyn Heights Mansion Renting for \$5,850



Real Estate Market

Brooklyn Heights

by Chris Erikson

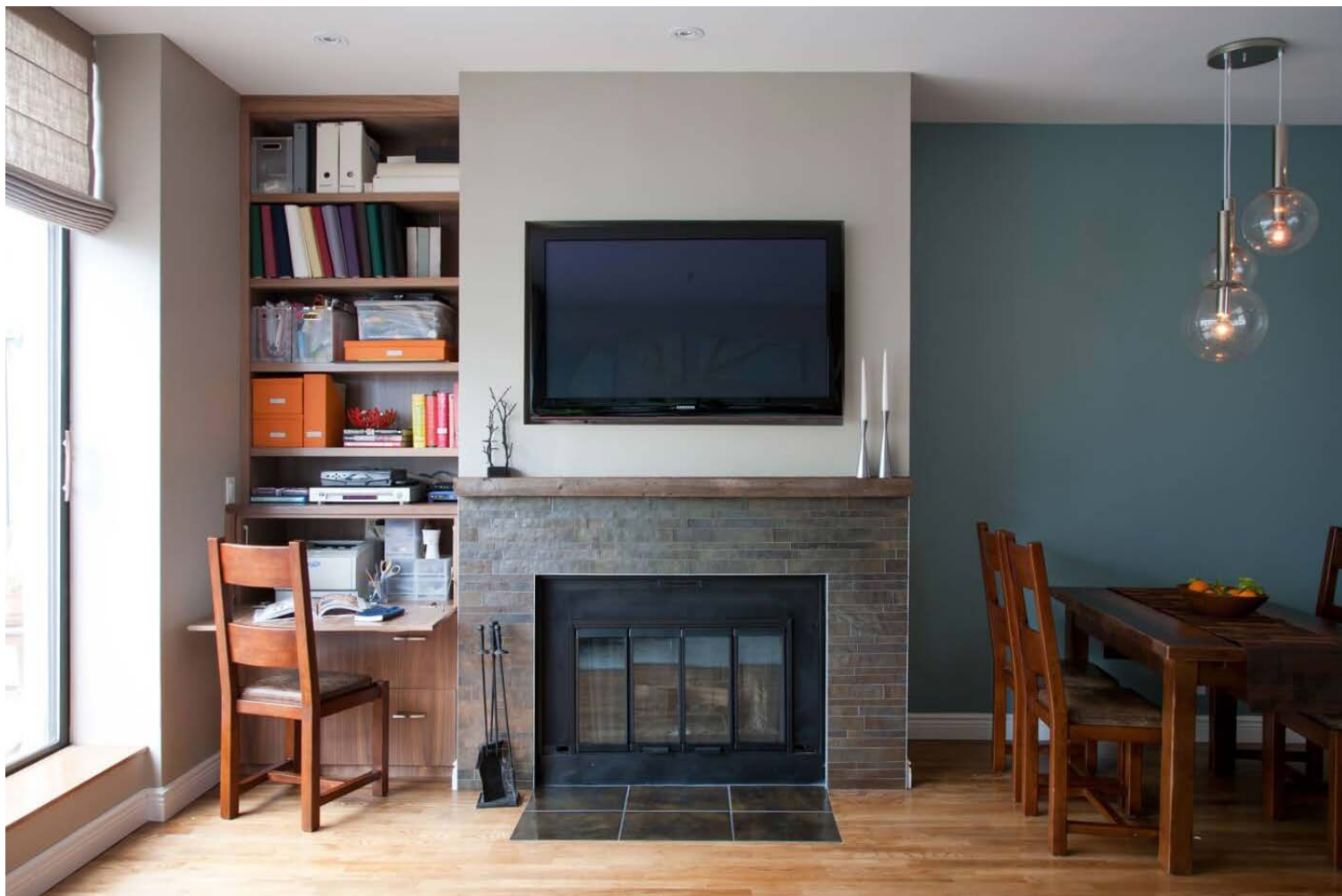


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Mar 31, 2016 • 12:15pm

This Brooklyn Heights duplex is cooler than the average rental. Its got a distinctive and attractive living space and views of the harbor and skyline from both its bayed windows and a rooftop deck above. The setting is notable as well — its on the top two floors of a Columbia Heights mansion (formerly the Squibb Mansion) whose rear facade faces the Promenade.

The Insider: Cobble Hill Condo Reimagined With Custom Stair and Organic-Feeling Decor



Interiors & Renovation

Cobble Hill

by casaCARA



Mar 31, 2016 • 11:00am

From a dreary, dated duplex with an awkward spiral stair, Brooklyn-based designer Jennifer Levy of CAV Design crafted a custom home for a family of four, with great attention to detail.

Former Brooklyn Night Bazaar Spot to Reopen With Restaurant, Design Store, Co-Working Space



Brooklyn Life

Greenpoint

by Hannah Frishberg

Mar 31, 2016 • 10:24am

BMW's MINI calls it an "experiment" intended to create "a hotspot for generating new ideas and solutions."

3 Expert Predictions on How the L Train Shutdown Will Affect Rents and More in Williamsburg



Real Estate by Barbara Eldredge

Mar 31, 2016 • 09:00am

Real estate experts weigh in on how the tunnel shutdown could decrease rents in Williamsburg.

Morning Links: Proposed Streetcar May Interfere With Waterfront Path and Bike Route



Brooklyn Life by Hannah Frishberg

Mar 31, 2016 • 08:30am

Clinton and Sanders may face off in Brooklyn, soul food and live jazz coming to Windsor Terrace and more Brooklyn news.

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