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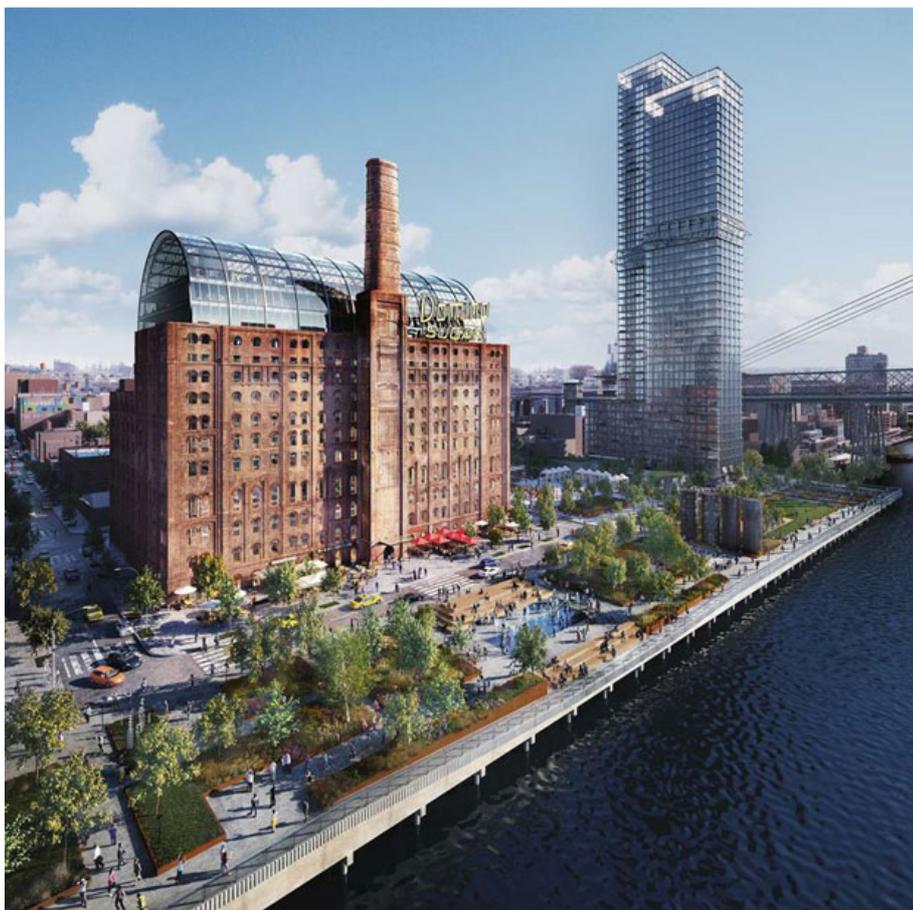
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New life for the Sugar Refinery

Paolo Lavezzari

A centrepiece of the Brooklyn skyline, in New York, in 2021 the Domino Sugar Refinery will transform into an office building. Thanks to the daring project by PAU Studio, which nests a new volume entirely made of glass inside the old brick building

Built in 1882, the **Domino Sugar Refinery** has long stood out not just in the Brooklyn skyline but in the economy as a whole, having been the largest sugar refinery in the world. Closed since 2004, the complex on the Williamsburg waterfront is at the centre of the 11-acre Domino Park redesigned by James Corner Field Operations (the firm that transformed the High Line, and which is now giving new life to the South Street Seaport).



↑ Overall view of the project. The large windows on the ground floor will be open: they will house businesses and serve as pedestrian pathways leading to the park.

The conversion of the Domino Refinery's 40,000 square metres into offices – designed by **PAU Studio** – involves the nesting of a new glass building inside the original envelope. A nearly three-metre gap between the two volumes serves to connect the different levels and to create functional spaces for the offices.



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The historic building's series of windows, no longer interrupted by internal dividing walls, offer a commanding view of Manhattan. The new glass building is capped by a completely transparent barrel vault – very much in the style of Joseph Paxton – that soars above the old walls. All the glass parts are designed by the Italian firm **Focchi**, a specialist in curtain walls (the ones on the Allianz Tower and the Curvo skyscraper by Libeskind in Milan are theirs). Works are expected to be completed in 2021.



↑ Section of the project. You can see the space between the exterior walls and the new internal construction.

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