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THE OBSERVER'S Upper West Side Living

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"The nice thing about this neighborhood is that it is constantly changing," Vezzani said. "If things don't change they don't grow and if they don't grow they die."

The Columbus Square development is five buildings on Amsterdam and Columbus Avenue. According to Jeffrey Brett, the director of development, 808 Columbus Ave. and 801 Amsterdam Ave. are 98 percent full. The buildings are expected to

open later this fall.

"We built something completely different than what has been built before," Brett said. "It's one of kind development with amenities and retail."

The buildings are equipped with doormen, fitness center, elevated landscaped lawns, parking garages and a salt-water pool.

The rooftop parks have 50 trees and an additional 110 species. Brett said the expansive rooftop

greenery is original to Columbus Square and no one has done something similar in New York before.

"This is something very unique," Brett said. "You don't feel like you are in New York, it's almost suburban."

In addition to the newly added parks, the buildings on the block opened stores like TJ Maxx, Michael's Arts and Crafts, Whole Foods and Sephora.

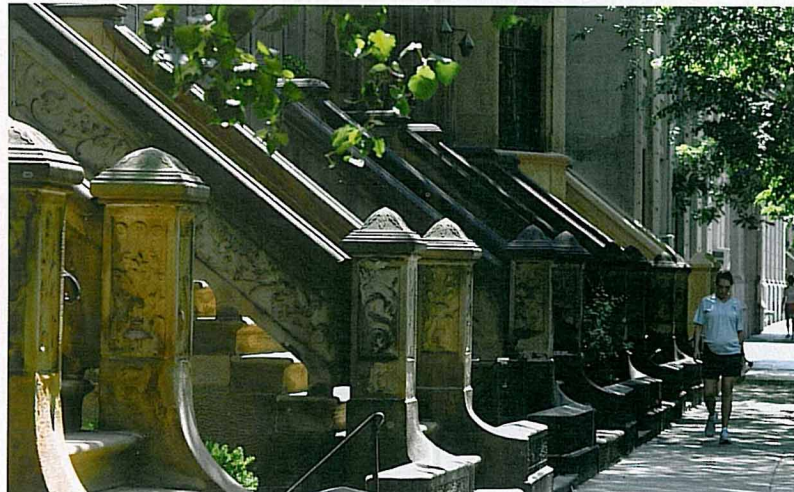
"Change can come at a price,

and for residents it's the noise of the construction," Vezzani said. "It's 100 percent worth it, in my opinion."

Kupiec said that the market is good and recovering after the recession with the rise of new buildings.

"We are holding our own and getting a lot of renters, which is typical for this time of year," Kupiec said. "You get good space for your money and of course it's more affordable than the Upper

Riverside Park is great for families, (above) Streets lined with brownstones.



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