

It's Free to Look: 141 Fifth Avenue

Touchy Feely

By William Alden

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In this advanced age of human civilization, it's always nice to know that a few human hands have touched your property. This Flatiron District penthouse is so handmade, you might start craving a mechanical paint remover for company.

The **CORE** listing says the apartment features "a more traditional approach to design," which means pre-Machine Age. The "fully restored" and "ornate" terra cotta detailing is from 1897, as are the methods of construction. The apartment includes an "English handpainted style custom kitchen" and a "walnut and marble island with handturned balusters." We're pretty sure the developers were aware of the existence of more advanced technologies. But, hey, the penthouse wouldn't be worth \$12 million if they had used them.

It's unclear just how much of the apartment was made by hand. On the bathroom floors are "custom mosaic[s]," which sound like they could have been handmade. But then there's the "wood framed fluted glass doors," 10.5-foot ceilings, oversized windows and, of most concern, the copper cupola. We'll give these luddites the benefit of the doubt and assume they used machinery when—but only when—it was necessary.

