

THE CLOSER

Flips and splits of New York's real-estate community

✿ He takes pretty pictures, and he loves gorgeous triplex loft penthouses, too. **Vanity Fair**, **GQ** and **Condé Nast Traveler** photographer **Jonas Karlsson** just closed on the penthouse at 16 Desbrosses in Tribeca. Listed at \$4.995 million by **Prudential Douglas Elliman** broker **Helen Arden**, the penthouse has 23-foot ceilings, a steel, copper and marble staircase, and giant south-facing windows. Elliman's **Frederik Eklund** reped the all-cash Swedish buyer. Neither broker had any comment on the deal.

At 3,324 square feet with outdoor space, this house could double as a film studio for the busy Karlsson, who has photographed

President Obama as well as musician **All Farka Touré** for **Vanity Fair** and **Roger Federer**, **Tiger Woods** and **Tom Brady** for **NetJets** advertisements. For more on Karlsson's work, go to www.studiojonaskarlsson.com.

✿ **Congratulations to Pratt Institute.** While we've always considered Pratt the top design school in the city bar none, now it can officially be called the area's best-looking school, period. In September's **Architectural Digest**, the design and architecture bible places Pratt among

"The Ten College Campuses with the Best Architecture." The list lives online at architecturaldigest.com.

Why does Pratt deserve this honor? It's spectacular inside and out, as is the surrounding neighborhood. From



Higgins Hall at Pratt Institute

PHOTO: PORTBARRI; BRYAN RACE



Steven Holl

the **Steven Holl**-designed Higgins Hall architecture building to the cast-iron **Tiffany** railings in the late 19th-century library to Pratt House, which serves as home to some students and college **President Thomas F. Schutte**, the structures on this Brooklyn campus make you want to think and make you want to learn. They also make you want to just sit there and stare. For more on Pratt, go to pratt.edu.

✿ Combining history with architecture and some good old-fashioned love for a neighborhood, West Village artist **Andrew Jones** has painted a collection of street railings that adorn the brownstones and buildings of this charming New York enclave. Jones, whose American roots date back to the Revolutionary

War, has chronicled the design nuances of these cobblestone streets.

Sitting on the **Landmark Committee** for Community Board 2, Jones knows as much about the historic depths of this neighborhood as anyone.

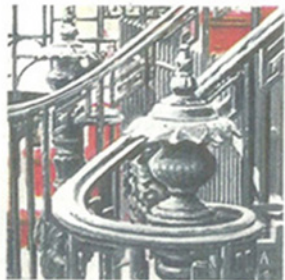
"I've spent my entire life living in cities," says the artist, who lives in the West Village. "Brick, brownstones and iron have always defined my settings. The iron railings changed every few years, so it became a way for me to tell what year a brownstone was built and which social class lived there. By focusing in on details, I could actually present modern, abstract details on something very old

and real. After all, isn't reality abstract?"

We particularly like Jones' personal descriptions, like this one of the railing at 354 W. 11th St.

"In this version of the 'plain' style of the early 1840s, all scrollwork has disappeared in favor of a more rectilinear treatment. The square spindles are spaced at three per tread with a square-in-square fret at the base. Other examples of this pattern appear on Bedford St., W. 13th St. and W. 22nd St."

The award-winning work is on display until Aug. 20 at the exhibition "**The Buildings of New York II**" at the **George Billis Gallery**, 521 W. 26th St. Go to andrewjonesartist.com for more.



"Barrow Street Urns" painting by Andrew Jones



Interior of the penthouse at 16 Desbrosses St.