

# Home



## GURUS GONE WILD



From fly fishing to feng shui: top buildings tap ultra-niche experts

### Feng shui

It may sound chi-ry, but The Park Logan (below), on the Upper West Side, tapped feng shui master Debra Duncier to increase flow.

"In feng shui, we look for water and mountain energy, and when you're walking into a home or building, you want water because it's a symbol of prosperity," said Duncier (inset), who is the founder and president of EcoChi, a wellness-focused interior design firm.

Duncier also selected networks for the building — for example, a totem pole-like sculpture with cascading water and rounded edges that resemble jade leaves — and gave suggestions on the most auspicious ways to arrange furniture with art.

She's even working with residents at a discount to give their tony homes — which range in price from \$1.3 million for a studio to \$9.2 million for a three-bedroom penthouse — a feng shui zhoosh.

Her advice, as once told to her by a master of traditional Chinese medicine in Hong Kong: "You have a gift. Do not waste it."



By SHIVANI VORA

**E**RICA Feidner, 56, a former concert pianist and salesperson for Steinway, loves hanging out in the wine tasting room, lazing in the library or even attempting a bit of yoga in the studio at her building at 21 West End on the Upper West Side. But one perk stands above the rest: In January, the luxury rental started offering free virtual sessions with Dina Berrin, a life coach and "manifestation" teacher, who specializes in tarot, astrology, and "practiced intuition."

"I've had a host of health issues and other challenges and wanted to make changes, so I decided to sign up," said Feidner.

Berrin's weekly Zoom workshops,

which cover self-help topics such as the power of meditation, have improved her sense of self-worth, said Feidner.

"Dina has helped me realize that even though I am going through a hard time, at the core of it all, I am fabulous," she said. "I feel brighter and happier."

Forget concierges, top-of-the-line gyms, golf simulators and other de rigueur amenities. These days, top towers are setting themselves apart with access to un-run-of-the-mill in-house experts, ranging from sommeliers and librarians to farmers and yes, even manifestation teachers.

"Renters and buyers today have so much inventory to pick from that real estate companies are

Across the city, luxury towers are branding themselves with exclusive staffers, like life coach and manifestation teacher Dina Berrin (above). She's bringing positivity to the tenants of 21 West End (above, left) with weekly Zoom workshops covering self-help topics.

constantly trying to find ways to win them over," said real estate consultant Neil Sroka. "Years ago that meant tapping celebrity chefs. Now, it's having people with niche skills that you don't typically find in residential settings."

The following is a look at a few of the masters, connoisseurs and ultra-specialized staffers that are here to solve your most obscure dilemmas and demands.



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### On cloud wine

One Hundred Buxley in Lower Manhattan debuted in 2015 with a wine tasting room, 54 wine lockers and apartments with wine fridges.

Now, they have an in-house sommelier, Shane Benson (below), the owner of New York Vintners.

"I care about teaching residents, whether they're serious oenophiles or newbie drinkers, whatever they want to know about wine," he said.

That means free tastings and frequent classes. He also sources rare bottles (a \$15,000 Domaine Romanée-Conti was the priciest) and builds collections for residents. Prices at the lower range from \$4.4 million up to \$12.5 million.



## INSIDER TRAINING



### Stem sells

Forget shelling out money on fancy flower arrangements. Waterline Square, located at 30 Riverside Boulevard (time) on the Upper West Side, has a resident florist. Local flower shop owner Shula Weiner (above) teaches condo owners (a unit at the building is currently in contract for \$18 million) how to create picture-worthy designs on their own. In addition to creating arrangements



for the building's public spaces. She calls herself as "a florist on speed dial." "Residents text the pictures of their arrangements and ask me how they can look better or what they need to do to make it last longer," she said. "They can also drop off their plants to have them repotted or come in for a quick lesson on a particular flower or plant."

### Keeping it reel

The Silo Ridge Field Club, a luxury golf community in the Hudson Valley, is helping their buyers transition from Brokeks Brothers to overalls by staffing a fly-fishing expert and a farmer.

Marc Hussey offers excursions to rivers around the development that are replete with trout and bass. Meanwhile, farmer Sandra LaPlace (below) manages 2 acres of fertile fields on the property. Homeowners have the option to carve out their own 10-square-foot plot, which LaPlace helps them manage.

Pricing starts at \$2.5 million for condos, homes and lots.

"They can plant their favorite fruits and veggies," she said.



## Spectacular Panoramic Views



660 United Nations Plaza (Midtown) | \$2,650,000 | Beautiful 3 BR, 3 BA high-floor corner home featuring exceptional views that extend to lower Manhattan bridges. Web# 453164



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