NEW YORK BUSINESS JOURNAL

**Commercial Real Estate**

# Hebrew Union College reveals first look at new Upper West Side campus

Hebrew Union College's new campus will feature space for public programs, communal gatherings, and arts and cultural experiences.

*Courtesy of Hebrew Union College, created by Beyer Blinder Belle/Vizziry*

By Kevin Smith – Staff Reporter, New York Business Journal
Oct 21, 2026

Hebrew Union College has revealed a first look of its new campus on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

HUC is transforming the former First Battery Armory building, a 43,000-square-foot property located at 56 W. 66th St., after selling its Greenwich Village building to New York University for about $76 million in early 2025.

The college bought the First Battery Armory property in February 2025 from Disney for $32 million. The building was previously used for television series "One Life to Live" and as the headquarters for ESPN.

Part of the historic drill hall at the former armory has been reimagined as a library reading room.

*Courtesy of Hebrew Union College, created by Beyer Blinder Belle/Vizziry*

The new campus will feature classrooms, faculty and staff offices, and space for public programs, communal gatherings, and arts and cultural experiences. The project also includes equipment aimed at supporting in-person and hybrid classes.

The historic drill hall at the former armory has been reimagined as a sanctuary, a library reading room and a multipurpose event space. Each space is illuminated by natural light.

"These renderings show the promise of what Hebrew Union College can be. They honor our history while boldly imagining our future," said Andrew Rehfeld, president at Hebrew Union College, in a statement. "Every space here is built with purpose, to create vibrant and welcoming hubs for learning, worship and collaboration. These spaces will strengthen ties to the broader community while nurturing intellectual growth and spiritual formation."

HUC is working with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners and Shawmut Design and Construction on the campus.

"The best architecture doesn’t shape an institution’s mission; it shapes the experience of that mission," said Elizabeth Leber, managing partner at BBB. "The challenge for us was to make this historic armory building feel as much a home for Hebrew Union College as did its home in Greenwich Village. Now, the rituals that are so important to their identity have been translated to a new campus, celebrating community in a new way."

The sanctuary and spaces throughout Hebrew Union College's new campus will be illuminated by natural light.

*Courtesy of Hebrew Union College, created by Beyer Blinder Belle/Vizziry*

HUC's move brings the institution back to the Upper West Side. The Jewish Institute of Religion, which merged with HUC in 1950, was founded in 1922 on West 68th Street.

The college is planning to move into its new campus after the winter and spring term of 2027.