



MOST  
INNOVATIVE  
ENTRANCE  
PROJECT

# The Baccarat Hotel & Residences

APG INTERNATIONAL INC., [APGINTL.COM](http://APGINTL.COM)

GLASSFORM, [WWW.GLASSFORM.COM.AU](http://WWW.GLASSFORM.COM.AU)

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“I’VE SEEN THE  
BACCARAT IN  
PERSON, AND  
IT REALLY IS  
STUNNING,  
SPARKLING LIKE  
A CRYSTAL.”

*GMA Judge Mandy Marxen,  
vice president of marketing  
for Gardner Glass Products,  
[gardnerglass.com](http://gardnerglass.com).*

The welcoming chandelier-like, crystal prism façade of The Baccarat Hotel & Residences in Manhattan turns natural light into an optical interaction. With prismatic glass manufactured by Glassform, and a façade system manufactured and installed by APG International, the hotel’s diverse building envelope fulfills not only architectural optical and vision standards, but structural and thermal performance requirements as well, according to officials at APG.

The tower, located on 53rd Street and Fifth Avenue, across from the Museum of Modern Art, features an unusual and arresting façade design that makes use of contrasting materials, colors and shapes. Designed by architect Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP, som.com, the 605-foot tall, 46-story Baccarat Hotel & Residences houses exclusive condominiums, a nine-story luxury hotel and a branch of the New York Public Library, designed by Ten Arquitectos, ten-arquitectos.com.

The façade treatment at the ground level also incorporates triangular glass fins laminated to a clear structural glass wall, which creates patterns from entering light. Refracted through angled surfaces of polished glass prisms, entering light is dispersed in a rainbow-colored spectrum. A custom engineered unitized storefront framing minimizes sightlines for the sake of accentuating the prismatic glass, according to APG officials. The glass fins are incorporated into each prefabricated façade unit by in-laminated stainless-steel brackets. Bronze-clad entrance portals and canopies, manufactured by Champion Metal & Glass, [championmetalglass.com](http://championmetalglass.com), line the façade, adding to the drama of the hotel’s design.

The flat glass façade on the north and south sides, clear and reflective of different light and sky conditions, contrasts with faceted dark metal panels on the east and west sides. These panels are made of Reynobond aluminum composite material from Alcoa Architectural Products, [alcoa.com](http://alcoa.com).

“The black metallic finish on the panels helps to accentuate the depth of these façades and provide a complement to the reflective glass of the tower façade, evoking the Baccarat brand,” says Benjamin D. Reich, AIA, associate at SOM. Seventeen by thirteen foot panels of ultraclear low-iron glass provide views of the city for the tower’s luxury apartments.

**Editor’s Note:** The name of the glass supplier, Glassform, [www.glassform.com.au](http://www.glassform.com.au), of Australia, was omitted from the initial publication of this article. It is corrected here.