



“

*I've never seen
anything like it.*

”

Katie Warren

I can see why some people might not find the Vessel's exterior particularly attractive, but the inside blew me away.

The silhouette of the sculpture against the skyline is striking. It was a bit windy at the top, but because it was an unseasonably warm March day when I visited, I didn't mind. The Vessel is open regardless of rain or bad weather. Looking down from near the top, I couldn't decide whether I felt like I was standing inside the rib cage of some kind of giant robotic creature or in an alien spaceship.

The Vessel's designer, Thomas Heatherwick, called it "one of the most complex pieces of steelwork ever made."



“

A \$150 Million Stairway to Nowhere...

”

Ted Loos

"We know 'Vessel' will be debated and discussed and looked at from every angle, and Thomas," the mayor added, addressing the architect, "if you meet 100 New Yorkers, you will find 100 different opinions on the beautiful work you've created. Do not be dismayed."

On a visit to New York this summer, Mr. Heatherwick, founder of the Heatherwick Studio in London, was eager to explain his design.

"We had to think of what could act as the role of a landmark," he said. "Something that could help give character and particularity to the space."

"It's a leap of faith in terms of scale," said Susan K. Freedman, president of the Public Art Fund, who has seen the "Vessel" renderings and likes them. "I admire the ambition," she added. "You can't be small in New York."

But Ms. Freedman had her reservations. "The bigger problem may be traffic control," she said, given that the work will be near the already crowded High Line, the tourist attraction whose northernmost segment winds around Hudson Yards. "I think people will want to experience it."