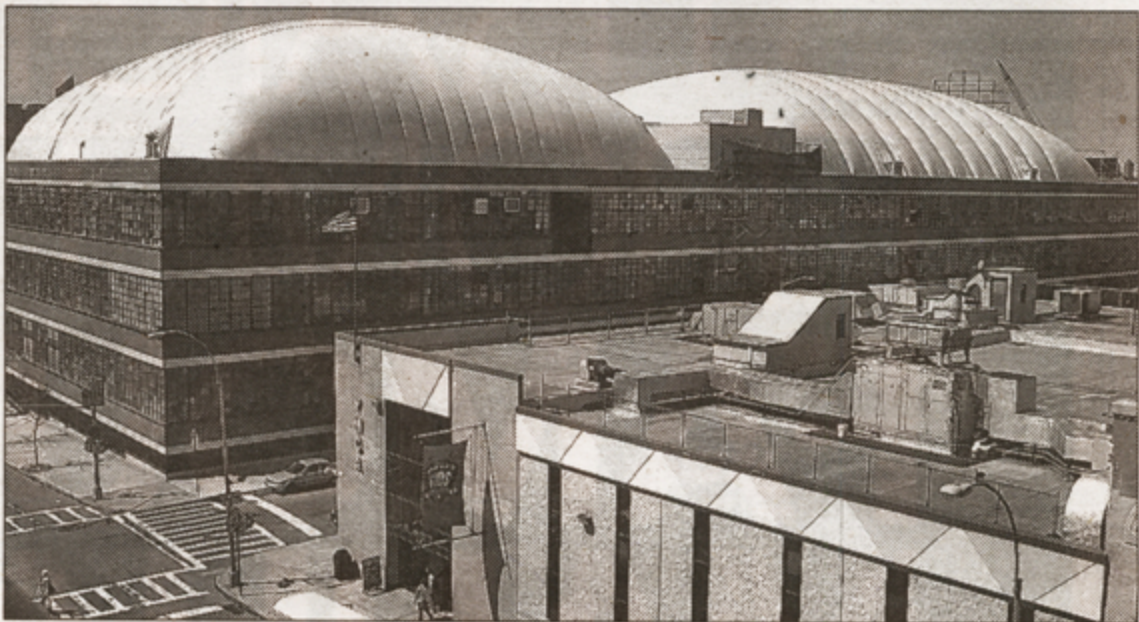


Not-So-Tiny Bubbles Herald Luxury In L.I.C.



(Michael O'Kane)

The new CityView Racquet Club's rooftop oasis will boast seven tennis courts, four squash courts and amenities to rival any exclusive club in the metropolitan area.

by Jennifer Manley

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Backhands across the borough may get some top-notch polish this summer when the \$10 million CityView Racquet Club opens its doors in Long Island City. And the swing is just the beginning. Strained backs (it has a full spa with massage), hungry bellies (a gourmet restaurant) and flabby arms (a gym) can all enter this exclusive lap of luxury.

Or at least as much luxury as they can afford. The members-only club will charge a one-time fee of \$1,200 and an annual membership fee for tennis, squash and other privileges somewhere in the vicinity of \$4,000 a year.

Like many who are new to the land mass east of Manhattan, club owners are all but drooling over the "ideal location" with its close proximity to Manhattan and view of the skyline.

This is no seedy rent-by-the-hour establishment, either. General Manager Michael DelPrete says CityView is catering to those who want a more full club experience. "We are looking for that person that's not afraid to spend a couple of dollars," he added.

For those who can't stomach the pricey hike up to the rooftop of the old Swingline Stapler building, don't worry. The club's Web site will soon launch a virtual tour where the much prized view of the Manhattan skyline is guaranteed to remain unobstructed (www.cityviewracquet.com). 