

Japanese Retailer Muji Signs 10-Year Lease in Williamsburg

Muji sells a range of housewares, furniture and clothing

By **KEIKO MORRIS**
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The Japanese retailer has signed a 10-year lease deal to take 8,000-square-feet of space at a luxury rental building developed by L+M Development Partners Inc.

Muji, which sells a range of housewares, furniture and clothing, will join retail tenants such as an urgent-care center and a bank at 55 N. Fifth St., L+M said.

As residential developments have risen on the waterfront, shops and services are expanding west to the water, beyond the more established retail area of Berry Street and Bedford Avenue, said Christina Warner, vice president of retail leasing.

L+M chose retail tenants for its rental building, called Fifth & Wythe, to fill in the services that were lacking in the neighborhood. Fifth & Wythe has 164 apartments and has both market rate and affordable apartments. The building has five outdoor common areas, including a 4,400-square-foot landscaped roof deck with views of the Empire State Building.

“The median age for the quarter-mile radius was 27,” Ms. Warner said. “Muji was a really good choice for the new population in Williamsburg on the waterfront and new condos.”

Increasing use of the ferry service and water taxis also provides foot traffic for retailers such as Muji, Ms. Warner said.

Diana Boutross, executive managing director at Cushman & Wakefield, represented L+M in the transaction.