

## Investigating New York's Contestants for "America's Best Restroom"

By Annie Werner

published: Fri., Jul. 9, 2010 @ 1:45PM

Last week, we informed you that the finalists for America's Best Restroom had been announced -- with two New York bathrooms making the cut! But the pictures provided on the site just weren't enough for us. So this week, we decided to take a break from our usual gritty public restrooms reporting and see if these bourgeois bathrooms really are worth the hype. Don't worry -- we haven't sold our souls to the Gods of Golden Toilets just yet.

### Bryant Park

As a member of NYC Government Parks\*, the granite counter-topped, full-time attended public restroom of Bryant Park surprisingly is in our jurisdiction, and the amenities didn't stop there. The bathroom is outfitted with flower arrangements and a working fan to make for a more pleasant visit.



Unlike other NYC public restrooms, Bryant Park's did not have toilet paper scattered about the room, and we didn't have to dance around puddles of unidentified liquid to make it to the loo.

We spoke with the full-time attendant on duty, Judy, who says she has experienced immense gratitude from her patrons: "Around Christmas time, I can get up to \$100."

She probably deserves it -- though this bathroom ups the ante for any other NYC restroom, she says still has to



deal with people who have trouble aiming. At least the toilets themselves come equipped with self-cleaning plastic seat covers. (Two-part instructions included!)



*That's it for this week's Toilet Bowl. Though our break from the typical grime of public restrooms was pleasant, we have to admit that when we need to flush, we can survive without hydrangeas or individually themed toilets. We'll be back to our gritty tricks next week.*

\*While Bryant Park is a public park and is owned by the City of New York, it is privately managed by Bryant Park Corporation. Bryant Park is financially independent and does not receive a penny in city funding.