

GOTHAM

October 2013

TALL STORIES

A Matter of Record

BIG DEALS FOR BIG DEALS—MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV, LESLIE ALEXANDER, AND YES, LEO AGAIN HOP AROUND THE CITY'S HOTTEST NEIGHBORHOODS. BY SALLY GOLDSTEIN

Apartment prices continue to soar across the city's trophy real estate market. Leslie Alexander, the owner of the Houston Rockets and founder of the Hamptons wine club Société du Vin, closed on a \$42 million deal at 18 Gramercy Park. He also broke a city record with his purchase—this is the most expensive downtown sale ever. But big-ticket deals are typical for Alexander, who bought a penthouse at Superior Ink for \$25.4 million in 2009. He put it back on the market a week after he acquired it (as a raw, undeveloped space) and sold it a year later for the then-staggering price of \$31.5 million. His new home, a stunning duplex penthouse, has five bedrooms, four terraces, a pool, and a whirlpool, as well as one of the city's best amenities—a key to Gramercy Park, the city's only private park. Douglas Elliman Real Estate broker Melanie Lazenby (26 W. 17th St., 212-727-6131; elliman.com) represented Alexander.

Will Gramercy Park lure other boldfacers? Worth hundreds of millions of dollars, Leonardo DiCaprio has been ensconced in the Riverhouse, one of the city's greenest condos (with low-emission paints, sustainable materials, and solar panels). But he may soon be heading north; DiCaprio was spotted checking out the \$14.9 million penthouse duplex at 50 Gramercy Park North—the Ian Schrager-developed property where white-haired, white-gloved designer Karl Lagerfeld once owned a home. The *Gatsby* actor toured the 4,235-square-foot apartment that includes three bedrooms,

RIGHT AND FAR RIGHT: Leonardo DiCaprio is once again looking at NYC homes, including the 50 Gramercy Park North penthouse duplex.



TOP AND LEFT: Annika Pergament recently sold her Trump Place condo for \$2.45 million. BELOW: 407 East 75th Street, the former carriage house of Richard Avedon and Olivier Sarkozy, just sold for \$11.4 million.

three and a half bathrooms, and a library with a wood-burning fireplace. The best part of the package, however, might be the two private terraces on the top floor. The listing broker is Tim Cass of The Corcoran Group (36 E. 12th St., 212-500-7025; corcoran.com).

Nearby in Nomad, the hot new neighborhood, dashing race car driver Jeff Gordon recently purchased a \$10 million unit at The Whitman, where Chelsea Clinton bought for \$10.5 million. The Nascar superstar appears to have a knack for trophy real estate: He got in early at 15 Central Park West, paying less than \$10 million. He recently sold that unit for around \$30 million—a whopping profit. Douglas Elliman's Melanie Lazenby and Dina Lewis (26 W. 17th St., 212-727-6129; elliman.com) had the Whitman listings.

Meanwhile, on the Upper East Side, the late, great photographer Richard Avedon's former carriage house has sold for \$11.4 million to an undisclosed buyer. The manse, at 407 East 75th Street, had also been home to financier Olivier Sarkozy, half brother of ex-French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who lived in the historic townhouse before he divorced his wife and moved in with actress-turned-The-Row-cofounder Mary-Kate Olsen. The four-story, six-bedroom, nine-bathroom townhouse, last listed at \$12.5 million, includes a black-and-white stairwell, full-floor master suite with two wood-burning

continued on page 110



PHOTOGRAPHY BY VENTURELLI/WREIMAGE (DICAPRIO); TRAVIS DUBREUIL (50 GRAMERCY PARK); DONNA DOTAN (TRUMP PLACE)

continued from page 108

fireplaces, and a private terrace. The listing broker was Emily Beare of Core (127 Seventh Ave., 212-726-0786; corenyc.com).

Also on the Upper East Side, Douglas Elliman broker Tristan Harper (575 Madison Ave., 212-350-2261; elliman.com) helped Simon Cowell's wealthy, pregnant baby mama, Lauren Silverman, move into her own abode in a glass building at Park Avenue and 87th Street. She (or Simon) is paying the \$26,500-a-month rent. Silverman famously got pregnant by Cowell while she was still married to real estate developer Andrew Silverman; she was even photographed

Leslie Alexander broke a city record with his purchase—the most expensive downtown sale ever.

on Cowell's yacht with Cowell and her cuckolded husband. The apartment will give Lauren a home base in New York—ammunition for her custody battle with Andrew over their son. Friends say she plans to jet between New York and Los Angeles, where Cowell spends time.

In the West Village, another trophy home exchanged hands. That's where George Gund bought 75 1/2 Bedford Street, the city's skinniest townhouse. The charming red brick home is only 8.25 feet wide inside and 990 square feet, but it still sold for the fat price of \$3.25 million. In addition, it's a home that comes with unique "celebrity cred": dapper actors Cary Grant and John Barrymore allegedly lived in the house, as did anthropologist Margaret Mead and poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, who penned her Pulitzer Prize-winning collection *Ballad of the Harp-Weaver* there. Writers also found inspiration, including *Stone Soup* author Ann McGovern, who wrote a book about a man who moves into the skinniest house in the city,



Mr. Skinner's Skinny House. The vertical anomaly has three bedrooms and floor-to-ceiling French doors that open onto a shared communal backyard. Inside, a skylight adds brightness and a breezy sense of comfort to the space. Town Residential broker Robson Zanetti (110 Fifth Ave., 646-998-7478; townrealestate.com) represented both sides of the deal.

The Upper West Side has also seen celebrity sales action, with Mikhail Baryshnikov and his wife, Lisa Rinehart, selling their

Mikhail Baryshnikov and Lisa Rinehart sold their uptown pied-à-terre for \$115,000 more than the asking price.

pied-à-terre co-op for \$1.265 million—a bit more than its \$1.15 million asking price. The couple received 12 offers for the home in a feisty bidding war. The full-service building at West 104th Street, known as The Armstead, includes a roof deck. The two-bedroom, one-and-a-half bath, 1,125-square-foot unit also boasts high ceilings and a chef's kitchen overlooking Broadway. Linda Feder of The Corcoran Group (660 Madison Ave., 212-605-9292; corcoran.com) handled the listing.

Farther south, NY1 senior business anchor Annika Pergament sold her Trump Place condo at 200 Riverside Boulevard for \$2.45 million. Broker Jacky Teplitzky of Douglas Elliman (575 Madison Ave., 212-891-7263; elliman.com) had the listing for the 1,723-square-foot, 14th-floor home that includes three bedrooms and three bathrooms. **G**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Mikhail Baryshnikov's home at The Armstead, West 104th Street, sold for \$1.265 million; 75 1/2 Bedford, the city's skinniest townhouse; a terrace at The Whitman, where Jeff Gordon just purchased.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD CARLAN (WHITMAN); MIKE TAUBER (75 1/2 BEDFORD); ROB KIM/GETTY IMAGES (BARYSHNIKOV)