

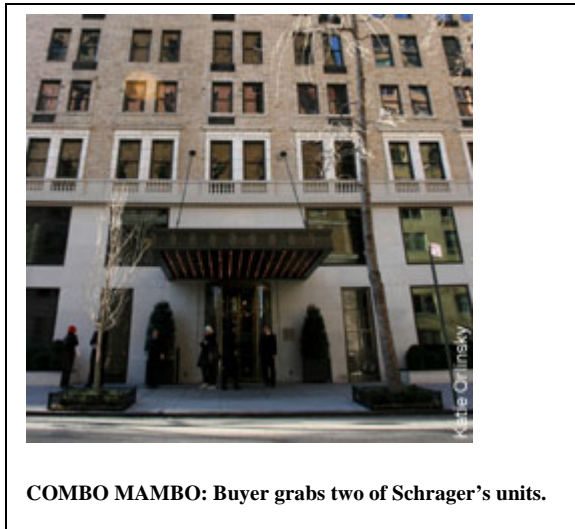
# NEW YORK POST

24 HOURS A DAY

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## GIMME SHELTER



April 26, 2007 --

### Ice palace

When we reported a few days ago that Icelandic businessman Jon Asgeir Johannesson was paying a mere \$10 million for the \$16 million duplex penthouse atop Ian Schragger's 50 Gramercy Park North development, we thought that was the end of the story - a deal well negotiated.

But we've since learned that Johannesson will combine the condop apartment with a

\$10.175 million unit he bought in December on the floor directly below, and transform it all into a mega-sized triplex of nearly 8,000 square feet.

The nearly sold-out building includes keys to the private Gramercy Park and services from the adjacent Gramercy Park Hotel.

Little has been written in the states about Johannesson, the 39-year-old mogul who runs the Baugur Group, Iceland's biggest conglomerate. Two years ago, he had 40 counts of fraud brought against him for violating the Icelandic penal code, Accounting Act, Annual Accounts Act and Companies Act. The charges involved transactions between him and Baugur, and most were dropped as of February.

Our media writer Keith Kelly reported yesterday that the purchase gives credence to the rumors that Johannesson would soon be eyeing the New York market for the introduction of a free daily paper. His Baugur Group has a controlling stake in media firm Dagsbrun, which has formed 365 Media and last week launched Boston Now, a new free weekly. The company has said it wants to roll out free dailies in 10 U.S. cities in the next three years.

## **Camenot**

Speaking of the Kennedy clan, Ethel Kennedy has again lowered the price of her famed Hickory Hill home in the Washington D.C. suburbs - this time to \$12.5 million.

The widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who is living full time at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannisport, Mass., first listed the McLean, Va. estate in 2003 for \$25 million. A year later, she lowered the price to \$20 million, then to \$16.5 million.

"It's possible she'll get something close to the latest price," says one local broker. "She would've sold it a lot sooner if she had first listed the property with a more realistic price. Provenance is only worth so much."

History does abound there.

Robert and Ethel Kennedy bought the 13-bedroom house in 1957 from then Senator John F. Kennedy and wife Jackie for \$125,000, four years after the future president bought it for the same price. The home was previously the Civil War headquarters of Union Army Gen. George McClellan.

The circa 1815 home on 6 acres features 12 fireplaces, a movie theater, two pools and a lighted tennis court. Washington Fine Properties has the listing.

## **Bouley buys above Bouley**

David Bouley won't have much of a commute to work, now that he's bought a new-construction loft above his famed restaurant. The superchef just shelled out \$3.15 million for a three-bedroom condo at the Mohawk Atelier in TriBeCa, a few floors above the top-rated Bouley restaurant.

According to our latest intel, the last of the 12 apartments, a \$5.9 million penthouse, has just gone to contract.

Overlooking Duane Park, the Romanesque Revival landmark building features a 24-hour attended lobby and room service to all the units from Bouley's eatery.

The development was marketed by the Corcoran Group.

## **Decorator no-show house**

Could this be the end of civilization, now that the Hamptons is down to only one decorator show house this summer?

We hear that House & Garden has suddenly pulled out of the summer festivities, leaving only Hamptons Cottages & Gardens to carry the torch for the chintz and tchotchke set.

The Southampton Hospital, which had been the beneficiary of ticket sales to the House & Garden homes, is now on the lookout for another sponsor, our sources say.

Meanwhile, the Hamptons Cottages & Gardens Idea House, located in Amagansett on the former estate of legendary restaurateur Warner LeRoy, will be open to the public July 13.

The new-construction home, designed by noted architect Steve Semes, will feature interior work from 20 designers.

### **Lawford's lair for sale**

A piece of Hamptons history is now for sale. The rambling Southampton summer home of the late Patricia Kennedy Lawford is on the market for \$12 million. The "estate-condition" mansion of 10,000 square feet includes 12 bedrooms, 10 baths, a huge "great room," a sun room, a gym, multiple porches and a servant's wing.

Included on the grounds are a heated pool, a Har-Tru tennis court and a two-stall stable/caretaker's shed.

Known as "Chrisyviro" - after Lawford's four children Christopher Lawford, Sydney McKelvy, Victoria Pender and Robin Lawford - the estate has hosted many a family function, including a tented wedding for Victoria in 1987.

We reported last week that Lawford's Sutton Place co-op apartment with an asking price of \$12.7 million went to contract.

The Southampton home on First Neck Lane is being listed by Harald Grant at Sotheby's.

### **PSSST! WE HEAR...**

Esquire magazine plans to bring its next version of the "Ultimate Bachelor Pad" to Harlem. Sources say that a full-floor penthouse apartment at the nearly completed 111 Central Park North will be tricked out by numerous decorators. The last Esquire apartment to be showcased in Manhattan was in the 90th floor penthouse of Trump World Tower.

[http://www.nypost.com/seven/04262007/realestate/gimme\\_shelter\\_realestate\\_braden\\_kei\\_l.htm?page=0](http://www.nypost.com/seven/04262007/realestate/gimme_shelter_realestate_braden_kei_l.htm?page=0)

