

GOTHAM

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TALL STORIES

billionaire abodes

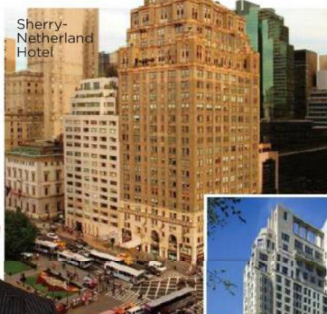
WHEN YOUR PRETEEN SON DRIVES A FERRARI OR YOU SELL OUT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, SIGNING ON THE DOTTED LINE FOR A SEVEN-FIGURE APARTMENT IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.

BY SALLY GOLDSTEIN

As autumn casts its golden glow on Manhattan, the city's wealthiest denizens are securing even more extremely pricey real estate. At least three people, two of them on *Forbes'* billionaires list, have signed contracts to buy major apartments.

Fashion moguls and business partners Lawrence Stroll and Silas Chou have each bought full-floor apartments in One57 for \$50 million each. Stroll, a flamboyant billionaire from Quebec, Canada, and his low-key partner, Chou, who hails from Hong Kong, have both bought above the 80th floor (full-floor residences begin on the 77th floor). Stroll and Chou of Sportswear Holdings Limited, made more than a billion dollars when they took Michael Kors public late last year. Now worth an estimated \$1.8 billion, Stroll collects Ferraris, and his son Lance—at age 11—became the youngest person on the Ferrari's Formula 1 grooming team; by 13, he was speeding along courses in Italy behind the wheel of his own Ferrari.

Another Manhattan buyer is Michael Holtz, of SmartFlyer travel agency. Holtz, who in the past made money buying and selling in 15 Central Park West, was one of the first buyers at One57 and is on the advisory board of the Park Hyatt. Holtz paid around \$10 million for a three-bedroom condo just above the hotel, saying that it is one of his favorite brands and



Sherry-Netherland Hotel

that he believes the building will be "amazing." He also thinks many other buyers at 15 Central Park West are indeed buying into One57.

However, now there is another building that is hoping to give One57's West 57th Street tower a run for its money. When it is completed, 432 Park Avenue, the site of the former Drake Hotel, will clock in at 1,398 feet—nearly 400 feet taller than the 1,004-foot One57. Developer Harry Macklowe bought 432 Park Avenue for \$418 million in 2006, lost it during the recession, then got it back through a partnership with the CIM Group in 2010. And as foreigners in unstable countries continue to think of New York high-end real estate as a safe haven for their financial gains, the asking prices keep soaring. A full-floor apartment at the Sherry-Netherland is asking a whopping \$95 million. Five of its rooms and a giant terrace overlook Central Park while six rooms, including the kitchen and dining room, overlook another terrace and Midtown.



15 Central Park West, where Michael Holtz bought and sold.



Lawrence Stroll



130 West 12th Street, where Rosie O'Donnell purchased.



Blaine Trump

A full-floor apartment at the Sherry-Netherland asks \$95 million.

In other real estate transaction news, Blaine Trump just bought a stunning duplex at 222 Central Park South, which was asking \$4.475 million. The three-bedroom, two-bathroom, high-floor duplex at the Gainsborough Studios co-op building—once for artists only—attracted high profile celebrities to its viewings, including Drew

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW HARRIS; SHERRY-NETHERLAND HOTEL: PETER ALBANI; 15 CENTRAL PARK WEST: JANE MCCARTHY/WIREIMAGE.COM; ROSIE O'DONNELL: JANE MCCARTHY/WIREIMAGE.COM; BLAINE TRUMP: NICK HARVEY/WIREIMAGE.COM; STROLL: JANE MCCARTHY/WIREIMAGE.COM

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Barrymore, who recently wed for the third time to art consultant Will Kopelman, as well as the wrinkled rock royal, Mick Jagger. The dramatic duplex includes double-height ceilings and a 30-foot-long living room with a fireplace and floor-to-ceiling windows with Central Park views.

Rosie O'Donnell also made news; so thrilled with the recent purchase of her \$8 million West Village home, she tweeted photos of the city from her terrace at 130 West 12th Street. The four-bedroom home is in a newly renovated luxury condo, which was developed by the Rudin family and was once part of St. Vincent's Hospital. **G**



The exterior of One57.

Rosie O'Donnell purchased in the West Village.



Central Park views from a One57 living room.