

Gimme Shelter

By Braden Keil | April 2, 2005

Hilfiger in Hamptons

TOMMY HILFIGER certainly made one unsuspecting real-estate broker's day.

The fashion designer, according to sources, strolled into a real-estate office in the Hamptons and told the sales agent on duty that he was looking for a house on the East End – but he didn't want to spend more than \$25 million!

An unidentified agent at Allan M. Schneider – who could become a millionaire overnight after the deal closes – quickly (and literally) steered Hilfiger toward a newly constructed north-of-the-highway estate in Bridgehampton with a \$25 million price tag.

The never-lived-in custom home of approximately 21,500 square feet on 24 landscaped acres has seven bedroom suites (each with sitting rooms), a giant media room, a large caretaker's apartment, pool with pool house, tennis court and (for Tommy's fans who happen to be visiting) a full-size professional basketball court!

Now we hear that Hilfiger has gone to contract on the property, with distant sea views, located off Scuttlehole Road -where his new neighbors would include Christie Brinkley, Matt Lauer and Peter Jennings.

We had reported that Howard Stern had bid for the estate, but the King of all Media's \$18 million offer was apparently too paltry for owner Michael Chazen.

Neither Hilfiger, nor the listing broker, Myles Tintleaf Allan M. Schneider Associates, returned phone calls.

Piazza palazzo million

MIKE PIAZZA has caught a buyer for his manly bachelor pad.

The 36-year-old slugger, who married former Playboy Playmate and Baywatch star Alicia Rickter last February, has sold his Gramercy Park bachelor pad for \$2.445 million, according to city records.

The two-bedroom place on East 18th Street, which had an asking price of \$2.649 million, has a professionally designed screening room and a setback terrace.

Piazza put the palazzo on the market after closing on Nov. 30 at his new digs in TriBeCa for \$4.1 million. Louise Devlin of Brown Harris Stevens was the listing broker.

Piazza's new home is a 3,000-square-foot penthouse loft with a sprawling roof deck atop a nine-story building.

The catcher added the interior that included stainless-steel appliances in an oversize kitchen – and lots of full-size mirrors.

Over-the-Hill house

IVAN LENDL is more than just a tennis hall-of-famer -he's apparently a Connecticut land baron, as well.

The Czech-born American, who won nearly 100 major tennis titles before walking, not limping, away from the game in the mid-1990s, has listed his Litchfield County estate on over 450 acres, and an additional 230 acres held in joint ownership, for \$25 million.

Included in the property known as "Hill House" is a 20-room stone manor home with 10 bedrooms, 12 full baths, an indoor pool and basketball court, a spa and gym. The kitchen has a separate walk-in cooler, freezer and wine cellar.

The grounds feature an outdoor pool with pool house, a caretaker's house, horse stables, formal gardens and -naturally – a tennis court. Lendl, 45, who's pretty much hung up his tennis shoes in favor of golf spikes, now spends much of his time with his wife and five daughters in Florida.

Rush's rehab?

CONSERVATIVE radio firebrand Rush Limbaugh has just transferred ownership of one of his Palm Beach mansions to Marta Maranda, his former wife of 10 years. his pad.

Located on the north end of the tony island, Limbaugh, in a recent divorce settlement sold the estate to his wife for \$9 million, (which, according to reports, was the same price he paid for the waterfront property more than a year ago).

But his wife could most likely make a huge profit on the resale of the property which is said to be in "estate condition," and could become a teardown or rehab, at 318 Caribbean Road.

It is one of many properties that the Limbaughs began acquiring over the past six years, which included the 12,000-square-foot mansion on North Ocean Boulevard that they used as their main residence.



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