

CAROL E. LEVY

REAL ESTATE

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BIG DEAL

A Place to Discuss Movies and Biotechnology

By WILLIAM NEUMAN

THE actress Glenn Close and the biotechnology entrepreneur David E. Shaw bought a penthouse apartment last month on the upper floors of the Beresford, at 211 Central Park West. Their apartment, which is on the building's southeast corner and was once owned by the actor Rock Hudson, overlooks Central Park and the Museum of Natural History, across West 81st Street.

The co-op apartment has been renovated since Mr. Hudson's death in 1985. "We basically ended up having to completely redo the whole of the inside of the apartment," said Nicholas J. Clay, who bought the apartment in 1998. He said the renovation "made it more of a family apartment" and brought the unit up to date. It has two balconies, a private elevator, two bedrooms and a small upstairs study that is a vestige from a time when the apartment was a full duplex.

Carol E. Levy, a real estate broker who lives in the building and has sold several apartments there, said the penthouse was on the small side. "It's definitely a glamorous apartment; it's just not a big grand Beresford mansion-type apartment," she said.

The apartment was listed in 2003 by Lois Lawrence, a broker with Prudential Douglas Elliman, at an asking price of \$9 million. Last July the price was dropped to \$7.75 million, and it came down three more times, until it reached \$5.99 million.

Mr. Clay, who now lives in Los Angeles and is chief executive of Avica Technology, a digital cinema company, said the apartment was not priced to sell at first. "I really wanted to hold onto it



Brad Barket/Getty Images, top

because it was such a gem," he said. "It ultimately came to the point where we weren't using it, so we put a much more realistic price on it and it went pretty quickly after that." He said the apartment eventually attracted multiple bidders and sold for slightly more than the last asking price.

Ms. Close, who recently appeared in the television series "The Shield," and Mr. Shaw were first mentioned together in gossip columns and on society pages last year. Mr. Shaw is the founder and former chief executive of Idexx Laboratories, a biotechnology company based in Westbrook, Me., that makes medical devices and diagnostic tools for veterinarians. Mr. Shaw is also the managing partner of a private investment company and is associated with two other investment firms.

Ms. Close's publicist, Catherine Olim, would not discuss the purchase. Mr. Shaw did not return telephone calls. The couple's broker, Robert Browne of the Corcoran Group, declined to be interviewed.

The Beresford was built in 1929 by the architect Emery Roth and has had many well-known residents over the years, including Isaac Stern, Tony Randall, Margaret Mead, Jerry Seinfeld, John McEnroe, Helen Gurley Brown and Sidney Lumet.
