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The Cosmo Girl's Lair for \$19.4 Million



Helen Gurley Brown's turreted quadruplex atop the exclusive Beresford co-op at 211 Central Park West, where she lived for four decades until her death in 2012 and which was bedecked in midcentury glamour, has finally sold. At \$19,380,000, it was the second most expensive transaction of the week, according to city records.

The priciest sale was farther down the scenic thoroughfare. A three-bedroom three-and-a-half-bath condominium at the limestone-clad 15 Central Park West, near 61st Street, closed at \$28 million. The 2,846-square-foot apartment, No. 38A, with a 211-square-foot terrace overlooking Central Park, has monthly carrying costs of \$9,063.

Henry Hershkowitz and Heather L. McDonough of Core brought the buyer of 15 Central Park West, whose identity was shielded by the limited liability company Morningside Heights CPW. John Burger and Lauren Bankart of Brown Harris Stevens represented the seller, BZG Industries (No. 5) Ltd. of the Cayman Islands.

Ms. Brown's four-level penthouse, 22D, occupies the southeast tower of the Beresford, the 1929 Emery Roth-designed limestone and brick building on Central Park West, between 81st and 82nd Streets.

Ms. Brown, the longtime editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, and her husband, the film and theater producer David Brown (whose movies included "The Sting" and "Jaws") bought the apartment in the 1970s from the director Mike Nichols. Ms. Brown died in August 2012 at the age of 90, two years after Mr. Brown, with no children or other heirs.

The home, with monthly maintenance of around \$8,000, has three and a half baths and just one defined bedroom: the master suite that encompasses the third level. It has a sizable dressing room and connects to two terraces, including one measuring a massive 53 by 44 feet and overlooking Central Park. A library

on the main level with an en-suite bath could be converted into another bedroom. The lower level, reached by way of back stairs from the kitchen, also has two staff rooms with one full bath.

The apartment is entered via a private vestibule adorned with bright floral wallpaper that opens to a gallery with a curved staircase. A large, high-ceilinged living room on the main floor features a fireplace and wide sliding glass doors that open to a wraparound balcony overlooking the nearby American Museum of Natural History and the park. The top floor contains a great room, with 17-foot ceilings and a fireplace.

The Browns had decorated the penthouse in a bold midcentury motif: shag carpeting, floral wallpaper, lacquered walls and pink aplenty. The place remained in that style — a virtual time capsule, with photographs and daily calendar remaining — even as it was placed on the market last November. It went into contract just over a month later.

The buyer was Robert B. Millard, the chairman of the MIT Corporation, which oversees the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was represented by Roberta Golubock of Sotheby's International Realty. Gabriele Devlin of Sotheby's was the listing broker, representing the HGB Trust, with Eve Burton and Frank A. Bennack Jr., executives of the Hearst Corporation, serving as the trustees.

Ms. Brown was the editor of Hearst's Cosmopolitan from 1965 to 1997. She has been credited with being the first to feature candid discussions of sex in women's magazines. Her best-selling book, "Sex and the Single Girl," was published in 1962.

Big Ticket includes closed sales from the previous week, ending Wednesday.