

November 14, 2008

YOUR HOME GOSSIP

THE CLOSER

Disclosures, appraisals, flips and splits of New York's real-estate community

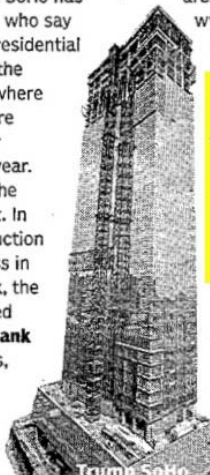
* The **Trump SoHo Hotel Condominium** topped off this past week. The 46-story building on Spring St. experienced its final construction pour last week.

A joint development of the **Trump Organization**, **Bayrock Group** and the **Sapir Organization**, the 449-foot-tall building is easily the highest in SoHo. Not without controversy: The Trump SoHo has been criticized by some who say the developers skirted residential zoning laws by making the building a condo hotel where owners cannot stay more than 29 straight days or 120 days in a calendar year. That loophole allowed the building its extra height. In addition, a fatal construction accident halted progress in January. This past week, the Trump Organization filed suit against **Deutsche Bank** and several other banks, the lenders for Trump's Chicago skyscraper.

Regardless of the Trump SoHo's

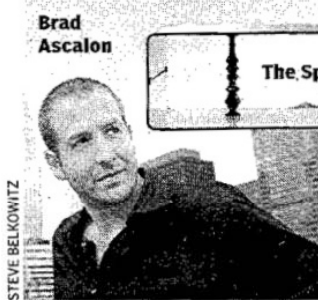
notoriety, sales hold steady at 65% sold. One unique building feature: On very sunny days around 5:30 p.m., sunlight reflects off the glass-mirrored façade in a straight line right down Grand St.

Prodigy International Development Sales has the exclusive on the approximately 400-unit project, designed by architect **Gary Handel**. Go to www.trumpsoho.com for more information.



* Music sensation **John Legend** is on the apartment prowl. He looked at **246 West 17th** and **141 Fifth Avenue**, two hot developments repped by **Core Group Marketing**.

* When you give up a career in music for furniture design, you should have a pretty good idea of what you're doing. Fortunately, **Brad Ascalon** does. The 31-



year-old Manhattan-based industrial designer, who once opened for Chicago, says he went into design full force after having a quarter-life crisis and wanting to explore more creative outlets.

"Part of my love of furniture design is the challenge of offering something that hasn't been done before," says Ascalon. "Something that, like fine art, can strike an emotional chord with people, something that can be ironic, humorous, something that can make a statement."

Brought up in a family of creative artists and designers, Ascalon

hightailed it to the **Pratt Institute** in Brooklyn, where he got a master's in industrial design. Afterward, he interned for **Karim Rashid**, one of the world's best designers. Ascalon, who was voted one of **Wallpaper** magazine's "Ten Most Wanted" up-and-coming designers in July 2005, recently designed a table in

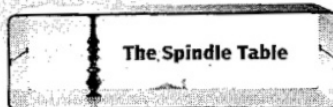
partnership with **Ligne Roset**. Dubbed the **Spindle Table**, the clear table with half-inch-thick glass has

a black lacquered wooden spindle shooting through it.

"The spindle is purely decorative," says Ascalon. "I'm not trying to fool anybody. I was looking for the simple relationship between modern and classic."

Available at all **Ligne Roset** stores, the table retails for \$1,745. Ascalon also designs packaging for major cosmetics brands. Look for more innovations from his studio at www.bradascalon.com.

* Neighborhood-friendly City Councilwoman **Gale Brewer** from the upper West Side is at it again. She declared next Thursday **Thelonious Monk Day**, after the great jazz pianist who grew up in the neighborhood right behind Lincoln Center called San Juan Hill.



LIGNE ROSET