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PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Vera Wang Sets Deal On Park Avenue Home

By **CHRISTINA S.N. LEWIS**
September 14, 2007; Page W8

Designer Vera Wang's runway show took place last week, but the fashion mogul has another project to complete. She's gone to contract on her 14-room apartment in New York City, according to the online listing. The asking price for the five-bedroom home was \$35 million.

The apartment is located at 778 Park Ave., a prewar building on Manhattan's Upper East Side where the late socialite and philanthropist Brooke Astor lived. The apartment has a library and wood-burning fireplaces, according to the listing. The home also includes a private elevator landing, a marble entrance gallery, a corner master-bedroom suite, two staff bedrooms and a modern kitchen. The home was extensively renovated, the listing says. (Brokers also received confirmation late last month through a shared listing service that the apartment was in contract.)



Vera Wang

Corcoran's Deborah Grubman and Carol Cohen have the listing. They declined to comment.

SEE A PHOTO SLIDESHOW



Best known for expensive bridal wear, Ms. Wang just launched a line of apparel, accessories and home goods with discount chain Kohl's. She couldn't be reached for comment.

Lawyer Gerry Spence Lists for \$35 Million

Trial attorney and author Gerry Spence is asking nearly \$35 million for his log cabin-style residence near Jackson, Wyo.

The clients of Mr. Spence, 78 years old, have ranged from the estate of activist Karen Silkwood to former Philippines First Lady Imelda Marcos. His eight-bedroom home on close to 34 acres in Wilson, Wyo., just west of Jackson, is being offered furnished. The nearly 12,000-square-foot main house includes a media room styled to resemble a stone cave, an exercise room, a steam room and his-and-her offices. Mr. Spence's wife, Imaging, designed the home, which has been featured in design publications. If the house sells for close to its asking price, it would set a record for a single-family home sale in Teton County, local brokers say. Tom Evans, of Sotheby's International Realty, has the listing.



Gerry Spence

The property also has a guest house, a bunk cottage and a trout pond. It can be divided into four home sites and is next to the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Mr. Spence says sightings of elk, deer and moose just outside the house are common. The couple also own a home in

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Montecito, Calif., in Santa Barbara County and plan a new house in Wyoming close to their old one, Ms. Spence says.

Mr. Spence has published more than 15 books, including "Win Your Case."

A Big Sale on the Big Island

A six-building compound on Hawaii's Big Island was sold late last month for \$29 million, according to realty-research concern Hawaii Information Service. That may be the highest-ever home sale for the state.

The property, a 10-bedroom compound on 2.5 acres, is inside the gated Mauna Kea Resort, on the Kohala coast. It had been listed at \$35 million.

John Hoffee, the retired founder of a medical-supply company, paid \$6 million in 1997 for the land, public records show, and spent four years creating the home, which comprises more than 17,000 square feet of living space. It includes a main lodge with public rooms but no sleeping quarters, a separate master suite, three guest houses with three bedrooms each, and a separate exercise building with a steam room.

Other amenities include an 80,000-gallon man-made saltwater stream stocked with fish, a putting green, a wine cellar with a 2,000-bottle capacity, and a four-car garage.

The buyer of the property couldn't be determined, and Mr. Hoffee couldn't be reached. Richard B. Rocker, an independent real-estate agent, had the listing.

Write to Christina S.N. Lewis at christina.lewis@wsj.com

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