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PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Designer Oleg Cassini's Townhouse to Ask Roughly \$50 Million

The expansive Upper East Side home is one of two properties owned by the late designer coming to the market.



An Upper East Side mansion once home to fashion designer Oleg Cassini is coming on the market. PHOTO: DUPLEX NY

By Katherine Clarke

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An Upper East Side townhouse that was home to the late fashion designer Oleg Cassini, known for dressing Jacqueline Kennedy, is coming on the market for around \$50 million, according to people familiar with the property.

Known as the Elias Asiel Mansion, the Beaux Arts property dates back to the turn of the century, with arched French windows draped in delicate floral carvings and a copper-trimmed two-story mansard roof. The Cassini family has a long history at the home: Mr. Cassini's widow, Marianne Nestor Cassini, was first listed as an owner of the property in 1984, property records show.

Located on East 63rd Street, the approximately 25-foot-wide townhouse has about 17,000 square feet of interior space, including a 2,500-square-foot finished cellar. It has a marble entry foyer with a marble balustrade staircase, ornate moldings, eight marble fireplaces and an elevator.

Sources said Matthew Lesser and Jed Garfield of Leslie J. Garfield & Co. have the listing.

The is not the only property of Mr. Cassini's being sold. His townhouse in Gramercy is slated to be auctioned March 13, according to Misha Haghani of Paramount Realty USA, the auction house handling the marketing for the property. It was appraised 12 years ago for around \$9 million, according to the marketing documents.

The home, on East 19th Street, was built in 1901 and spans about 6,798 square feet with six bedrooms.



Another townhouse linked to Mr. Cassini in Gramercy is slated to hit the auction block later this month. PHOTO: PARAMOUNT REALTY USA

The listings are hitting the market as the designer's widow, Ms. Nestor Cassini, serves time in prison for failing to comply with court orders in a longstanding battle with Mr. Cassini's heirs over his estimated \$60 million fortune. The Gramercy sale is being executed in order to satisfy a judgement against Ms. Cassini in the case, according to Mr. Haghani. The other heirs are Mr. Cassini's grandchildren from his earlier marriage to the actress Gene Tierney, he said. A court-appointed receiver for the case declined to comment.

Mr. Cassini died in 2006. Born in France and the grandson of a Russian-Italian count, he was Ms. Kennedy's dressmaker in her early days as first lady, dressing her in geometric dresses and pillbox hats. He designed the satin white gown she wore to the Inaugural Gala Ball in 1961.

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