



The Closer: Flips and splits of New York's real-estate community

Best real estate party of the season, reasons to leave New York and Olinda Turturro takes over recruiting at A.C. Lawrence.

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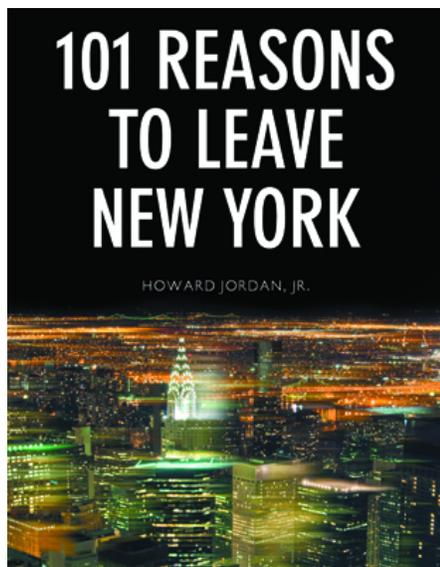
Best real estate party of the season goes to Wall Street-based **Platinum Properties**, which threw a holiday cocktail dance party at **Cipriani's Downtown**. First came oysters on the half shell and an open bar with top-shelf Champagne and liquor. Then hors d'oeuvres, including tuna tartare and scallops wrapped in bacon, were passed as guests mingled on the terrace, near an alternate bar. Others danced to the hard-core pop of **DJ Jacques Mutombo**.

The fun of the evening might have been in the people-watching. These agents know how to dress. One woman wore a white pantsuit that reeked of **Chanel**. Most male agents, young and hungry, wore tailored suits with flashy ties. It was clear that the firm had a strong year.

In the awards ceremony held mid-evening, principals CEO **Khashy Eyn**, president **Danny Hedaya** and chief operating officer **Dezireh Eyn** gave out prizes for best dressed (won by **Chris Mitchell**) and best customer service and rookie of the year (both won by **Kaptan Unugur**). After a toast to a fruitful 2012, the agents went back to the dance floor.

In the holiday card department, **Halstead Property** sent out a pretty watercolor of what looks like a prewar

living room with a cat in front of a fireplace with two flutes of bubbly and unwrapped presents. Designed by Halstead marketing designer **Tatjana Kilibarda**, it gets our vote for prettiest card of the season. We got ours from agent **Ross Ellis**.



Howard Jordan Jr. has a funny way of saying "I love New York." The advertising creative director penned an amusing little book titled "**101 Reasons to Leave New York**" (Strategic Book Group, \$11.99). Really a long love letter to the Big Apple, "101 Reasons" makes you laugh, cringe and love the city even more. Some we like — "You've Kind of Forgotten How to Drive." "You Never See Your Friends Anyway." "You're Plain and You're Fine With It."

"I was in this mode of, like, what am I doing here and why," says Howard, originally from Richmond, Va. "I put pen to paper and ended up with 413 complaints. In the end, it gave me a reason to stay. Anything is possible here. If you look for opportunity, you can find it. But New York can kick your butt."

EXPLORE: Photographs of New York City taken from above

We agree and disagree. You can find peace in New York, and the city will love you back. When that

happens, subways come on time and cabs miraculously appear. Either way, it's a good read. It'll make you miss New York even when you live here. You can buy the book at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

Olinda Turturro (at right, courtesy *Felix Photography*) just took over recruiting at **A.C. Lawrence**. The associate broker, who has been in the business for 30 years, started out in real estate to support her acting and singing career. If you recognize the name, Turturro's sister Aida played Tony's sister Janice on "**The Sopranos**." Her cousins are actors John and Nick. Her father, Domenick, a renowned painter, bought a synagogue on Henry St. for the family's home and his studio in the late 1960s.



"I'm really impressed by A.C. Lawrence's three owners," says Turturro, who ran an acting school in the Village with her husband, Enzo. "They have integrity and look you eye to eye. We're going to stress that as we grow the firm. Young people today want to hear the truth, and we'll give it to them."

One great factoid from Turturro's career: She found the apartment **Charlie Sheen** had with **Daryl Hannah** in **Oliver Stone's "Wall Street."** Back 26 years ago, it rented for \$25,000 a month. Where was it? 415 E. 54th St. in **St. James Tower**, says Turturro. The penthouse, of course.

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