

## UPPER WEST SIDE

MATERIAL GIRL GOES HOME  
EMPTY-HANDED

Sources say that the Madonna real estate watch can



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finally come to a disappointing end. The singer is taking her duplex apartment on Central Park West off the market and calling off the search for a grander residence, at least for now.

In her obsessively documented yearlong apartment hunt, which ranged from Duane Street to John McEnroe's

tower-top Beresford triplex, to the duplex penthouse at the New Museum Building to several town houses in Carnegie Hill, Madonna was, as usual, right in the *Zeitgeist*. Her real estate restlessness represented her latest easily identified-with persona: She embodied the desire in all of us to find personal transcendence through buying the perfect apartment. And, like a lot of non-superstars, she couldn't find a place to her liking. Since the best offer she's gotten so far for her glam duplex on Central Park West is \$6 million, sources say, she's decided to take the apartment off the market, install window guards and raise her daughter Lourdes there.

When Sean Penn's name was also on the mailbox, the apartment had only two bedrooms; it has since absorbed four neighboring units. Madonna's brother Christopher Ciccone fused them into an Art Deco palace with a marble-lined steam room that witnesses insist can seat 10, a soundproof gym, a hair salon, a 1950's diner-themed breakfast nook and a long, barrel-vaulted hallway running from her bedroom suite (with its two fireplaces) to the living room. There's no question it's spectacular, although it doesn't have the sweeping view of the park that a lot of big-money buyers feel entitled to.

Among the shoppers who decided not to buy it are Mariah Carey, Metallica's Lars Ulrich, Keith Urban, Tim Burton and Lisa Marie, and Donna Karan (her assistant checked it out for her), not to mention a bunch of investment bankers looking for something to make them not so dull. Originally it was on the market for \$7 million, a price that was dropped to \$6.75 million and then down to \$6.25 million last fall. The best offer was said to be about \$6 million from the president of NBC television stations, Scott Sassa, who just made a \$7 million profit after buying the town house at 11 East 82nd Street from his former employer, Ronald Perelman, for \$7.9 million, and then reselling it for \$14 million.

Madonna's broker, William B. May Company's Roger Erickson, declined comment, as did her spokesman, Liz Rosenberg.