

The Life-Swap-O-Matic Special economic-collapse edition!

BY LANE BROWN

AS THE ECONOMY tumbles deeper into recession, bailout fever is sweeping the nation. So before the decreasingly exorbitant prices of Manhattan real estate shrink to—gasp!—a sensible level, it's natural that New Yorkers might consider bailing out themselves. What could you get if you traded in your life for something else? A bigger home in a city with a better economy? A *much* bigger home in a city with an even worse outlook? Let's compare your options.

*That's just about the average Manhattan home price, according to a Real Estate Board of New York report from January.

My apartment's beautiful, but I've had it with New York.

START HERE! →

250 EAST 49TH STREET
THE FACTS: One-bedroom, one-bath postwar condo.
ASKING PRICE: \$1.415 million*. **MAINTENANCE:** \$576 per month.
AGENT: Carrie Chiang, the Corcoran Group.



PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS SPREAD, COURTESY OF THE BROKERS



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
 FIVE-BEDROOM, 7,034-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE IN DEVONSHIRE MANOR. **\$1.35 MILLION.**
 AGENT: MARY SUE DIETRICH, WORTH PROPERTIES.



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
 FOUR-BEDROOM, 7,510-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE WITH VIEWS OF PUGET SOUND. **\$1.4 MILLION.**
 AGENTS: BETSY Q. TERRY AND JANE POWERS, EWING & CLARK.

Which is most important to you?

Cheap floor space—job market be damned!

A solid economy, a healthy job market, and stable real-estate prices.

How about Texas?

How about Florida?

Which cultural attraction do you find most enticing?

Well, now that your job in finance or media has disappeared, which new career do you envision for yourself?

NO, THANKS.

HOWDY!

COUNTRY-MUSIC STAR

BARISTA

TIMOTHY GEITHNER'S REPLACEMENT



NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA
 SIX-BEDROOM, 6,283-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE. **\$1.198 MILLION.**
 AGENT: SAMANTHA MCHUGH, COLDWELL BANKER DEVONSHIRE REALTY.

A VIBRANT ARTS SCENE, WITH RESIDENT BALLET, OPERA, AND THEATER COMPANIES.

THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.



DALLAS, TEXAS
 FIVE-BEDROOM, 5,606-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE IN PRESTON HOLLOW. **\$1.4 MILLION.** AGENT: JINI CYR, COLDWELL BANKER.



HOUSTON, TEXAS
 FIVE-BEDROOM, 5,458-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE IN BRIARGROVE. **\$1.42 MILLION.**
 AGENT: BARBARA JOSEPHSON AT JOHN DAUGHERTY, REALTORS.

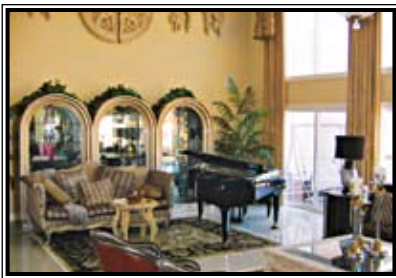


WASHINGTON, D.C.
 FOUR-BEDROOM, FOUR-STORY HOUSE IN CLEVELAND PARK. **\$1.425 MILLION.** AGENT: LILI SHEELINE, LONG & FOSTER.

BIGGER! CHEAPER!

EVEN BIGGER! EVEN CHEAPER!

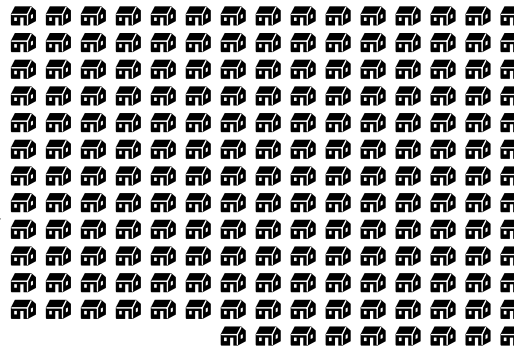
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND: I NEED A LOT OF SPACE.



PEPPER PIKE, OHIO
 FIVE-BEDROOM, SEVEN-BATH HOME OUTSIDE CLEVELAND. **\$1.25 MILLION.** AGENT: FOUR SEASONS REALTY CO.



DETROIT, MICHIGAN
 SEVEN-BEDROOM, 11,583-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE IN INDIAN VILLAGE. **\$849,900.** AGENT: DONNA BARLOW, SBSK SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY.



189 HOUSES IN DETROIT
 BASED ON THE MEDIAN PRICE OF **\$7,500** FOR DECEMBER SALES IN THE CITY. AGENTS: MANY OF THEM.