



A Real Apprentice

DESPITE his good looks and unflappable Harvard Business School cool, Kwame Jackson never got that big downtown apprentice job with Donald J. Trump, but he hasn't lost his yearning to make it in real estate.

Mr. Jackson was the final runner-up in the first season of Donald Trump's reality television series "The Apprentice," in 2004. Two years later, he is making his first Manhattan real estate purchase, a condominium in Harlem, and he is working as an apprentice of sorts to a Harlem real estate broker and developer as he tries to put together deals of his own.

"You might call it an apprenticeship; I would say that I am learning the ropes from a developer with a pretty good track record," Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Jackson's apartment is a 1,700-square-foot triplex with a garden in a new town house on West 123rd Street, just outside the Mount Morris Park Historic District. It was listed at \$995,000 by Larry Comroe and Tony Oakley, brokers at the Corcoran Group. It has a private garden in the rear, but the triplex includes one full floor, and two half floors, including a basement recreation room. Mr. Jackson would not disclose the purchase price.

After appearing on Mr. Trump's show, and with an M.B.A. from Harvard and four years in investment management at Goldman Sachs under his belt, Mr. Jackson received a runner-up prize: a job as a judge for the Miss Universe pageant. But he was fired from that position, after greeting beauty queens he bumped into at the lobby of their hotel, a violation of pageant rules.

Since then, he has appeared as a motivational speaker around the country, and has set up a company, Legacy Holdings, to explore his interests in real estate and private investment. He said he became a small partner in a large real estate development outside Washington but withdrew because his company had little influence over the project.

"It is like walking a big dog, you don't walk the dog as much as it walks you," he said.

Now Mr. Jackson is exploring a partnership with Robb Pair, the owner of Harlem Lofts, a developer that has renovated brownstones in the neighborhood for investors as rental buildings or condos. Mr. Jackson said he hoped to put together groups of investors for future Harlem projects, because, he said, "Harlem has got nothing but an upside and I want to participate in what may be the third Harlem renaissance."

The other day, Mr. Jackson accompanied Mr. Pair on a challenge more daunting, perhaps, than any on "The Apprentice": a meeting with city housing officials to try to obtain a certificate needed to allow the conversion of a former single-room occupancy hotel into luxury condo apartments.