

# WIPE THE SLATE KLEIN

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## Calvin recycles Hamptons manse

By SELIM ALGAR

Hamptons motorists will soon be driving on designer dust, thanks to Calvin Klein.

Concrete rubble from the famed designer's Southampton manse Dragon's Head, which is being torn down, will be recycled and used to pave the village's roads, officials said yesterday.

A demolition crew began reducing the mansion to a mammoth pile of rocks this week to make way for the designer's sleek replacement.

Southampton Village Building Department officials estimated the cost of the demolition at \$150,000 and said much of the gargantuan estate will be turned into crushed concrete for an upcoming roadwork project and shredded wood for mulch.

Armed with massive mechanical claws known as "grapplers," a crew started the demolition project Wednesday and said it will take almost six weeks to finish the job.

Klein, who purchased the 50,000-square-foot oceanfront property in 2003 for \$30 million, will replace it with a glass and concrete compound totaling 17,500 square feet once the spot is cleared.

Sources said Klein hired a team of engineers to salvage worthwhile pieces of the interior to ensure a "green" demolition of the sprawling property.

Originally built by the DuPont family in 1926 on exclu-



**CALVIN KLEIN**

Wants modern glass mansion.

sive Meadow Lane in Southampton Village, the estate has long been ridiculed for its gaudy excesses and continual expansions.

Financier Barry Trupin's reign through the 1980s saw the most jarring additions, as he tacked on thousands of square feet and installed a fully stocked shark tank.

A local zoning board gruffly characterized Trupin's design at the time as "Disneyland on LSD."

He eventually sold the house to former WorldCom head Francesco Galesi for \$3.3 million in 1992 after being convicted of tax evasion.

Galesi removed some of Trupin's spires and other garish additions before unsuccessfully putting the home up for sale in 2000 for \$45 million. Klein's \$30 million purchase three years later was considered a steal.

A rep for Klein was not available for comment.

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Doug Kuntz

**THEN & NOW:** Demolition crews are razing Calvin Klein's sprawling Southampton mansion, Dragon's Head, with much of the rubble to be recycled and used in crushed concrete to pave the town's roads.



Doug Kuntz