



Klein designs Hamptons demolition



Doug Kuntz

NEW LOOK: This gaudy mansion known as Dragon's Estate faces the wrecking ball under a plan by Calvin Klein (right) to replace it with a smaller, sleeker pad. Neighbors in Southampton say they couldn't be happier.

By SELIM ALGAR

Nothing gets between Calvin Klein and his dream house.

The fashion mogul submitted an application this week to tear down his mammoth, \$30 million Southampton estate — known as Dragon's Head — and replace it with a sleek modern structure less than half its size.

The sprawling, castle-like residence on exclusive Meadow Lane — which was built in 1926 — has long been ridiculed for its garish excesses and haphazard expansions.

Klein, who purchased the 50,000-square-foot oceanfront property in 2003, hopes to replace it with a glass and concrete compound totaling 17,500 square feet.

The designer has enlisted support letters from high-powered neighbors along the megarich strip, including hotelier Ian Schrager and real estate mogul Aby Rosen.

"We are delighted by the proposed demolition of our overscaled and garish neighbor," Schrager wrote in a letter to the Southampton Village Board of Historic Preservation and Architectural Review.

The 6.6-acre spread, whose owner must pay more than \$100,000 a year in property taxes, was originally developed as the oceanfront home of

DOOM TO CASTLE CALVIN



Henry duPont. But the property — once known as Elysium and Chestertown — underwent zany overhauls as it changed hands over the decades.

Financier Barry Trupin's reign through the 1980s saw the most drastic changes as he added thousands of random square feet and installed a fully stocked shark tank.

A local zoning board described Trupin's vision at the time as "Disneyland on LSD."

He eventually sold the house to former Worldcom head Francesco Galesi after being convicted of tax evasion.

Galesi, who bought the home for \$3.3 million, removed some of Trupin's spires and other gaudy additions before putting the home up for sale in 2000 for \$45 million.

Klein's proposed structure, as designed by architect Michael Haverland, includes three separate buildings connected by an

underground network of tunnels.

Neither Haverland nor a rep for Klein returned calls for comment.

The plan calls for a green approach to the home, which would include lessening its impact on the eroding shoreline and moving sewage lines away from wetlands.

According to Klein's application, the home would reduce building mass on the property by more than 50 percent and would meet FEMA standards.

Building Inspector John Foster said that he doesn't foresee opposition to Klein's plans because of the long simmering distaste for Dragon's Head among locals. "It just meanders," he said. "It's a waste of space."

selim.algar@nypost.com