

THE REAL DEAL

The Real Estate Oscars: Big-Shots Gather for REBNY Gala

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By Adam Pincus and Leigh Kamping-Carder

Hollywood is gearing up for the Academy Awards this month, but the New York City real estate industry has its own glamorous red-carpet event. Some 2,200 industry stars attended the Real Estate Board of New York's 116th Annual Banquet at the New York Hilton last month. The crowd included real estate royalty like REBNY Chairman Mary Ann Tighe and developer Douglas Durst, along with politicians Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.



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Industry big-shots gather for the annual REBNY banquet

TRD: What are people talking about?

Prudential Douglas Elmira's Faith Hope Corbett: "Usually people will say, 'I'm working on this and that.' No one is saying that. This month has been very sideways."

TRD: How does the mood tonight compare to banquets in previous years?

Steve Rotman, Cooness & Wakefield: "Pretty good, considering the difficulties with the economy in the last year."

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TRD: Which designer are you wearing?

Joshua Pukow, Pukow & Weidner: "Vera Wang. ... The mood is festive, [hence] the feathers."

TRD: What do you think about the protesters outside the hotel who say they oppose tax breaks for developers and landlords and want stronger rent regulations?

Peter Rignardi, Inoue Lang LaSalle: "I respect everyone's opinion. I just think there is probably a better way to convey the message than standing out in front [of the hotel]."

TRD: What is the most important real estate issue facing the City Council this year?

Christine Quinn, City Council speaker: "How to get more buildings built."