

Yipes! Catwalkers Discover the Catskills

said, "Upstate New York is now the place where the bellwether of the pack goes." He recalled a cocktail party in the Hamptons last summer at which Ulster County was a hot topic. "It's cheap right now to buy a farmhouse, and the trickle has begun," he said. "In two years, it will be a flood."

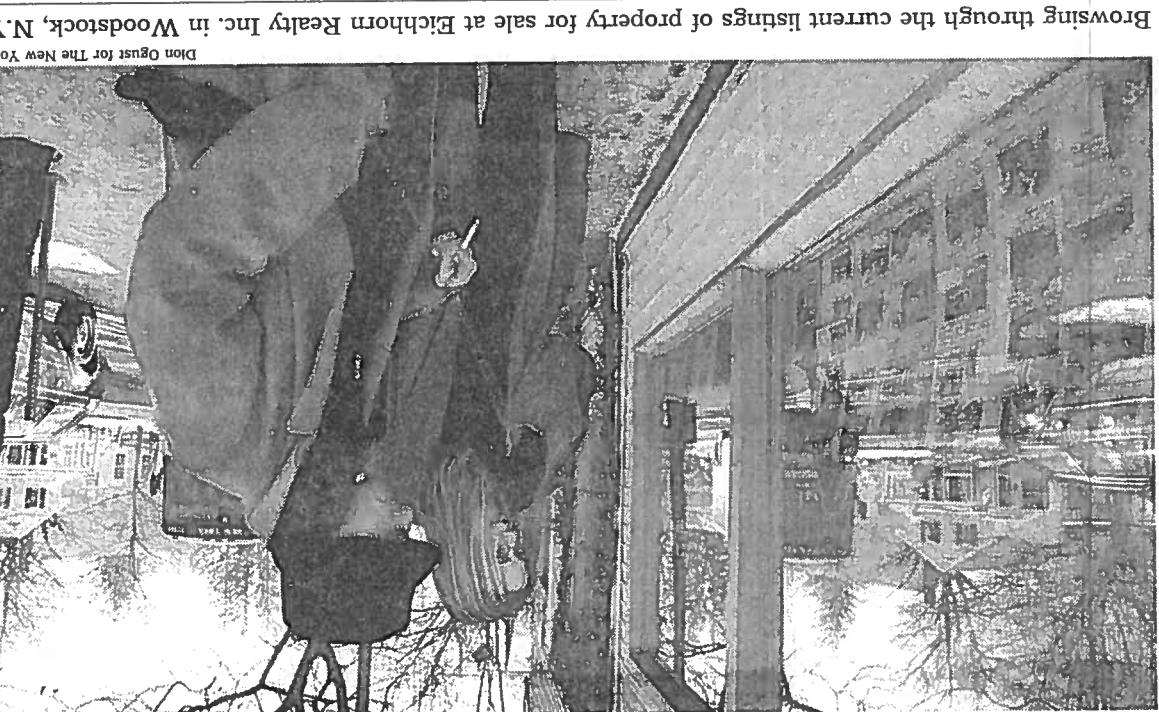
Stone Ridge Liquors changed its name to Stone Ridge Wine and Spirits under a new owner and started selling Jade Mountain Les Jumeaux from California for \$30 a bottle. Emmanuel's Marketplace now offers 100 cheeses from Europe, pheasant sausages, organic produce and Greek olives from a barrel. "In January, we put in a lobster tank," said Jim Phillips, the manager.

Mr. Leitch, 31, a son of the Domino, the 60's folk rocker, plans to concentrate on writing music while his wife, who resembles a Botticelli angel, explores painting and paganism. "I won't be occupying my normal bar stool at Don Hill's anymore," he said.

Once a fixture in gossip columns and Manhattan clubs, dubbed an "It Boy" in the mid-90's, Mr. Leitch added: "I was totally immersed in the whole scene five years ago. But going out is not my No. 1 priority now." To celebrate the move to his three-bedroom house last Thanksgiving, he led a New Age drum circle in the woods like Ms. Nickerson, many of the fashion folk who have found their way to the area say they have no desire to import a Hamptons-style social whirl, in which the same play-crop up (the average single-family home in Ulster rose from \$146,543 in 1997 to \$152,231 last year, according to the county's Board of Realtors), there is some resentment of newcomers by longtime residents.

"There is a concern about how their fixture at Flower's, the model restaurant in New York where Mr. Leitch was a host.

"I dated models and led a variety of life," Dr. Bushman said. "Busy years of going out for six hours nothing to say, I started to work on the local population is very diverse and is not easily split into weekenders, transplants and locals, and I've seen them walking street and speaking their language. They use catch phrases like 'lions,' 'darling' and 'fiere.'" Rather not talk to anyone."



Don Ogust for The New York Times

Browsing through the current listings of property for sale at Eichhorn Realty Inc. in Woodstock, N.Y.

nor an art scene, but rather a creative environment to energize people spiritually and mentally," he said. He hopes to open in the summer of 2000.

Mr. Goldman, too, rejects Hamptons style. "The scene in the Hamptons is a traffic jam," he said. "There they want to see and be seen as power players. The people upstairs are more comfortable with themselves."

As taxes and property values creep up (the average single-family home in Ulster rose from \$146,543 in 1997 to \$152,231 last year, according to the county's Board of Realtors), there is some resentment of newcomers by longtime residents.

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Lori Childers, publisher of The Blue Stone Press, a newspaper that covers High Falls, Stone Ridge, Accord, Rosendale and other hamlets, said: "The local population is very diverse and is not easily split into weekenders, transplants and locals, even though sometimes when people are angry they throw around these words as though they meant something definitive. I see many weekenders trying to find a way to live here as their primary residence."

"There will always be tensions in a changing and growing community," she said. "Everyone lives here because they love it. This brings even the most different types of people together."

Last Christmas, Mark Baker, a New York night-life promoter who meditates occasionally at a Tibetan Buddhist monastery, Karma Triyana Dharmachakra, near Woodstock, visited Henri Kessler's five-bedroom, five-fireplace farmhouse in Malden-on-Hudson.

Mr. Kessler, who in the 1980's held court with the hard-partying authors Jay McInerney and Bret Easton Ellis as a club promoter for Area and Danceteria, bought his property, called Shatamuck, in November.

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But the desire to keep their neck of the woods undiscovered didn't prevent the couple from displaying the house in a six-page spread in the January Vogue, in which Ms. Nickerson was pictured (from behind, in a bikini bottom) taking an outdoor shower.

Like Ms. Nickerson, many of the fashion folk who have found their way to the area say they have no desire to import a Hamptons-style social whirl, in which the same play-crop up (the average single-family home in Ulster rose from \$146,543 in 1997 to \$152,231 last year, according to the county's Board of Realtors), there is some resentment of newcomers by longtime residents.

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had in New York, like the recent Bowers Bar party where guests came in retro ski wear.

One of Ms. Nickerson's friends and house guests, Daryl Kerrigan, the fashion designer, contends that the region is already too crowded with Dutch grist-stone houses and the region northwest of Woodstock in Greene County, which includes the ski areas at Hunter and Windham.

Ms. Nickerson of Vogue and her husband, Neville Wakefield, a writer, recently built a black stian-footed house reminiscent of a chicken coop in West Kill, in Greene County, with sweeping views of the Catskills.

Their guest house is a tepee with heated rocks for warmth. Their architect, Ross Anderson, also designed Isaac Mizrahi's apartment and the Bumble and Bumble hair salon in Manhattan.

"It's a 40-minute round trip to get a pint of milk, and the hills and dales are a protection from the more touristy areas like Windham," Ms. Nickerson said. "I want it to remain private, a real retreat, not like the Hamptons, which is a hideous expert-

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