

## PRIVATE PROPERTIES

# On Key Biscayne, 'Scarface' Mansion Goes on the Market

In 2003, investor John Devaney was in the middle of a helicopter-flying lesson above Key Biscayne, Fla., when he spotted a helipad in the crystal-clear water.

Jutting out into Biscayne Bay, the roughly 20,000-square-foot concrete platform belonged to the owner of an adjacent waterfront home.

Flush with cash at the time, Devaney had recently purchased a \$36 million Gulfstream jet, a \$10 million Sikorsky S-76 helicopter and a \$22 million yacht called Positive Carry, he said. Figuring he needed a helipad for his chopper, he made an offer to buy the house as soon as he touched down.

"I literally went from the hangar and knocked on the door," said Devaney, a Key Biscayne native. He paid \$15 million for the home and helipad, which was once part of a compound used by President Richard Nixon as a Winter White House, and was featured in the 1983 movie "Scarface." Devaney paid another \$15 million to buy adjacent land from other sellers.

Now looking to cash in on the

investment, Devaney is listing the 2.38-acre property for \$237 million—a sum that would set a record for Miami-Dade County.

The helipad dates to Nixon's tenure. During his presidency, he and his family vacationed in a bungalow on the compound, with aides and Secret Service staying in nearby homes.

Devaney's modern, roughly

13,000-square-foot house was built around 1981 by Roberto Striedinger, a pilot who was convicted of smuggling cocaine for the Medellín drug cartel, according to the book "Cunning Edge: A 45-Year Journey

Conducting Global Undercover Investigations." The government seized the property from Striedinger, the book said. It was then sold to Frederick and Caroline Perkins, who sold it to Devaney.

The mansion, with an iconic glass elevator, appeared in "Scarface" as the home of drug lord Frank Lopez. There are also original, wall-mounted toilets in bold green, orange and yellow hues. Outside, the pool is piano-shaped.

—E.B. Solomont

FOR SALE  
**\$237**  
 MILLION  
 13,000 sq. ft.,  
 helipad-marina

