



Real-Estate Seer

BARBARA CORCORAN

A Tycoon's Tips

● **BUY NOW!** That's the hot advice of respected housing expert Barbara Corcoran, who says she's never seen a better time to purchase a home. "Typically when real-estate prices are low, interest rates are high. This is the first time I've seen cheap money and cheap prices simultaneously. This is the good old days we've dreamt about."

Corcoran has a knack for timing. Having parlayed a \$1,000 loan into the high-

end New York City real-estate firm she started, The Corcoran Group, she sold the company for \$66 million in 2001, before the market cratered.

Now, as an investor on ABC's *Shark Tank*, Corcoran encourages buyers to jump at the abundance of good deals. "It's a perfect time to snatch a bargain or to upgrade," she says. And when does she think the market will rebound? "Real estate is slow to unwind but fast to recover. I suspect we'll make up most of the loss of the last four years within the next 18 months."

—Laurie Wiegler



Energy Honcho
STEVEN CHU

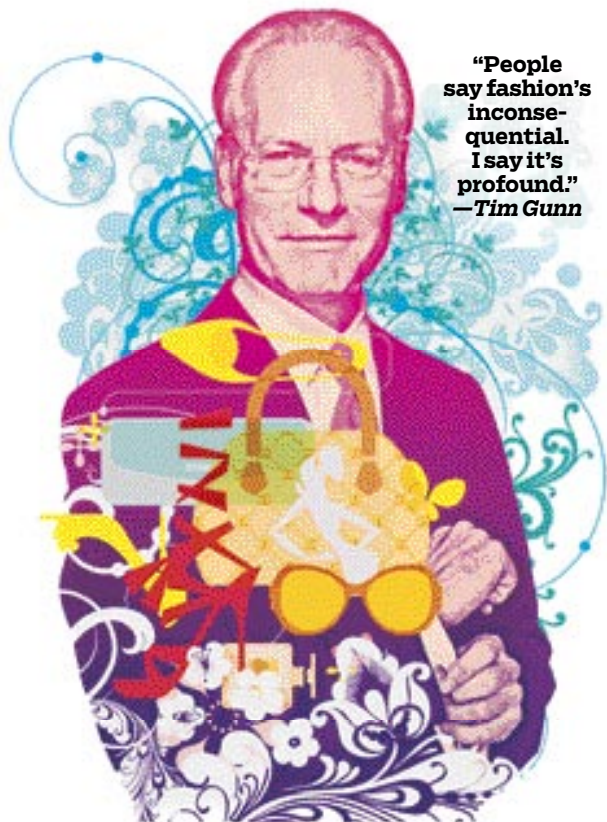
● A self-described "efficiency nut," the energy secretary, he says, has cut utility bills at every home he's owned, in part because "I'm cheap." Weatherization is an easy way we all can conserve, he adds: "The average family wastes hundreds of dollars a year. Think of it as all these \$20 bills seeping out of leaky windows and attics." —Meg Grant

Style Guru **TIM GUNN**

Clothes Call

The college dean-turned-*Project Runway* star ruminates on dress and success

● **Fashion Choices:** "Fashion signals how the world perceives you. You have to ask yourself, 'Who am I, really?'" **Biggest Challenge:** "Getting over a childhood stutter. Without conquering that, I never could have become a teacher, and dealt with stage fright." **Remaking Yourself:** "I would never be 30 again, not for a zillion dollars, because every experience makes us better prepared for the future." —Dan Daley



"People say fashion's inconsequential. I say it's profound."
—Tim Gunn

