

# The New York Times

## Average, or Even Median, Is a Lot of Money

By CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY

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Geoff Lynch, 40, and his bride, Carmela Rea, 38, don't consider themselves average. Nor does Ali Yenal, 38, think of himself that way. Maybe they aren't. But their apartments are.

And both apartments cost well over a million dollars.

Visit them, and you will see just what constitutes an average apartment in Manhattan these days.

Mr. Lynch, an architect, and Ms. Rea, who works in the art world, met two years ago on the Internet and became a couple from their first date. They started shopping for an apartment in the financial district before they got engaged and Mr. Lynch sold his bachelor pad. They registered to fill their apartment with average bridal gifts like Crate & Barrel skillet and wooden salad utensils.

Mr. Lynch said that after looking at "hundreds and hundreds" of apartments online, they chose a two-bedroom apartment that filled the 11th floor of 119 Fulton Street and had 360-degree, sun-drenched views of the Woolworth Tower, the new Beekman Tower designed by Frank Gehry and the rising Freedom Tower.

The couple's broker, Peter Burval of Prudential Douglas Elliman, said the bank approved a loan for them 11 days before their



wedding. Ms. Rea recalled that after they closed on the apartment, they took "10 minutes" to celebrate and then left to meet arriving guests. The couple didn't pick up their keys until they returned from their honeymoon.

The experience, Mr. Lynch said, "feels like way above average." He said that almost simultaneously moving, buying the apartment and getting married had been "nuts."

**Jeffrey Tanenbaum, a broker at Barak Realty, helped the Kalksteins** — Amy, 40, Max, 41, who have a 10-month-old daughter, Ava — buy a two-bedroom apartment at 325 East 77th Street for \$865,000.

The Kalksteins found their apartment after one Upper West Side co-op turned them down because their income was not higher, even though the

couple's families were helping them buy the apartment.

For the price they paid, the Kalksteins needed to renovate the kitchen and two bathrooms; they have not moved in yet.

Ms. Kalkstein laughs at the distorted numbers.

"I grew up in Wisconsin," she said. "The prices seem so astronomical to me, even though the prices had gone down."



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