



POWER

DON AND KATRINA PEBBLES | COUPLE

The Real Deals

Author and real estate mogul **Don Peebles** has a savvy partner in his wife, **Katrina**, a former journalist. By Scott Sowers

THE STORIED LIVES OF DC NATIVE R. Donahue “Don” Peebles and his cosmopolitan wife, Katrina, are rising to even more prominence with the publishing of his book, *The Peebles Principles* (Wiley, \$24.95). You may not have heard of this self-made real estate tycoon yet, but if you’ve ever hung out at the Marriott Courtyard Convention Center Hotel downtown or dropped anchor at the Royal Palm in South Beach, you’ve treaded on one of his developments.

Peebles also built the residences at The Bath Club in Miami, restored its historic clubhouse, and has development deals under way in the Florida Keys, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York; his feelers are out around the new convention center as well. Although Peebles makes his headquarters in south Florida, his roots are embedded deep in District asphalt. “The first four chapters of the book are all about my deals in

Washington,” says Don Peebles. “I bought an office building there before I owned a home.” Katrina remembers the transaction like it was yesterday: “He bought the building on our honeymoon,” she says.



Don and Katrina Peebles.

When his romance with the former model and journalist commenced, Peebles had served as chairman of the DC property tax appeal board for seven years. He was appointed in 1984 and met Katrina in 1990. A successful tax appeal business and their party-giving prowess catapulted the couple into the rarefied air of national politics as their influence became a beacon to buddies like Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Don, a conservative Democrat, and Katrina, an independent-leaning Republican, are currently playing their political cards close to their vests and carving out family time while they jet among their homes in the Hamptons, Santa Fe, and Miami. The couple is celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary this year and cherishing time spent with Donahue III, 13, and Chloe Alexandra, four. “We have dinner together every night,” says Don. “But sometimes it’s not till 11:30,” adds Katrina.★