



SUMMER 2017

FOUNDATION NEWS

BY THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH

www.palmbeachpreservation.org • 561.832.0731

BRADLEY PARK *Beautification* Underway



On May 1st, the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach broke ground on a \$2.7 million beautification project for Bradley Park. The improvement plan was developed by Jorge Sanchez of SMI Landscape Architecture with input from the Foundation and the Garden Club of Palm Beach. Mark Marsh of Bridges, Marsh & Associates designed the new rest area and gazebo. The project will be executed by Burkhardt Construction.

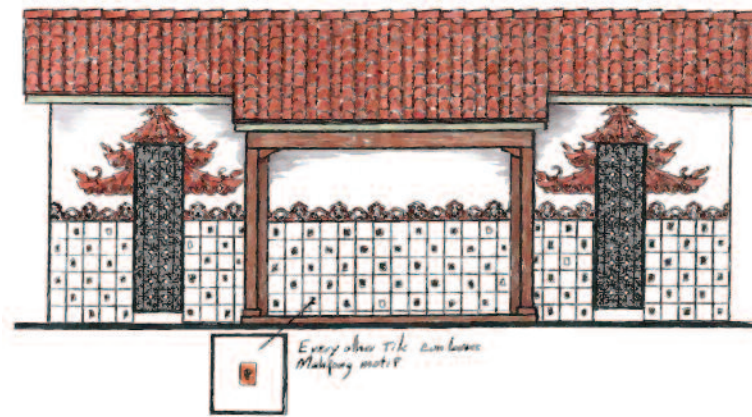
area were also recently approved by the Landmarks Commission. Donated by Mimi McMakin of Kemble Interiors, the design compliments the Chinoiserie-style fireplace located inside the historic Tea House.

The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of those who have made donations toward this project and is pleased to announce a \$17,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Please call for more information on naming opportunities.



Town Council recently approved naming opportunities for the restored Artemis fountain, northeast entrance and rest area, and gazebo reconstruction of the historic Casa Bendita tennis pavilion. Donations toward these features will allow the Foundation to proceed with the beautification of Royal Poinciana Way following completion of the project this fall.

Whimsical decorations for the exterior façade of the rest





POLLY EARL AWARD

In January, the Preservation Foundation's Polly Earl Award honored Jeanne and David Daniel's 1919 bungalow-style house on Seaspray Avenue. Named for the Foundation's late Executive Director Polly Earl, the award recognizes excellence in the rehabilitation of smaller-scale, landmarked properties. Such houses are integral to the charming character of their neighborhoods and Palm Beach as a whole.

The award-winning property is located in a neighborhood referred to as the "Sea" Streets. Beginning in 1914, the area was originally platted and developed by Polly Earl's grandfather, Oscar Jose. The home features many of the hallmarks of the bungalow style including low-pitched gable roofs, wide eaves with exposed roof rafters, a front porch and dormer windows.

The intent of the owners and restoration architect Gene Pandula was to maintain the scale and relationship of the landmarked building to the streetscape and neighboring properties while also allowing the structure to be updated to meet the owners' needs and building code require-



ments. The enclosure of the front porch and reworking of interiors walls on the first floor allowed for a more modern and spacious floorplan. Special care was taken to replicate the original rafter tails and knee brackets. An expertly scaled master suite addition replaced an original garage deteriorated beyond repair.



The Vicarage



This article was commissioned by the Rectory Society, headquartered in London, for a recent publication. The Foundation's archives include house files on almost every building in Palm Beach. If you would like to learn more about your property, contact our Director of Archives, Shellie Labell.

The first incarnation of the *Vicarage* was built for the vicar of Palm Beach's Episcopal church, Bethesda-by-the-Sea, as a facility for the rapidly expanding Episcopal congregation in Palm Beach. By the 1920s, the congregation had outgrown the *Vicarage* and relocated, leaving the *Vicarage* empty.

Environmental forces would soon change the *Vicarage* forever - the massive, deadly 1928 Okeechobee hurricane. The category five storm brought devastating winds, rain, and destruction throughout the Caribbean before making landfall in West Palm Beach, just across the Intracoastal Waterway from the island of Palm Beach. The hurricane destroyed over seventeen hundred homes in West Palm Beach alone, causing countless deaths and catastrophic structural damage. The *Vicarage* was but one of many structures on the island severely damaged by the storm.

Local master architect Howard Major's 1929 restoration of the *Vicarage* occurred after the "Florida Land Boom," when real estate development

and tourism replaced agriculture as south Florida's most lucrative ventures following the completion of Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway in 1912.

Major purchased, restored, and significantly altered the structure and appearance of the *Vicarage*, the structure officially leaving the ecclesiastical world for the secular. Typical for early settlers in south Florida, the original *Vicarage* was built in the late 19th century as a modest wood frame clapboard and shingle structure. Major's *Vicarage* incorporated the original vernacular structure into his renovations, eschewing the popular Mediterranean-influenced style in favor of blending the former "shingle style" with architectural influences from the British West Indies.

Major took the *Vicarage* as his residence, where he lived until his death in 1974. His widow then sold the home to silent film actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr., who used the *Vicarage* as both a residence as well as an entertainment facility for celebrities and royalty,

including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

The Town of Palm Beach's Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the *Vicarage* as a protected historical structure in 1979, cementing its legacy as the oldest residence and third oldest structure in the Town of Palm Beach. The *Vicarage* underwent another major restoration in 1989 and was subsequently awarded the Ballinger Award, Palm Beach's most prestigious architectural award by the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach the following year.

The *Vicarage* was purchased in 2006 by Leonard and Fleur Harlan for over \$7,000,000. Nearly 5,000 square feet, the *Vicarage* has undergone two major renovations and is now a splendid two-story lakefront property. With its two beautiful octagonal gazebos, an upstairs British-West Indies style veranda, and a loggia on the south side, the *Vicarage* offers a certain "old Florida charm" to the once humble home built for an Episcopal vicar over a century ago.

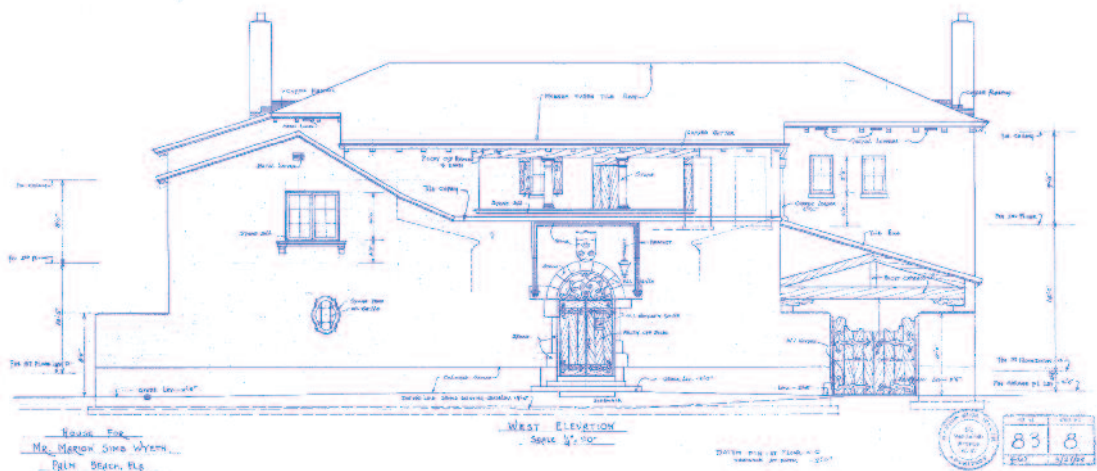


One of the most prized collections in the archives of the Preservation Foundation are the architectural drawings of Marion Sims Wyeth (1889 - 1982). As a precursor to the publication of a biography of Wyeth, the Foundation produced an exhibition that focused on his personal home, *Tre Fontane*. Our Director of Education, Katie Jacob, traveled to Lake Forest, Illinois to conduct an oral history interview with Wyeth's daughter Alice Wyeth Barkhausen (97) and son-in-law, Henry Barkhausen (102) to personalize the memory of *Tre Fontane* and Wyeth.

Aptly named for the three fountains that were located in the courtyard, loggia, and

WYETH EXHIBITION REVIEW

Wyeth's Personal Home: *Tre Fontane*



backyard; *Tre Fontane*, was built to be a showcase of his architectural skill and a home for Wyeth's family. Wyeth was inspired to build *Tre Fontane* on Middle Road after a trip to Spain. He states, "In 1923, Eleanor and I went to Spain. We had a very nice time there, and when I came back I built a Spanish home for myself on Middle Road. We went and visited the island of Majorca and fell in love with some of the architectural things they had there. The house was based on that type of thing where you come into a patio with a

cloister all around it, and you'd go out of doors to go upstairs - under cover, but out of doors. There was no inside staircase. The corridor was a porch facing west, and the four bedrooms faced east."

Marion Sims Wyeth was born in New York City, the son of a prominent surgeon and political activist. He graduated from Princeton's architectural school in 1910 and spent four years in Paris at the L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts. When he arrived in Palm

Beach in 1919, his first large commission was Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach. Wyeth's houses can be found on almost every street in Palm Beach. His other notable commissions are the Rectory of Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, the Florida Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee, the Norton Gallery of Art in West Palm Beach, and Doris Duke's *Shangri-la* in Hawaii. Wyeth was the first Palm Beach architect to be elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.



2017
 PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
DINNER DANCE
Celebrates 35 Years

On Friday, March 3rd, the Venetian Ballroom of The Breakers Hotel was transformed into a Scandinavian dreamland at the Preservation Foundation's 35th Annual Dinner Dance. Karin Luter served as Chairman for the Annual Dinner Dance working with well-known designer Tom Mathieu on the evening's theme.

Chairman Pauline Pitt said, "The proceeds from the Dinner Dance, approximately \$1.4 million gross, are allocated to benefit our advocacy initiatives, educational programs, architectural resources, cultural events, and the important work of preservation here in the town. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Preservation Foundation's Bradley Park Beautification project. It is a testament to Karin how successful the dance has been this year."

Kirchhoff & Associates Architects, Mish New York, Rockefeller & Company and VERANDA served as Corporate Sponsors.

Gifts for guests included: a special Preservation Foundation powder compact from the Estée Lauder Companies; a selection of candies provided by HIVE HOME, GIFT & GARDEN; a silver key-chain from Lori Jayne Monogramming; a custom-designed Mish New York leather jewelry box; a sparkling pocket from Stubbs & Wootton; a publication from VERANDA and a gift bag from Vineyard Vines Worth Avenue.

The ballroom was filled to capacity and guests danced late into the evening to the sounds of Vali Entertainment.



Karin Luter



Bill Bartholomay and
The Honorable Lesly Smith



The Honorable Wilbur and
Hilary Ross



Howard and Michele Kessler



Judith and The Honorable
Rudy Giuliani



Martin and Audrey Gruss



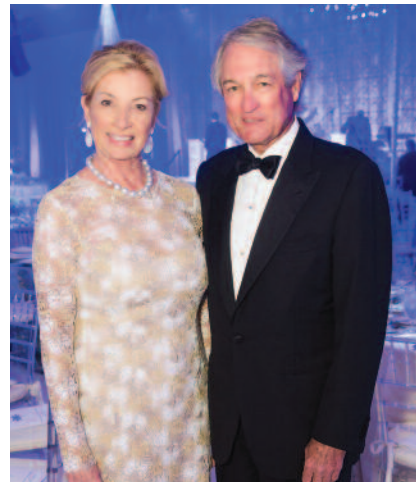
John Terwilliger and Laura Codman



Sallie Phillips and Tom Quick



Betsy and Paul Shiverick



Pauline Pitt and Jerry Seay



Mish Tworkowski, Krista Fragos
and Joseph Singer



Talbott Maxey and Kit Pannill



Alfonso and Raysa Fanjul



Nicola Marcus and Bridget Koch



Kathryn and Leo Vecellio



Capehart Photography



Percy Steinhart and
Cynthia Boardman



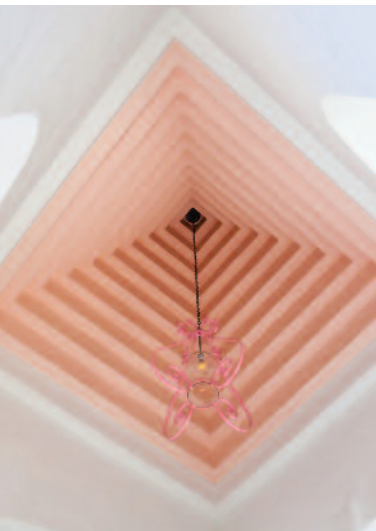
John and Susan Pettenati



Tom and Carol Kirchhoff



Tarpon Cove Wins 2017 Schuler Award



This year's Elizabeth L. and John H. Schuler Award, honoring new architecture that is in keeping with the traditional architectural styles of Palm Beach, was awarded to Foundation Trustee James Berwind and Kevin Clark's Bermuda-style residence. The home, known as *Tarpon Cove*, combines architectural elements found in Bermuda with large entertaining spaces both indoors and out.

Berwind, a trained architect, worked with architect Thomas Kirchhoff of Kirchhoff & Associates Architects to design an authentically Bermudian home which gives the impression that it was expanded over time. Characterized by steeply pitched roofs with decorative gables and thick chimneys, the style was first popularized in Palm Beach by noted architects Howard Major and John L. Volk. Other features associated with the style that are incorporated into the design for *Tarpon Cove* include dormer windows, a buttery with a stepped pyramidal roof, and a flared entry staircase commonly referred to as "Welcoming Arms" stairs.

Berwind and Clark frequently host charity events at the property and wanted guests to feel at home from the moment they arrive. "Visitors always comment on the playful and inviting nature of the house," says Berwind. He credits Kirchhoff for his experience with the Town's Architectural Commission and thanks the commissioners for their support of the project.

Kirchhoff recognized two of his associates, architects Betsy Rossin and Carlos Bruderer, for their work on the project. The unique gardens were designed by Keith Williams of Nievera Williams Landscape Architecture.





LESLEY SMITH AWARD

In April, the Preservation Foundation presented the Lesly S. Smith Landscape Award for excellence in landscape design to Susan and Paul Efron. Preserving the scenic quality of the town is central to the Foundation's mission and this award seeks to acknowledge how landscapes impact our experience of the built environment.

Keith Williams of Nievera Williams Landscape Architecture was tasked with using drought-tolerant plants and his design for the front of the property presents both a fresh approach and an environmentally sensitive one in a town strongly associated with well-manicured lawns. The lush landscape, achieved without the use of sod, features patterned gravel and succulent beds along with variegated minima for ground-cover. Having lived in London, Sue Efron's love of gravel gardens inspired the crushed and broken coral paths.

According to Williams, the Efron's residence in Larchmont, New York provided additional inspiration. "Designing the gardens, I focused on a few key elements that Sue had incorporated in her own gardens in Larchmont." A round cutout allows glimpses into a walled garden off the home's dining room and an outdoor dining area sheltered by a pergola reference the owner's summer home.

In the backyard, a whimsical slat-house-style cabana with metal palm trees anchors the east side of the garden. Grass surrounds the pool area with children and pets in mind. A secluded spa sits under old ficus trees creating another destination in the garden.



Photography by Michael Stavaridis

Pan Delights with Garden Classes

Finding more reasons to spend time outdoors enjoying Florida's natural beauty is easy with garden classes in Pan's Garden. This season, Pan's Garden delighted Foundation members with two new and exciting learning opportunities hosted by local experts. In January, a floral design class taught by Halle Frey, owner of Flower and Fringe, provided participants with the opportunity to create their own unique arrangements. During this hands-on class, Halle led participants through the steps of constructing eclectic arrangements by teaching them proper cutting, layering, and design techniques. In February, Marta Edwards from Amelia's SmartyPlants led an air plant design studio in which participants created their own hanging displays. Attendees enjoyed instruction on crafting whimsical epiphyte arrangements as they fashioned their own distinctive visual wonders. Join us next season and visit Pan's Garden to take a class and try something new.

