

Seaspray Avenue bungalow re-do earns Polly Earl Award

By Darrell Hofheinz – Palm Beach Daily News
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At the front of a 1919 bungalow at 322 Seaspray Ave., a screened-in porch was enclosed during an extensive renovation that on Wednesday was awarded the Polly Earl Award from the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. Photo by Andy Frame

For the second straight year, a landmarked bungalow in Midtown has won the [Polly Earl Award](#), which is presented by [the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach](#) to honor historically sensitive renovation projects at small-scale properties.

Such houses are “integral to the charming character” of their neighborhoods and Palm Beach as a whole, foundation Executive Director Amanda Skier said at Wednesday’s presentation.

Jeanne and David Daniel talk with architect Gene Pandula before annual Polly Earl Award presentation at the Preservation Foundation in Palm Beach. (Allen Eyestone / Daily News)

Homeowners Jeanne and David Daniel accepted the honor, which complements the foundation's annual [Robert I. Ballinger Award](#) for renovations at large estates.

Although the update of the Daniels' 1919 bungalow-style house at 322 Seaspray Ave. may have qualified as a small-scale project, Jeanne Daniel told the *Daily News* that the work was far from simple. It stretched over two-and-a-half years, as crews uncovered a variety of structural problems that had to be addressed and remedied.

The renovation preserved the look of the house's street-side exteriors in accordance with the town's landmarks rules while opening up the floor plan. The Daniels hired Palm Beach architect Gene Pandula to design the project and contractor Scott Sloane of [Sloane Construction Co.](#) to carry it out.

Homeowner Jeanne Daniel chose contemporary-style furnishings and appointments for the interiors of the renovated house she shares with husband David at 322 Seaspray Ave. Photo by Andy Frame, courtesy of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach

"They helped us realize our vision of creating a more livable and contemporary living space," Jeanne Daniel said during the presentation at the foundation's building on Peruvian Avenue.

"David and I are certainly beyond pleased and frankly very honored to be the recipients of the Polly Earl Award."

Jeanne Daniel said she and husband David were "beyond pleased" as she accepted the Polly Earl Award Wednesday at the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. (Allen Eyestone / Daily News)

The [house earned landmark protection](#) in late 2013, and the Daniels bought it the following April.

"The landmark status was compelling because we were intrigued by the parameters of having to maintain the historic architecture," Jeanne Daniel said in an interview.

David Daniels has deep family ties to Palm Beach. For their first home here, the Daniels had a strong wish to live on one of the so-called “Sea” streets — Seaspray, Seabreeze and Seaview, immediately north of Royal Palm Way — because of the neighborhood’s mix of architecture, much of it historical.

Pandula said the look of the neighborhood guided him in maintaining “the scale and relationship of the structure to the Seaspray Avenue streetscape and neighboring properties.”

In addition to significant changes to the interior, the renovation brought the house up to code, and replaced the foundation, roof and many structural elements and walls. The project also swapped out the home’s doors and windows with new versions reflecting the architectural period. Other original elements were replicated, including the eve brackets and beams that are signatures of the bungalow style.

At the front of the house, a screen porch was enclosed to expand the living space. At the rear, a deteriorated garage-turned-cabana was razed and a new structure built. It’s attached to the main residence and houses the master bedroom.

Last year, the Preservation Foundation gave the same award — named for the late Polly Earl, the group’s longtime executive director — to a 1920 bungalow at 159 Australian Ave.

The presentation occurred during a meeting of the foundation’s trustees, at which Karin Luter joined the Executive Committee.

