

# Palm Beach homes for sale: Listed at \$34.85M, an updated estate is 'pristine and beautiful'

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**Real estate investor Richard True is marketing a 'Gottfried Regency' estate with two lots at 301 Polmer Park Road on the North End.**

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Special to the Daily News



When it comes to a Palm Beach estate built by the late developer Robert Gottfried at 301 Polmer Park Road, one could say that what goes around comes around — and quickly.

Extensively renovated a few years ago, the 1973 house built in his signature “Gottfried Regency” style changed hands last summer, and after a few spruce-ups is back on the market at a price of \$34.85 million.

The seller is a company managed by real estate investor Richard True, who heads Cushing Investments LLC and is a real estate agent with the Corcoran Group. True led an investment group that bought the property, he said.

“It’s a pristine and beautiful Regency-style with a tennis court,” True says. “Robert Gottfried built the house for himself. You walk in and it looks brand-new.”

The estate stands on an oversized lot measuring more than eight-tenths of an acre at the corner of North Lake Way. Five roads south of the Palm Beach Country Club, the house is one of several built by Gottfried on Polmer Park, a short lake-block street. The property is on one of the island's highest points, thanks to the nearby lakeside ridge.

With six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, two half-baths and 8,500 square feet of living space inside and out, the house has been listed for sale by Jim McCann of Premier Estate Properties.



**On the market:**Another big-ticket listing enters market on North End of Palm Beach

Its architectural details are typical of the style Gottfried helped make famous. The house has a flat roof, classical details, lofty ceilings and generously sized rooms with walls of glass windows and French doors that bring in natural light and showcase views.

The estate was a rare find in an intensely competitive market, True says.

“It was presented to me by Douglas Elliman Real Estate agent Spencer Schlager as an off-market property,” True says. “It’s unheard of to find something on Polmer Park, which has a super-high elevation.”

The tennis court lies immediately west of the house, and the new owner could easily split the west lot from the property for resale and redevelopment, he adds.

“It was such an opportunity because the property could be subdivided — we’ve already been granted (Town Hall) approval — and it’s (become) so difficult to find (vacant) lots or houses to tear down (for redevelopment).”

The previous owners, Brenda Axelrod and her late husband, Carlin, bought the house in 2015 and carried out an extensive renovation with a curated eye toward encapsulating a gracious and elegant style. Details include marble flooring and columns, archways and detailed moldings.

“It was perfect,” True says. “We just did some cosmetic (improvements) — polished the floors, fixed some windows, repainted and put in new carpets in the bedrooms.”

**Sold in July:**Investors buy 301 Polmer Park Road with plans to refresh, relist it

The house is centered around the pool courtyard. From the front door, one steps into the foyer and a U-shaped gallery and then enters the living room, where wood-framed glass doors and full-length picture windows offer views of the pool.

Flanking the foyer are two VIP guest bedroom suites. In the east wing are a media room and the dining room, which access an east terrace. Nearby are the kitchen, a butler’s pantry, the laundry area, guest-bedroom suites and access to the three-car garage.

In the media room is a wet bar, and the dining room is topped by a skylight. The kitchen has a cook’s island, high-gloss cabinetry, a glass backsplash, professional-grade appliances and oak flooring.

In the west wing’s primary suite, the bedroom opens to the poolside terrace with a fountain.

The suite includes two spa-inspired bathrooms: one with a niche for the soaking tub and walk-in shower, and the other with a walk-in multi-spray shower. The suite also includes custom closets and a shared office with a skylight.

French doors from the office lead out to a bridge over a pond and through gardens to the tennis court pavilion, which has a viewing deck above an area with a wet bar and seating areas. A shuffleboard court and a golf simulator are just adjacent.

Overlooking the pool and patio to the north is a cabana.

The tennis court, meanwhile, has its own club-like viewing pavilion with a wet bar and seating areas.

Gottfried became enamored of Regency-style architecture visiting Europe and decided to focus his attention on that style. A year before his death at 81, he said in a 2006 interview with Palm Beach Life magazine that he took the advice of Palm Beach builder Clarence Mack, who developed houses in a similar style. Mack advised him it would be wise to specialize. As a result, "Gottfried Regency" became a brand.

"People would come to Palm Beach and say, 'I'm here to buy a Gottfried,'" he told the magazine.

During his career, Gottfried built more than 500 houses, of which nearly 400 were on the island. "At one point, almost every other house along North Lake Way was one of mine," he said.

Polmer Park is among several Palm Beach streets — including El Dorado Lane, Via Los Incas, Chateau Drive, Casa Bendita, Chapel Hill and El Mirasol — where he built house after house in the Gottfried Regency style.

True said he hopes to find a house-hunter who will buy the estate intact.

"My wish is to sell the property as it is because it's so beautiful. If I don't sell it as an estate, I would subdivide it, and build another home with a below-grade entertainment area. That would be on the tennis court lot," True says.