

Palm Beach homes for sale: ‘Private villa’ on the near North End perfectly met this family’s needs

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The two-bedroom unit, No. 201, is priced at \$2.45 million at the French Villas, 201 Everglade Ave.

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Like many first-time real estate buyers in Palm Beach, Philadelphian Joe Helfrich had long-time family connections to the island. But his wife, Bridget Meehan, had never visited the town.

Nevertheless, in 2005 the couple bought their condominium on Everglade Avenue, to use both as a real estate investment and a holiday getaway.

“I followed my parents to Palm Beach, and talked my wife into it,” Helfrich says.

And per her introduction, Meehan adds: “On my first visit, I was enamored by Palm Beach’s beauty.”

Their children, Riley and Joseph, are now teenagers, and the family doesn't visit the island as often as they once did. As such, Helfrich and Meehan have listed their two-bedroom, two-bath unit — with 1,560 square feet of living space, inside and out — with Corcoran Group agent Helene Sidel. Priced at \$2.45 million, Unit No. 206 is in the French Villas of Palm Beach at 201 Everglade Ave., about a quarter-mile north of Royal Poinciana Way on the northwest corner of North County Road.



Explaining how they came to choose the French Villas — a complex with 12 units in a pair of two-story buildings — Meehan says she was not attracted to high-rise living.

“I love the easy access, and I felt like I had a private villa in a small community with wonderful people who care. We wanted to form relationships, and within a small friendly community, it was easy to do,” Meehan says. “Our neighbors know each other, and we have a wonderful (homeowners’) board. It fits who we are, and the location was key. It’s a quiet residential street, with the beach one block away and Lake Trail two blocks away.”

Her husband adds: “And it’s close to restaurants and shopping.”

Over the years, they’ve made their share of changes. “We redid the bathrooms, the kitchen and the air-conditioning. We did a lot of cosmetics. Because we loved the layout, we didn’t have to do anything structurally,” Meehan says.

The second-floor corner unit features a gated patio entry that shelters the front door. The homeowners have furnished the patio with a table and chairs and describe it as their “breakfast balcony,” where they like to start their day.

“We didn’t want a doorman building,” Helfrich says. “We prefer the privacy of walking right into our own place.”

They also like being on the second floor, where they have treetop views.

Inside the condo, the foyer leads directly north into the living room. The room is large enough for a main seating group and, at the far end, a second sitting area by a window, lending it the feeling of a sunroom.

The adjacent dining area accesses the kitchen. To the west, a hall leads to the primary suite and the guest suite.



“We love the set up,” Meehan says, noting that the layout has a front door and a rear entry.

“The kitchen entry has been handy over the years for catered entertaining and deliveries. The bedrooms are very private, (positioned) away from each other, and they both have their own full bathrooms.”

Details include parquet floors throughout, a beamed ceiling in the living area and a built-in buffet in the dining area.

With granite finishes, the primary bathroom has a shower, and the guest bathroom has a tub. The unit also has a laundry and linen closet.

The French Villas is pet-friendly, and the community’s pool deck was recently redone. The unit comes with covered parking for one car, and there is additional parking for guests. There’s also a bike rack.



The development, which was built in 1968, has been well maintained, Meehan adds.

“They maintain the landscaping, and they even wash our windows. Thank goodness,” she says.

She and her family have enjoyed their getaway villa over the years.

“We start our day with coffee and a walk on the beach. We take our kids to Sprinkles for ice cream, and at the end of the day, we walk the Lake Trail and have dinner at the Palm Beach Grill or Sant Ambroeus (in the Royal Poinciana Plaza),” Meehan says. “Who could ask for more?”

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