

Updated house in Palm Beach priced at \$12.75M

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REAL-ESTATE

On the market in Palm Beach: 1950s-era home on the North End gets a state-of-the-art update

Palm Beach real estate agent Mara Raphael renovated rooms and reworked the layout at 210 Osceola Way to better suit today's lifestyles.

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Special to the Palm Beach Daily News



While living in Los Angeles in 2016, Mara Raphael obtained her real estate license and renovated houses for resale following a career as a journalist with CNN.

After she moved to Palm Beach in 2020, she earned her Florida license and is today an agent at Brown Harris Stevens. In that short time, she has already renovated four Palm Beach homes, including her own and two investment properties she has leased.

Raphael's latest redo, however, is a speculative project involving a 1950s era-house on Osceola Way.

"I've always had a passion for older homes," she says.

But what initially attracted her to this particular property, she explains, was its location on the North End, about a mile north of the Palm Beach Country Club. The house is the fifth one east of North Lake Way.

"It's in a wonderful neighborhood, with such a welcoming community of terrific people. And what I really love about the house (is that) it's on a cabana street on a wide part of the beach," she says.

Raphael worked with Blueline Construction on the project, which involved extensive renovations to improve the layout. The house got a new roof as well as impact-resistant windows and doors.

Even so, she says, the structure was in fairly good shape when she bought it.

"It just had a funky floor plan, but I loved its 'old Palm Beach' charm on the outside. And with Blueline, we modernized it to make it a fresh, clean beach house. The bathrooms and kitchen are all brand new. There's not a surface we didn't touch," she explains.

Today, with the revamp completed, Raphael has listed the house at 210 Osceola Way as owner/agent for \$12.75 million. Built in 1955, the six-bedroom, six-bathroom residence has 4,608 square feet of living space, inside and out. The furniture is available through separate negotiations.

Second-floor room became two guest bedrooms in Palm Beach renovation

When she first approached the redo, she liked the fact that the layout offered her options. She was able to reconfigure smaller bedrooms downstairs to gain space for the main bedroom.

She also took a hard look at the large room — set up for a pool table — on the second floor of one of the wings. "I knew I could make two bedroom suites there," she says.

The revised layout features a covered entry opening into a foyer that introduces the house, with the living room and dining area due south.

In the west wing are the eat-in kitchen and the two-car garage. In the east wing are a guest bedroom suite, which she has set up as an office, and the pool-view main-bedroom suite.

Three other guest-bedroom suites are over the wings. The bedroom over the west wing, accessed via a separate staircase, can serve several purposes, she notes.

“We’ve made it a second master suite, but it could be a bunk room for kids, a hang-out room or a space for a foosball table,” she explains.

“We wanted it as ‘turnkey’ as possible,” says owner who renovated Palm Beach house for resale

There’s also a poolside guesthouse — Raphael calls it a “casita” — with another guest-bedroom suite.

Raphael installed new white-oak floors throughout the interior. Custom window treatments are by Well Made Home and designer wallpaper coverings are by Peter Dunham, Schuyler Samperton, Lisa Fine and Phillip Jeffries.

The closets also got new fittings.

“We wanted it as ‘turnkey’ as possible,” says Raphael, adding that a buyer could move in immediately.

With a work island, the new kitchen is topped by a beamed ceiling and finished with custom Shaker-style cabinetry, quartz counters and high-end Thermador appliances.

“The house lives very well,” Raphael says. “For a couple, it doesn’t feel like an overly big house, and when you have guests, with six bedrooms and bathrooms, it has a wonderful meandering feel — and everyone can spread out over the entire property and not be on top of each other.”

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