

# HOME&LOGGIA

## House known as 'The Ballroom' lists at \$32.8M



### Beyond the Hedges

Darrel Hofheinz  
Palm Beach Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the number of single-family houses listed for sale in Palm Beach hovers around a super-low 55 — as it does now — every new entry into the multiple listing service gets noticed.

That was the case recently when a distinctive Mediterranean-style house at 160 Barton Ave. entered the market at \$32.8 million. The Midtown property hasn't been listed for sale in more than two decades and last changed hands for \$5.51 million in 2002.

The ocean-block home is just down the street from The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

Parts of the house date to the 1930s

and were incorporated into a major renovation-and-expansion project completed in the early 1980s. The house is known as "The Ballroom" because one of its features is an expansive living room that was originally used for dancing and parties.

The house and a separate guesthouse have a total of six bedrooms and 5,622 square feet of living space, inside and out. The lot measures about two-fifths of an acre.

In the main residence, an enclosed loggia looks out to an awning-covered patio, the swimming pool and the guest-house beyond.

"The house is in immaculate condition," said agent Ite O. Young of Linda A. Gary Real Estate, who holds the listing.

The property is the fifth house from the ocean and will be sold with deeded

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In Midtown, mature trees frame the motor court and front door at 160 Barton Ave., which was just listed at \$32.8 million. PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

### DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT



Alexandra Naranjo describes herself as a 'maximalist traditionalist' when it comes to interior design. Inside her showroom on Antique Row in West Palm Beach, she created custom millwork (manufactured by Art Boule) and wallpaper by Mind the Gap.

CARMEL BRANTLEY

## Mizner-inspired magic

*It's in Palm Beach designer Alexandra Naranjo's DNA*

Jan Tuckwood Special to Palm Beach Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Via Mizner is so classic Palm Beach, it's like a time warp, as if pixie dust from a century of society soirees covers its courtyards and cul-de-sacs. • Addison Mizner found his inspiration for Worth Avenue's vias from a place with its own patina: Andalusia in southern Spain, where Moorish rulers built castles and cathedrals with tiled towers, dramatic archways and intricate plasterwork. • No wonder a young interior designer from Toronto fell in love when she visited Via Mizner for the first time 20 years ago. • Alexandra Naranjo's ancestors — and her design DNA — are from Andalusia. The texture, color and whimsy Mizner created in Palm Beach felt familiar. See [NARANJO, Page 15A](#).



Alexandra Naranjo used custom-painted tile backsplash and cool seafoam blue to update this kitchen in a Palm Beach home. PHOTOS BY CARMEL BRANTLEY

## Naranjo

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"I instantly felt incredibly comfortable here," says the designer, who recently became a seasonal resident of Palm Beach and opened her design studio on Antique Row in West Palm Beach in February.

"Mizner made a mini-Andalusian town in Palm Beach," she says. "This is truly home."

Naranjo has designed the interiors of some of Canada's grandest homes, and she made a mark in Palm Beach in 2021, when she was invited to design a bathroom at the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse. She used vibrant wallpaper and colorful fixtures to create a tiny tropical oasis — and soon landed Palm Beach clients who knew she could make their homes look happy.

"Happy wallpaper and color — they lift your spirits," Naranjo says.

Don't call her if you want a bland space. "I'm a maximalist traditional girl," she says. "I want to encourage people to get out of the white box and express their personalities in their home."

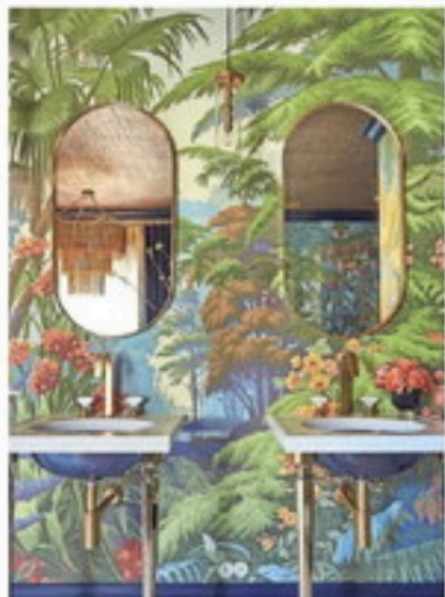
If you're scared to go wild with color, Naranjo suggests you start with a powder room, just as she did at Kips Bay. "Go insane with color! It's a small commitment."

A kitchen she designed in shades of green was featured in the April issue of "Architectural Digest," and she's recently done a Palm Beach kitchen in seafoam blue. Her own kitchen is buttercup yellow.

Naranjo employs five "architectural technologists" to translate her vision to 3D drawings, and she has projects around the world.

When she found the right spot for Alexandra Naranjo Designs, at 4209 S. Dixie Highway, it was everything she isn't: a nondescript concrete block. She transformed it — using a bouquet of color inside and Mizner inspiration throughout.

"I did a lot of research before I developed the show-



This bar inside a newly decorated Palm Beach home features custom backsplash tile and millwork designed by Alexandra Naranjo.

room," she says. "Mizner is the one who talked to me the most. His work inspired the door, the railing, the millwork inside, a lot of curvatures, the basketweave details. Maybe my DNA is helping, too."

The weather infuses what she creates and how she enjoys Palm Beach life. You may spot her sipping a Chianti at Pizzeria Ai Fresco in Via Mizner or dining on the



Naranjo turned a modest bathroom into a tropical wonderland for the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse in Palm Beach in 2021.

cacio e pepe in the courtyard at Sant Ambroeus.

"We have beautiful, tropical lush vistas around us — the greenery, the orchids of every color, the ocean. It's enticing to create interiors that reflect that lush beauty."

And there's another resty connection to her new home: "Naranjo" means orange tree in Spanish.