

Fine finishes, high ceilings for \$16M in Palm Beach

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REAL-ESTATE

On the market in Palm Beach: North End house was 'love at first sight' for homeowners

Jay and Dottie Alban are selling their longtime home with elegant finishes, fine woodwork and a layout designed for entertaining at 249 W. Indies Drive.

Christine Davis

Special to Palm Beach Daily News



You might say a family pet led Jay and Dottie Alban to the home they've enjoyed for 20 years on the North End of [Palm Beach](#).

Before they bought the house, the Albans had been living in a condominium and wanted a single-family residence with a yard for their dog, Jay Alban explains.

“We fell in love with this place at first sight,” he says about the house at 249 W. Indies Drive.

The Albans are the original owners, and the residence has been perfect for them, Jay says.

After they closed the sale, the Albans asked Kemble Interiors, a firm with which they had worked previously, to decorate their new home. The couple also added custom built-in cabinetry. But those were all the changes needed before the house was move-in ready, he says.

Today, however, the Albans have planned a move to be closer to family, so they’ve listed their five-bedroom, five-bathroom and two-half-bath home — with 5,462 square feet of living space inside and out — through Sotheby’s International Realty agent Mary Boykin. It is priced at \$16 million.

Completed in 2001, the single-story house has an façade detailed with classical Regency-style architectural elements, including quoins at the corners and columns supporting a pediment over front doors topped by a fanlight. A formally landscaped yard with a brick-paved driveway and a hedged courtyard face the front of the house, which was developed and built by Skip Gozzo of Gozzo Estate Homes in Jupiter.

The double front doors open into the foyer and main hallway of the residence, with the living room to the north. The spaces in this area feature arched openings with handsome millwork and moldings.

On the east side are a bedroom suite, which currently serves as an office, and the main bedroom suite, which has a view of the pool area.

West of the foyer and living room are the dining room, the kitchen, the family room and two guest bedroom suites as well as an attached two-car garage and a poolside bedroom suite that doubles as a cabana. The house also has two half-baths and a laundry area.

Floors throughout are covered in hardwood in the main areas and carpeted in the bedrooms. Many of the ceilings are at least 12 feet high, and windows and doors are fitted with impact-resistant glass.

Details in the living room include a columned arched entry from the main hallway, a 16-foot tray ceiling edged in crown molding and a gas fireplace with a wood mantel. Two sets of French doors topped by fan windows access the pool patio.

French windows from the formal dining room view a side garden, while the family room, kitchen and breakfast area — all open to one another — look out to the pool.

With a work island featuring a second sink for food preparation, the kitchen is fitted with wood cabinetry, granite counters, tile backsplashes and stainless-steel appliances

A peninsula accommodates bar seating and separates the kitchen from the family room — an arrangement that works well for food service at gatherings the Albans enjoyed hosting, Jay says.

“The home’s traffic flow was good for entertaining,” he adds.

French doors from the main bedroom open to the pool patio, and the suite includes a marble-finished bathroom with three sinks, a glass-enclosed walk-in shower, a soaking tub and two water closets. The suite’s expansive walk-in closet is custom-fitted.

In their backyard, the pool, with an overflow spa, is set within a brick-paved patio edged with pocket gardens.

“We loved the pool area,” Jay says. “We enjoyed our home thoroughly.”

The house stands five blocks south of the Palm Beach Country Club in a neighborhood the Albans found charming.

“It’s a nice wide street and we have lovely neighbors. We’re close to all of them,” Jay says.