

Redone Palm Beach oceanfront condo lists at \$5.9M

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REAL-ESTATE

On the market in Palm Beach: Redone waterfront condo gets ‘a completely open, modern look’

On the South End, a recently remodeled condo offers views of the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway plus an ‘open, modern look,’ says owner Helene Sidel, the real estate agent who did the renovation.

Christine Davis

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Helene Sidel, a longtime real estate agent whose specialty is the Palm Beach area, recalls how happy she was when she and her husband, Michael, decided to move from their longtime home in Admiral’s Cove in Jupiter to Palm Beach — specifically to a South End condominium with views of the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway.

“Admiral’s Cove was my husband’s choice. He played golf,” Helene says about the 28 years the couple spent in Jupiter. “We lived there a long time, and I was commuting twice a day sometimes. I talked him into moving to Palm Beach — I just drove him crazy.”

So in June 2020, the Sidels bought their second-floor condo, No. 1-A-2, in the 2500 South Ocean Boulevard development on the South End.

The overall apartment checked a number of her boxes — although Helene immediately decided she would remodel the interiors.

“I wanted to be on the beach, we needed a minimum of three bedrooms, and the 2500 building is one of the most exclusive on South Ocean. It’s like living in a private club with a pool, tennis, gym, the beach and great service. They’ll come down and open your umbrella on the beach, and the pool attendant gives you towels.”

And, of course, the apartment had a wraparound terrace with water views.

Today, though, Michael is missing single-family living. Helene, an agent with Brown Harris Stevens, has listed their three-bedroom, three-bathroom condominium — with 4,370 square feet of living space, inside and on the balcony — for sale. It’s priced at \$5.895 million, which includes covered parking for two cars.

But completely renovating an apartment while the coronavirus pandemic began tightening its grip on Palm Beach turned out to be more difficult and time-consuming than she expected, she recalls.

Having sold their home in Jupiter, they rented a home in Admiral’s Cove to accommodate them during what they thought would be a six-month period of renovation. But as with so many issues related to the pandemic, that time frame fell short.

Although condominium buildings in Palm Beach typically allow work to take place between May 1 and Nov. 1, the start date got pushed back while the building was on lockdown.

“To our surprise, we weren’t allowed to do any work until Aug. 1, and then we were allowed only six workers in the apartment at a time. It wasn’t possible to do our renovations before our lease (in Jupiter) ran out.”

And that meant moving into the half-finished condo.

But Helene quickly regrouped — she enjoys home design — and met the challenge. Serving as her own general contractor, she worked with architect Brian McCarron of Brian McCarron/Associates, a Boca Raton firm.

“I wanted a completely open, modern look,” she says.

First off, she reconfigured the floor plan to better suit the couple's lifestyle. Then she added details.

She reconfigured the entry and hallway to the guest suite and main-bedroom suite. The new layout also allowed her to create more closets, which have custom-fitted fixtures.

In the revised floor plan, the living room is directly off of the entry and just adjacent is the den, which can double as a third bedroom. The living room, dining room and kitchen are central to the layout, with a pair of bedroom suites in the west portion of the condo.

In the den, she installed a wide pocket-door entry to the living room. That gave her the option of leaving the doors open when the space serves as a den or closing them for privacy when entertaining overnight guests.

She employed the same solution in the kitchen and dining room. Here, opaque sliding doors can be left open for casual dining. But when they're closed, they act as a screen, which she prefers for more formal dinner parties.

With a breakfast area, the island-layout kitchen by Boffi is fitted with matte-finished custom cabinetry and professional-grade appliances, with marble used for the counters and backsplash. Incorporated into the cabinetry is a hidden door to the laundry room.

Midway between Sloan's Curve and the Lake Worth Bridge and sited on 9 acres, the 1978-era 2500 South Ocean Boulevard complex comprises three five-story buildings with four condominiums on each floor.

In the Sidels' apartment, the wraparound balcony can be accessed from all the main rooms — and the living room and den offer views of the ocean across the Raymond Floyd Par 3 Golf Course.

"It is like a picture postcard," Helene says.

The dining room and kitchen offer a garden view, while the main bedroom suite views the Intracoastal. The guest bedroom suite looks directly at the ocean.

Floors throughout are covered in 48-inch-square porcelain tiles and add to the modern feel. Bathrooms are finished in tile and marble.

Other details include all new electric, air-conditioning and plumbing systems, and the apartment is wired for music throughout. The windows and doors are fitted with impact-resistant glass, and electric shades.

While Helene is happy to move for her husband's sake, she'll miss her oceanfront condominium.

“It’s the accumulation of everything I love: a great space, gorgeous furniture, magnificent views and a modern ‘today’ look. And it’s only 10 minutes from my office.”

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