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ROBERT JANJIGIAN, *Daily News Fashion Editor*

Albarran spoke about their work on historic Palm Beach buildings during a March 20 town design forum hosted by the Preservation Foundation at its Peruvian Avenue headquarters. Albarran stressed the importance of recognizing and respecting not only the appearance of a landmarked house, but also its relationship to neighboring residences.

"It's important, when changing or altering a home, to consider how the urban fabric is impacted," she said.

One of Albarran's first island projects was an Addison Mizner-designed oceanfront residence owned by Yoko Ono in the mid-1980s. Albarran said she had to deal with a "structure that had fallen to pieces."

Bay windows were below grade. Exposing them, as originally intended, required lowering the topography of the site by several feet. While cleaning the stucco exterior of the house, traces of an original arched doorway were discovered on a sealed-up wall.

"I had no idea about historic restoration," said Albarran, who decided to look at the Mizner archives at The Society of the Four Arts to get a better understanding of the original inspiration for the house.

A later Golf View Road renovation posed the challenge of how to respect the original structure while expanding it and, she said, "making the proportions better."

Albarran's addition featured detailing copied from the original building and was set back so as not to interfere with the existing historic facade.

"We put the ductwork elsewhere," she said, noting a certain amount of flexible thinking is required when taking on a historic renovation.

In another Golf View Road landmark renovation project, the clients wanted a covered terrace.

"There are tricks of the trade you learn after a while," Albarran said. "The rules allowed only for an awning or an open-to-the-sky pergola. So we designed an open-to-the-sky pergola and covered it with a canvas awning."

Design of the renovation and expansion of Seagull Cottage is one of Albarran's current projects.

Replacing an original turret, lost when the landmark was moved to its lakefront site in the 1980s, and creation of a two-story addition on the northern side of the cottage posed several challenges. She relied on historic photographs to guide the design of new elements that she felt would be "less obstructive to the original fabric of the building."

"It was important to maintain the lightness of the original architecture style," she said. "We used the same proportions and window styles as well as other details."

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