

A Cottage by the Sea

The restoration of a 1921 cottage in Olde Naples.

"Bulldoze it," exclaimed builder Steve Styles. "You don't know what you're getting into," warned interior designer Bryan Pulte.

But Nancy Pulte stood her ground, just like her recent acquisition, a 1921 frame home in Olde Naples that has braved four hurricanes.

As president and founder of Landvision, a residential land development company in Boca Raton, Nancy has visited hundreds of communities and seen "every nook and cranny in Florida."

But Naples wooed and won her.

"It was a place where you could find an old bike with a wicker basket," Pulte explains. Atmosphere, the "old drunken palms," and growth potential persuaded her to purchase the old Florida home in Naples' historic district as an investment and second home.

Nancy contacted her brother, Bryan, an interior designer in Denver, and after a visit to the home, Bryan began the involved project. On one of his half-dozen trips to Naples, he hired Al and Steve Styles to carry out the construction.

Patience, respect, and trust allowed the transcontinental triangle (Denver, Boca Raton, and Naples) to work successfully.

An album with a before and an after picture on each page depicts the transfor-



OPPOSITE: A renovated 1921 frame house in Olde Naples basks in the glow of dusk. With much perseverance, owner Nancy Pulte transformed this rundown remnant of years gone by into a charming second home. ABOVE: Interior designer Bryan Pulte of Denver with his sister, Nancy, president of Landvision, Boca Raton, and Naples builder-contractor Al Styles with son Steve.

mation. Unfortunately, it cannot fully convey the meticulous care and craftsmanship that went into the long process.

Although Nancy bought the home in December 1986, construction did not begin until March 1988. Meanwhile, Bryan perfected the plans, chose furniture and fabrics, and scoured Denver and Naples for furnishings and accessories.

The Styles practically gutted the inside in order to restore and redesign the interior. At the lumberyard, they hand-picked every piece of wood used during the eight-month project.

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