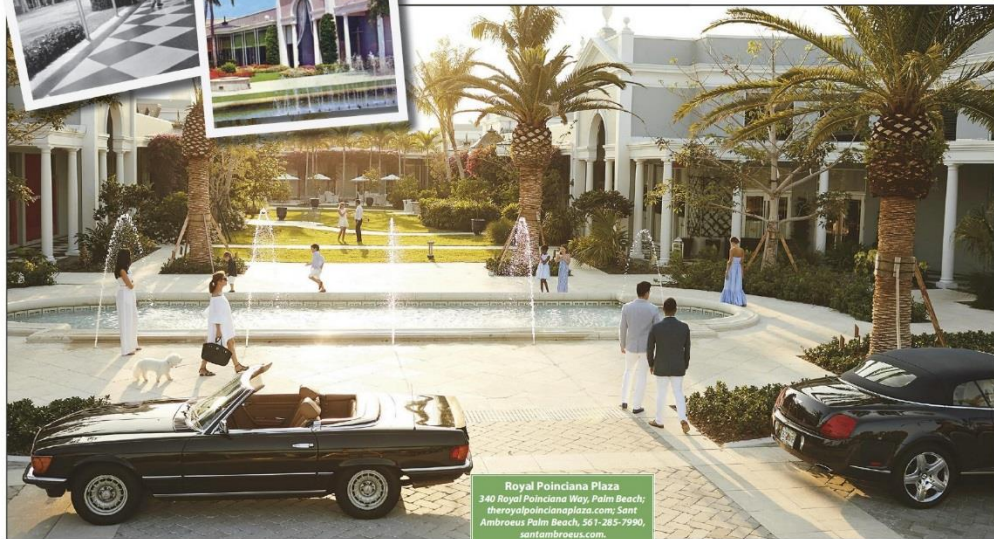


First LOOK

The two inserted images are what the Royal Poinciana Plaza looked like in the 1950s, when John Volk designed it. The rest illustrate the refurbished project in Palm Beach.



Royal Poinciana Plaza
 340 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach;
theroyalpoinciana.com; Sant
 Ambroeus Palm Beach, 561-285-7990,
santambroeus.com.

A Royal Rebirth

The Royal Poinciana Plaza – long a hometown favorite – gets a respectful makeover

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub

The Royal Poinciana Plaza has been a go-to destination since it opened in the late 1950s. Ginger Rogers and Bing Crosby attended the opening in 1957. The shopping and dining plaza became a magnet for discerning Palm Beachers, including Ivana Trump and the Pulitzers. John Volk – best known for designing homes for the Vanderbilts, Du Ponts, Fords, Dodges and Pulitzers – was the project's architect.

Always a hometown favorite, The Royal has now undergone a facelift – while keeping Volk's Regency architecture. Up Markets, a division of WS Development in Boston, purchased the property in September 2014 and plans to open the revitalized Plaza this month. (Some businesses have already opened, including Sant Ambroeus, which City & Shore Fine Dining Writer Rebecca Cahilly-Taranto picked last month as one of the "Best New Restaurants of 2017" in Palm Beach.)

Samantha Perry David, the chief operating officer of WS Development and head of Up Markets, talked to City & Shore about the project.

City & Shore: Volk is an iconic Palm Beach architect. How did his design influence your plans?

Samantha Perry David: We are very big fans of John Volk. When he designed The Royal in the 1950s he was way ahead of his time. He took his cues from European architecture with wonderful courtyards. When we bought it people had abandoned the interior spaces. Our effort is to restore the way John Volk had envisioned. We are bringing back all of the details – terrazzo floors, intricate metalwork and signage with design details to be exactly like it was in the 1950s.

CE&S: Are you changing the square footage?

SPD: It will remain at the original 180,000 square feet.

CE&S: Why did Up Markets hire Nievera Williams for the landscaping and Smith & Moore Architects? What did you ask them to do?

SPD: We hired them because they are the best in their class. They understood what we wanted. Our talks discussed restoring, renovating and also re-emerging. They pushed the boundaries of classic, appropriate design.

CE&S: Which stores and restaurants will occupy the revitalized property?

SPD: We wanted to be eclectic and to bring in some smaller independent merchants. It is not going to be Worth Avenue. Shoppers can take a class at Haute Yoga, get their hair styled at Paul Labrecque Salon and Spa, have a smoothie at Cells Produce and buy an outfit at Big Flower, Cynthia Rowley and Hermès (which relocated from Worth Avenue).

CE&S: Do you have any plans for the [currently shuttered Royal Poinciana] Playhouses?

SPD: We are in the process of negotiating with a group to take over the playhouse. It has been a long process to find the right operator. ●

City & Shore Magazine

November 4, 2017



Arts Warehouse



AVANT



Sugar Sand Park

A CITY & SHORE ADVERTISING FEATURE

representing Japanese culture. Restaurant with terrace seating overlooking the gardens serves Pan-Asian-inspired fare. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, 561-495-0233, morikami.org

◆ Spady Museum highlights local black history and offers festivals and educational programs. 170 NW Fifth Ave., Delray Beach, 561-279-8883, spadymuseum.org

◆ Arts Garage features a diverse line-up of performances, arts education programs and a visual art gallery showcasing local artists. 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach, 561-450-6357, artsgarage.org

Dining & shopping

◆ Downtown Delray Beach on East Atlantic Avenue and side streets is the place to be. Vibrant district includes galleries, cafes, museums, boutiques, fitness studios and Pineapple Grove Arts District. New and future establishments include AVANT restaurant and Arts Warehouse. A GreenMarket is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays October to May. 561-278-0424, downtowndelraybeach.com

◆ Delray Marketplace is a dining and entertainment plaza with national and independent fashion boutiques, Frank Theatres CineBowl & Grille and live music most Wednesday evenings October to May. Newest venues include Batch Gastropub. 14851 Lyons Road, Delray Beach, 561-865-4613, delraymarket.com

Dec. 2 Boynton Beach Tree Lighting, Santa & festivities, 5:30 p.m., Ocean Avenue Amphitheatre, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach, catchboynton.com

Dec. 6 Light Up Boca Holiday Street Parade, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Federal Highway and Northeast Seventh Street north to Mizner Park Amphitheater, 561-393-7995, myboca.us

Dec. 8 Boynton Beach/Delray Beach Holiday Boat Parade, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., south on Intracoastal Waterway from Lantana Bridge to Delray Beach south of Linton Boulevard, 561-600-9097, catchboynton.com

Dec. 9 Boca Raton Wine & Food Festival, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sanborn Square Park, 72 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, 561-338-7594, bocaratonwineandfoodfestival.com

Dec. 9 Delray Beach Holiday Parade, 6 p.m., 561-243-7000, ext. 5101, mydelraybeach.com

Dec. 10 Boca Raton Holiday Market Place, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sanborn Square Park, 72 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, 561-338-7594, bocaratonwineandfoodfestival.com

Dec. 10 FAU's Tuba Christmas, 5 p.m. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, 561-393-7995, myboca.us

Dec. 12 Menorah lighting, sundown, Old School Square Park, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, 100ftchristmastree.com

Dec. 16 Snow Day! Tons of snow and other activities. Snow play for ages 5 to 12, with early-purchase reservations recommended. Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton, 561-347-3900, sugarsandpark.org

Dec. 16 Boca Raton Holiday Boat Parade 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Intracoastal Waterway from Boca Raton-Delray Beach border south to Hillsboro Bridge, myboca.us

Dec. 19 Boca Raton Bowl, 7 p.m. FAU Stadium, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, thebocaratonbowl.com

Dec. 22 Polar Express Movie and Activities, 5:30 p.m. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, 561-393-7995, myboca.us

PALM BEACH

Local treasures & 5-diamond resorts

◆ Society of the Four Arts Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Garden. Winding paths amid lush theme gardens, including Asian garden, moonlight garden, begonia garden, bromeliad garden, formal garden, informal garden and Spanish façade garden. A sculpture garden features about 40 art pieces. 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach, 561-655-7227, fourarts.org

◆ Palm Beach Lake Trail, scenic off-road route for bikes and other vehicles, 10 miles round-trip along Intracoastal Waterway and mansions. Bike rentals offered at Palm Beach Bicycle Trail Shop, 50 Coconut Row, 561-659-4583, palmbeachbicycle.com

◆ The Breakers Palm Beach, includes four pools, spa and fitness facilities and nine restaurants. 1 South County Road, Palm Beach, 561-655-6611, thebreakers.com

◆ Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach includes three restaurants, spa and fitness facilities. 2800 South Ocean Blvd, Palm Beach Palm Beach, 561-582-2800, fourseasons.com/palmbeach

Shopping & dining

◆ Worth Avenue is a world-famous palm-lined three-block shopping and dining district featuring such designer names as Emilio Pucci, Ralph Lauren and Tiffany. Restaurants include Café Boulud, Café Via Flora, Bice and others. Historical Walking Tours are offered 11 a.m. most Wednesdays December to April. 561-659-6909, worth-avenue.com

◆ The Royal Poinciana Plaza, a beautiful landmark venue freshly revitalized, features inviting outdoor spaces with fountains. New stores expected to open in November and December include Hermés, Cynthia Rowley, Magasin, Orlebar Brown and others. Dining venues include Sant Ambroeus. 340 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach, theroyalpoinciana.com



Worth Avenue Via