

Jewel Awards go to La Jolla garden, houses, hotel and historic district

The Historical Society presents five awards for rehabilitation, restoration and preservation projects

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Everything from a private garden to the entire La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District received honors at this year's Jewel Awards presented by the La Jolla Historical Society on Oct. 13.

The Jewel Awards are broken into three categories: rehabilitation, restoration and preservation.

Each winner is given a tray with a printed image of the honoree's property. This year, there were two Jewel Awards for restoration, two for rehabilitation and one for preservation.

The award for rehabilitation recognizes people who repair, make additions to or otherwise alter a property to adapt it to modern use while preserving its historic, cultural or architectural character.

The award for restoration recognizes those who return a structure to its original architectural form and character, often reflecting a particular time in La Jolla's history.

The preservation award spotlights community members who protect the integrity of local landmarks and other structures through care and maintenance.

"These awards highlight the dedication and craftsmanship of the architects, contractors and artisans whose work has revitalized these historic landmarks," awards chairwoman Seonaid McArthur told the La Jolla Light.

The award for restoration of a house went to Nancy Jo and John Cappetta, owners of 6210 Camino de la Costa, who worked with AJ Remen and Tripp Bennett at Arista Architects to retain the structural character and historical integrity of the Edgar Ullrich-designed home while enhancing interior flow and ocean views and reworking core building systems.

The award for restoration in the landscape category went to Karen and Richard Taylor, owners of the 1928 Harold Muir House at 1205 Muirlands Drive.

The house sits on about three acres and is believed to have been laid out by landscaper Kate or Milton Sessions. The Taylors partnered with landscape architects and native plant experts to restore the garden and reduce water use while keeping the historic, mature landscaping alive.

The award for rehabilitation of a residential structure went to architect Mark Lyon and colleague Sara Carpenter, who renovated a 1965 Russell Forester-designed home at 7834 Estel Drive on behalf of owners Bishoy and Engy Said. The house was renovated to expand and update the living space and address waterproofing needs. The team worked with the family of original owners and the city of San Diego to ensure that changes were consistent with the original International-style design and post-and-beam influences.

The award for rehabilitation of a non-residential structure went to Hailey and Max Waitt, who renovated the Irving Gill-designed Orli Hotel, also known as the George Kautz House, at 7753 Draper Ave. According to the Historical Society, the renovation honors Gill's legacy while meeting the demands of contemporary travelers.

The award for preservation went to McArthur, Molly McClain, Nick Agelidis and Diane Kane for their efforts to create the La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District and get it listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"These very special leaders marshaled an army of supporters and drove a years-long effort to desig-



John and Nancy Jo Cappetta, owners of a house at 6210 Camino de la Costa in La Jolla, join architects Tripp Bennett and AJ Remen in accepting the 2024 Jewel Award for restoration of a house. PHOTOS BY ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON



Sara Carpenter and architect Mark Lyon renovated a 1965 Russell Forester-designed home at 7834 Estel Drive.



Diane Kane, Seonaid McArthur, Nick Agelidis and Molly McClain accept the Jewel Award for preservation for the La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District.

nate and protect coastal resources and structures in 'The Village,' said Historical Society board member Meg Davis.

The Coastal Historic District lies between Coast Walk and Whale View Point and includes 10 buildings, five beaches and four stairways. It encompasses places such as La Jolla Cove, the Children's Pool, Casa de Mañana retirement community and

Red Roost and Red Rest cottages.

"The unique character and identity of La Jolla's neighborhoods are shaped by the preservation of historic buildings, which serve as living reminders of the community's rich past," McArthur said. "This year, the winners of the prestigious Jewel Awards are being celebrated not only for their achievements in architectural excellence

but also for their perseverance in navigating the complexities of city and community board approvals....

"Each restored building across La Jolla is not just a personal achievement but also a treasured gift to the community deserving of recognition. They embody a commitment to preserving La Jolla's architectural legacy for generations to come."



The Orli Hotel earned a Jewel Award for maintaining some of Irving Gill's signature architectural features.



La Jolla Historical Society board member Meg Davis speaks at the Jewel Awards ceremony.



La Jolla Historical Society supporters gather for the Jewel Awards ceremony Oct. 13.