

## HERITAGE

# John's Palm Beach

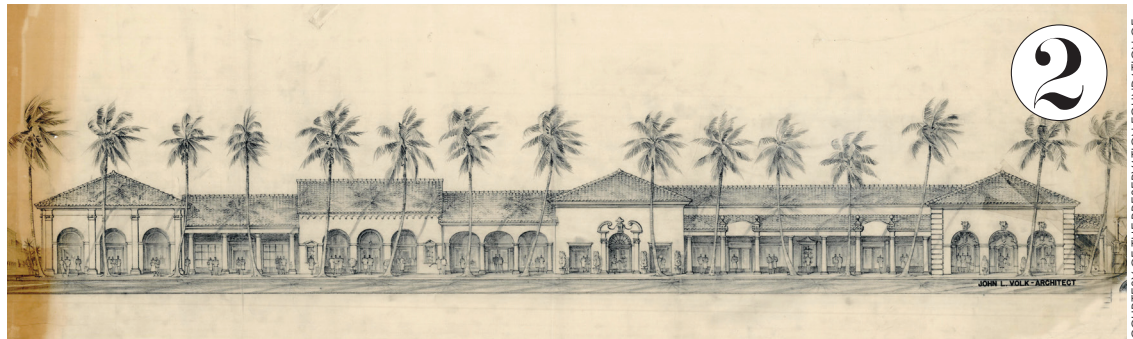
THESE THREE DESIGNS EXEMPLIFY JOHN VOLK'S ARCHITECTURE AND INFLUENCE ON THE ISLAND

BY MARIE PENNY

John and Jane Volk would be considered a power couple by today's standards. A union of an architect and a historian can yield the greatest of results: the will to build and the perseverance to protect those buildings. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach recently published a monograph on the Volks, *Palm Beach Style: The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk*. Written by Jane S. Day, this love letter to Palm Beach captures the range of John Volk's prolific 60-year career and focuses on his work in town, including these three projects that left an indelible mark on Palm Beach.



BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



COURTESY OF THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH



### 1. CLASSIC PALM BEACH: ADAMS RESIDENCE, 1930

Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Adams commissioned this Mediterranean Revival masterpiece, which was later designated as a landmark in 1989. In order to obtain the green light to move forward with the design, Volk traveled with a model of the house to Cuba to present it to the clients. The triumphal arch leading to the entrance courtyard is one of the most distinguishing features on El Bravo Way.

### 2. TRANSFORMING PALM BEACH: EVERGLADES ARCADE, 1964

Volk built upon existing structures in town, such as Mizner's Everglades Arcade on the 300 block of Worth Avenue. His design relates to the arcade across the street on the north side, while giving it a fresh, modernized, Mediterranean Revival facade. Here, the arch centers the assortment of shops.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ADAMS RESIDENCE; EVERGLADES ARCADE; JANE AND JOHN VOLK; LA RONDA.

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### 3. FORGOTTEN PALM BEACH: LA RONDA, 1973

Commissioned by publisher, artist, and patron of the arts J. James Akston, La Ronda was a decidedly modern departure for Volk. Its sculptural forms, which boast no right angles, stood out on North Lake Way. In 2003, after many hearings and discussions to define what makes it worth preserving, La Ronda was lost to the wrecking ball.

*Marie Penny is the consulting director of archives for the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach.*