



Congratulations to Our 2016 GEM Award Winner!



Each year the Coronado Historical Association bestows a GEM award to a homeowner who by Going the Extra Mile accomplished exceptional results preserving a Coronado cultural resource — a historic home. The homeowners time, financial resources and vision, along side their team of architects, contractors and designers, have left the community a gift deserving of appreciation—THE GEM AWARD. Congratulations to this year’s winner, 1003 Alameda Blvd and home owner’s Chris and Beth Kelleher.

You can say Chris and Beth have found a hobby restoring and remodeling historic homes. Prior to tackling their Coronado home, they completed 4 historic remodels in the Pasadena area; 3 of which were craftsman-style and another a Monterey Colonial. By far, the 1918 Italian Renaissance home on Alameda would prove to be the most challenging.

The Kelleher family chose Kevin Rugee to design the transformation and Alan Lundgren as their contractor. The home sits on 11,500 square feet of land. The original footprint of the house was kept, except for the addition of a 200 square foot sunroom off the living room, a 12x40 porch off the kitchen, and two large decks.

Through the years, the residence has been home to notable Coronadans, including Dr. Robert and Patricia Chamberlain. In 1942, Robert Chamberlain began his service in the Air Force’s Medical Corps where he served until 1946, retiring as a Major. The Chamberlains moved to Coronado in 1948, and Robert joined Dr. William Booth in a medical practice. According to Patricia’s memoirs, Robert treated both Marilyn Monroe and Broderick Crawford when they visited the island.

The Chamberlain’s sold their home to Arthur F. O’Keefe, a

Marine Corps aviator who served at Guadalcanal. As a 21-year-old Scout Bomb Diver, O’Keefe was one of the first Marine pilots to battle the Japanese during World War II. After the war, O’Keefe became a San Diego County Assessor and settled in Coronado. The house stayed in the O’Keefe family for about 50 years.

We wish all the best to the Kelleher family as they make their own history and memories in their new home, it’s truly a GEM.



Black and white photos courtesy of Michael and Jackie O’Keefe. Top photo Ed Gohlich Photography, Inc.