



NEWS RELEASE

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**2014 GEM Award Finalists Announced:
Winner to be Announced at CHA Gala**

Some Coronado residents have made the challenging, and often costly decision to “rejuvenate rather than replace” an existing home, transforming potential tear-downs into architectural gems. Three finalists for CHA’s 2014 GEM Award have “Gone the Extra Mile” in renovating their Coronado homes and will all be recognized for their contributions. But only one will be selected to receive for the top award. The winner will be announced at CHA’s annual gala on February 22 at the Marriott Coronado Island Resort.

The three finalists who have “gone the extra mile” are: Steve and Charlene Rose, 1034 5th Street; Chander and Jami Burgos, 301 Alameda Blvd.; and Beto and Gaby Garza-Santos, 708 A Avenue.

1034 5th Street – The “Periwinkle.” *Several years ago, Steve and Charlene Rose were at an estate sale at the corner of 5th and B, where they found some old tools. Little did they know that they would purchase this same bungalow in 2013, where the same tools would find their way back to restore this house that was originally built in 1919. The Roses got to work right away and tore off 3 layers of roof shingles. They re-pointed the bricks, making the fireplace operation again. The 26 double-hung windows with the original wavy glass panes were a challenge, but the Roses found a YouTube video on how to replace the ropes, allowing the windows to once again function.*

301 Alameda Blvd – The Glenn Curtiss House. *In 2011, the listing for this dilapidated bungalow was “based on the value of the land” – in other words, a “teardown.” But when Chander and Jami Burgos bought the property, they immediately saw its potential and set out to restore it. Over the last 2 years, Chander, Jami, and their extended family, did most of the work themselves. Careful restoration work included all of the windows, exterior wood and shingles, roofing, and floors. At the time, little did they know about the true history of this home. Located at the entry to North Island Navy Field, this was the house of the “Father of Naval Aviation.” In 1912, the home was sold to Lena Curtiss, wife of Glenn Curtiss, for \$10,000. Now referred to as “the Curtiss House,” this property received its historical designation last year.*

708 A Avenue – Landmark House. *The landmark home at 708 A was originally designed by Architect Reginald Johnson, who also designed the Santa Barbara Biltmore Hotel and La Valencia in La Jolla. Years ago, this home had a demolition permit and an eight-lot project was being considered. Although it is arguable whether the home could have been demolished today, a lot split could have been possible. Rather, Beto and Gaby Garza-Santos opted to focus on restoration, with minimal expansion to the home. The structure had good bones, but every single building system needed updating. The window preservation took a huge amount of work, and the intricate efforts were involved to preserve the stucco. Solar panels were thoughtfully located to avoid trimming the Torrey Pine.*

The GEM Award was created by the Coronado Historical Association to recognize renovations that best reflect the island's history and character. The thoughtful efforts of these homeowners to preserve and restore original structures sparked CHA to recognize residents who are "Going the Extra Mile." Thus was born the G-E-M--GEM Award.

Last year's GEM Award winners were Paul and Debbie Vadnais for the stunning renovation of their 1912 Craftsman home on Adella Avenue.

A committee of CHA board members and local architectural experts look for projects that best represent Coronado's history and character. The initial focus was on exterior architecture, but consideration was also given to interior design. Residential and commercial projects were both considered. To be recognized, a project does not need to be historically designated, but must have authentic, historic detailing. There is no building age restriction, but the renovation must have been completed within the last two years.

Individual committee members searched the island and selected 10 homes that fit the criteria, then made the difficult selection of three finalists. These finalists reflect the commitment and "sweat equity" that enhance neighborhoods and perpetuate Coronado's cherished village atmosphere.

At the Celebrating Coronado History gala, on Saturday, February 22, CHA Board Member Russ Haley will announce the winners and present a trophy to them, following a professional slide show of before and after shots and interior photos of the three competing homes.

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Photo Caption: 708 A Avenue, one of three finalists for CHA's 2014 GEM Award; the winner will be announced at CHA's gala on February 22 at the Coronado Island Marriott.