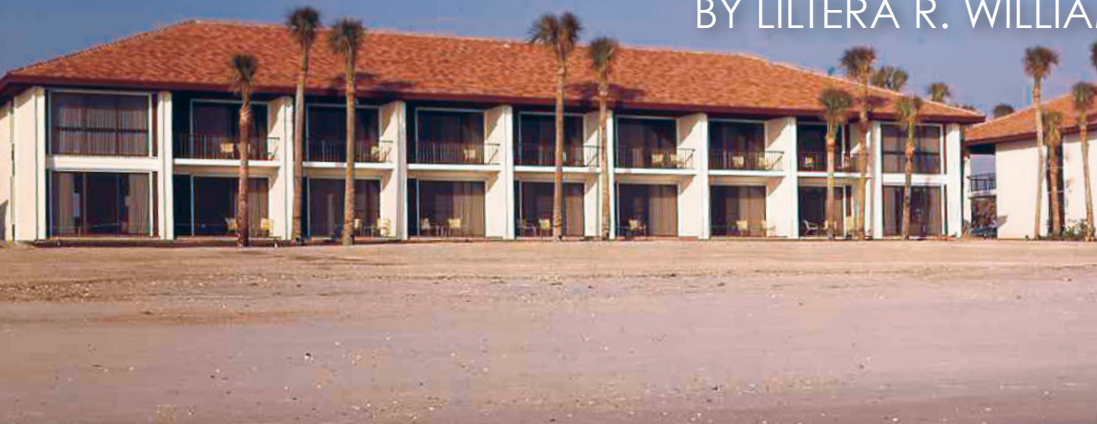


# Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

## *major makeover mission*

BY LILTERA R. WILLIAMS



Officially established in 1928, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club has evolved into a haven of relaxation for residents and visitors alike.

Eight decades of offering resort life experiences on Florida's Northeast shore and providing seaside lodging options has positioned the establishment as one of the top vacation spots in the area.

The former unusual, old-fashioned village quickly gained notoriety as the newest attraction on Ponte Vedra Beach, with guests traveling from as far as Michigan, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Over the years, the Inn & Club has improved its core foundation, performing frequent remodels of buildings and key elements of hotel convenience.

The antique, resort-style structure is currently undergoing a \$2.6 million makeover that involves complete renovations of the oceanfront Florida and Georgia Guest Houses.

The plan to create an enhanced guest experience with fresh, new interior design features in order to complement the resort's luxurious environment entered the development stages just before Thanksgiving.

Chosen for their quality of work and previous success in producing original and innovative results, both Fisher Koppenhafer Architecture and Interior Design and Sisler Johnston Interior Design are responsible for devising the decorative changes.

Fisher Koppenhafer Architecture and Interior Design is in charge of upgrading the interior spaces of the two hotel buildings with new layouts, luxurious materials, finishes and fixtures that will showcase a more contemporary setting.

Koppenhafer has previously designed numerous projects at the Inn & Club resort, including The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Island House resort rooms.

Interior specifications and selections, including furnishings, decor, wall coverings, window treatments, carpeting, counter-

tops, lighting and decorative hardware will be handled by Sisler Johnston Interior Design.

"The redesign will bring a fresh and luxurious ambiance to the Florida House and the Georgia House at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, and is in keeping with the resort's Five-Diamond Award status," said Judith Sisler Johnston.

Previously at the Florida and Georgia guest houses, Sisler Johnston Interior Design completed the installation of six premier oceanfront guest suites. The firm has also completed the design of the Island House and the redesign of the Summer House, Atlantic House, Beach House, Ocean House and Peyton House.

Additionally, Johnston was the original interior designer of the Peyton House when it opened in 1986.

For 10 consecutive years, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club has impressively maintained its Five-Diamond Award ranking, the highest hospitality honor awarded by the American Automobile Association. While aiming to provide an extraordinary experience for each guest, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club faithfully adheres to the requirements and conditions set in place by AAA, offering the ultimate in luxury within first-class accommodations, with a keen focus on cleanliness, comfort, security, and safety.

"It requires not only the facilities to be at the top level of the luxury category, but it also requires that the level of service is there to complement the facilities. In our particular case, we've been very fortunate to have been chosen as one of the top resorts in North America by AAA and we very proudly offer that level of service to our guests," said Fred Cozby, director of lodging at the Inn & Club.

The establishment's amenities include: meticulous attention to detail in landscaping, extraordinary and unique architectural features, automatic valet parking, limited edition campus art, enhanced bedding and preservation of frames, creative



artisan pieces, multiple architectural and design features in the ceilings, custom lighting with unique qualities of illumination, outstanding dining opportunities, unique pool environments, and first-class, sanitary rest rooms.

Annual property inspections and updates are conducted every year, and various sections of the property are chosen for renovations and upgrades based on a random rotation schedule.

The current renovation project involving the Florida and Georgia Guest Houses will highlight the campus style environment and freestanding hotel buildings that are situated along the oceanfront. These particular Guest Houses are located right in the center of the property, directly across the street from the historic Inn building.

"One of the goals of this project was to better tie the building across the street into our two guest houses and into the core of the historic Inn building that was rebuilt and redesigned in the year 2000," said Cozby.

"The circle right in the center of the property leads to the historic Inn building. There's also a large fountain directly in the center of Ponte Vedra Boulevard in front of the Inn. Our goal is to tie the Florida and Georgia Houses more closely into the entire circle," he continued.

The two buildings were originally built in 1968 and 1969 and have undergone regular renovations through the course of the years, but this is the first major redesign since they were constructed in the late '60s and early '70s.

Renovations are expected to be completed in April.

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