

FLORIDA BUILDINGS I LOVE



Dwight James Baum’s Sarasota County Courthouse. The Mediterranean-influenced building, among the most attractive courthouses in the state, if not the nation, opened in 1927, just six years after Sarasota County broke away from Manatee County. HAROLD BUBIL PHOTOS/SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE

Sarasota County Courthouse, 1927, Sarasota

Harold Bubil Real Estate Editor Emeritus
Sarasota Herald-Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

A rush of development in the 1920s put Sarasota on the map for northerners looking to get rich quick in Florida real estate.

One of their own, New York society architect Dwight James Baum put the young city on the architectural map, too.

Baum, then in his late 30s, came to Sarasota to design a mansion for John and Mable Ringling. We know it as Ca’ d’Zan (“Florida Buildings I Love,” No. 3, 1925).

While he was here, Baum also designed nearly a dozen notable struc-

tures — houses for professional people, apartment and office buildings, and the Sarasota County Courthouse.

The Mediterranean-influenced building, among the most attractive courthouses in the state, if not the nation, opened in 1927, just six years after Sarasota County broke away from Manatee County.

A renovation in 1999 and a recent clean-up have the structure, with its distinctive tower in the courtyard between two wings, fulfilling its status as a Sarasota landmark.

Baum used terra cotta accents and

See COURTHOUSE, Page 31



Restoration work has brought out the original, brighter colors and details of the 1927 Sarasota County Courthouse.



• SWIM IN YOUR PRIVATE POOL • ENJOY HOW QUIET INSIDE

• CLOSE TO SHOPPING, DINING AND BEACHES



The Matera I
1,491 Liv. S.F.

20 Single-family (1 and 2 story) Courtyard Homes with two or three-car garages and quaint courtyards for private swimming pools, spas, fire pits, etc., located along E. Venice Avenue just minutes to downtown Venice and beaches.

From \$599,900

ASK ABOUT OUR READY HOMES
NEW FURNISHED MODELS - OPEN DAILY!

902 E. Venice Avenue, Venice, FL 34285
ProGroup-Realty.com • 941.786.9403

Pro Group Realty and Property Management, LLC

Prices, terms, and availability are subject to change. Floor plans, photographs, renderings elevations and sizes are approximate for presentation purposes only and may vary.

MPS DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC CGC061063.

Sales

Continued from Page 11

Where have home prices dropped the most in the US?

Home prices in the Northeast and the West were down both month-over-month and year-over-year. Meanwhile, new home sales in the South and the Midwest were on an upward trajectory.

New single-family homes sold in the

Northeast dropped 59% compared to March of this year and 47% compared to April of last year. In the West, sales of new homes were down 9% compared to March of this year and down by 3% compared to April of last year.

Homes sold in the Midwest, meanwhile, increased 12% compared to March of this year and were up 21% compared to April of last year. In the South, new home sales were up 18% in April compared to March of this year and up 23% compared to April of last year.

Rate

Continued from Page 11

est rates influence rates on home loans.

The Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate 10 times in 14 months in a bid to lower stubbornly high inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other central bank officials have recently signaled that the Fed may forego another interest rate hike at this month’s meeting of policymakers. Such a move would give the Fed time to evaluate the economic impact of its previous rate increases.

Still, a pause now doesn’t mean the Fed couldn’t resume hiking later this year. And other Fed officials continue to express support for more hikes, given

inflation remains elevated. The consumer price index, which tracks inflation at the consumer level, rose 4.9% in April from 12 months earlier.

The U.S. housing market has been slow to regain its footing this year, with elevated mortgage rates and a thin inventory of homes on the market working to limit sales. As a result, home purchase loans were down 44.3% in the first quarter compared to the same period last year, according to an analysis released Thursday by real estate data firm Attom.

The higher rates have sharply reduced demand for mortgage refinancing loans, which slumped 72.5% in the first quarter from a year earlier, Attom said.

Courthouse

Continued from Page 21

cast-stone classical architectural elements to give the building its stately appearance. Barrel tiles on the roof were imported from Spain. Wrought-iron details were done by the noted metal artist Samuel Yellin, whose work also is seen at Bok Singing Tower ("Florida Buildings I Love," No. 60).

The building, constructed by Stevenson & Cameron, once had a handsome landscape and façade facing Ringling Boulevard, but additions in 1955 and 1965 obliterated or obscured them.

Baum could be considered Sarasota's first "star" architect. He attained "wide recognition as a master of the suburban country house" in Fieldston, The Bronx, and other northern suburbs of New York City, writes Ronald McCarty, keeper of Ca' d'Zan, in his introduction for the 2008 revision of the 1927 monograph "The Work of Dwight James Baum" (edited by William Morrison, Acanthus Press, 232 pages, \$69).

Baum also did a number of homes in the Tampa suburb of Temple Terrace.

At a time when Sarasota was booming, Baum's arrival from New York helped raise its architectural profile, McCarty said in a 2008 interview. "He was their most prominent of the architects of the 1920s.

“Baum received the gold medal from the architectural league of New York, and that put him into a national standing. That’s one of the major reasons John Ringling hired him” for the Ca’d’Zan project.

Baum, born in 1886 in Little Falls, New York, had an architectural degree from Syracuse and was right at home with the Fieldston's self-made executives. His work also appealed to the very rich, as illustrated by John and Mable Ringling's decision, 15 years earlier, to set aside Thomas Reed Martin's concept for their bayfront palace and instead let Baum design Ca' d'Zan.

While Martin designed many more structures in Sarasota than did Baum, the New Yorker made his mark with the big jobs — the Sarasota County Courthouse, the El Vernona Hotel (later the John Ringling Hotel) and the Broadway Apartments (still standing as the Belle Haven office building near the Hyatt Regency Sarasota). They were the landmarks of the 1920s real estate boom.



A fountain at the base of the courtyard tower at the Sarasota County Courthouse.
HAROLD BUBIL/
SARASOTA
HERALD-TRIBUNE

Baum's Sarasota houses: Ca' d'Zan; Kennedy home, Oak Street; Schueler House, South Washington Drive, St. Annamands; Edwards House, Flamingo Avenue, Siesta Key. His public buildings in Sarasota: Sarasota County Courthouse, Main Street; Sarasota Times building, First Street; Broadway Apartments/Belle Haven, Fourth Street; Pineapple Apartments/Herald Square building, Orange Avenue at Pineapple; real estate office/Karl Bickel house, North Trail (demolished); El Vernona/John Ringling Hotel, North Trail (demolished).

After just 25 years in architecture, Baum died of a heart attack on a New York City sidewalk on Dec. 13, 1939, while rushing to catch a bus home to Fieldston, where he designed 90 of the 250 architecturally distinctive houses. He also did about 60 houses in nearby Riverdale.

"Florida Buildings I Love" is Harold Bubil's homage to the Sunshine State's built environment. This article originally ran on Feb. 10, 2018.

A photograph of the Sarasota County Courthouse, circa 1940. COURTESY OF SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL RESOURCES



Berkshire Hathaway

HOMESERVICES

FLORIDA REALTY

Global Reach. Local Expertise.

BHHSFloridaRealty.com

LUXURY COLLECTIONSM

 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Osprey \$5,486,000 112 Osprey Point Dr. MLS# A4564864 Sania Allen 941-266-7829</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$4,770,000 4526 Bay Shore Rd MLS# A4551985 Rudi Weiss 941-284-1013</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Holmes Beach \$1,790,000 502 59th St MLS# A4565819 Kelly Lerman 603-714-8173</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$1,650,000 1711 Kenilworth Street Sarasota 34231 MLS# A4563295 Bev Murray 941-724-4995</p>			
 <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$1,299,000 5238 Winding Way MLS# A4569996 Julianna Burns 941-800-7653</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Magnolia Hill \$1,250,000 28801 100th Dr.E. MLS# A4569601 Denise Oylar 941-914-6526</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Riverwalk Ridge \$1,195,000 7046 Honeysuckle Trail MLS# A4567475 Giselle Lyman 941-202-5444 Andy Lyman 941-321-7899</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venice \$995,000 804 Harbor Dr S. MLS# A4558545 Sandra Rubinstein 941-268-8918</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bradenton \$899,000 10507 Cypress Point Dr. MLS# A4565101 Kimberly Young 941-302-9820</p>		
 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Englewood \$899,000 Manasota Key Road MLS# C7471944 Kyla Hresko 941-740-7954</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$849,900 6131 Belina Ct MLS# A4565923 Julie Froeschle 941-228-6405</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Lakewood Ranch \$729,000 6628 Pebble Beach Way MLS# A4568168 Kim Young 941-302-98206</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Punta Gorda Isles \$680,000 24194 Peppercorn Road MLS# C7472231 Eric Caudy 502-500-1499</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$564,900 1304 Burgos Drive MLS# A4569709 Jerry Richter 941-224-1350</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Bradenton \$564,900 5919 53rd Lane East MLS# A4562473 Kathleen DuPont 941-350-4995</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Plantation \$515,000 320 Bermuda Ct #10 MLS# N6126082 Kathleen Gallagher 941-413-0542</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Parrish \$455,000 11319 82nd Street East MLS# A4571332 Marty Garcia 941-920-3385</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Sarasota \$429,900 4481 Atwood Cay Cir #16 MLS# A4561000 Ellen Wilson 704-651-6322 Craig Wilson 704-607-8657</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Ventura Village \$425,000 4358 Lenox Blvd. MLS# N6126906 Barbara Saputo 931-223-8990</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Gran Paradiso Venice \$419,000 20060 Ragazza Cir #101 MLS# N6125726 Bill Sweeney 941-323-5496 Joanne Sweeney 941-408-5874</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Glenbrooke \$418,000 8097 Glenbrooke Lane MLS# A4571745 Jill Thomas 941-544-1160</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Palmetto \$405,000 4608 Birdsong Drive MLS# A4559708 Judy Athari 941-500-4606</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Westwinds Village \$189,900 5316 53rd Ave. E Lot#F-45 MLS# A4571520 Faith Michael 941-356-8862</p>

Lakewood Ranch
941.907.2000

Palmer Ranch
941.556.2150

Sarasota
941.225.7355

Venice
941.207.5055

©2017 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Equal Housing Opportunity.