

# Alameda PRESERVATION Press

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMEDA  
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## Winners of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Preservation Awards

— JUNE 11, 2023 —

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Home of Truth • 1300 Grand Street • Alameda

### Purple Passion to Gorgeous Green 940 Santa Clara Avenue

Story by Karen Lithgow

**Award Recipients: Missy and Dave Connolly, Owners;  
Jorge Escamilla, Escamilla Construction, Contractor;  
Bob Farrar, Gold Leafing**

The story of 940 Santa Clara Ave. renovation begins with the happy event of when my wonderful next door neighbors, Missy and Dave Connolly, moved into the house in 1997. When they purchased this 1895 transitional Colonial Revival Marcuse & Rimmel house, it had a medley of bright purple hues on the exterior (think Barney the dinosaur) because the previous owners had wanted it to match the lotus blossoms from their backyard tree. The house has been included in the book, *America's Painted Ladies, The Ultimate Celebrations of our Victorians*, (Larsen, 1994).

Once the Connollys took possession of the house, they had many projects to face. High on their list was a new color scheme. They contacted Bob Buckter, known as Dr. Color, to create a multi-shaded green theme with seven colors that also included gold leaf. This was a particularly exciting development for the neighbors, as the two Marcuse & Rimmel houses to the right already had new Bob Buckter-created colors. This addition meant a trio of fanciful multi-colored homes. The change of color was amazing! Along with the colors, the Connollys made sure the accents were enhanced so all parts of the house would show.

Missy and Dave again had their house painted last year in 2022 and contacted Jorge Escamilla to get the job done. This time they replaced the missing swag plaster pieces and buttons. The buttons that they added on the front were based



*This Marcuse & Rimmel Colonial Revival shows off its gorgeous architectural details, some of it newly restored with a seven color paint scheme and an abundance of gold leaf.*

*continued on page 2...*