

# THE NEW FILLMORE



ROSE HODGES

## A PLACE *of* REMEMBRANCE

Inside the Gothic-style St. Dominic's Church, its buttresses flying and roots dating back to 1873, is the city's only Catholic columbarium, with a Wall of Remembrance and individual niches. Four years after it was built, only 48 of 320 niches remain unclaimed.

"ETERNAL LIFE CONDOS" | PAGES 8 & 9

## Cottage Row Zen Garden Sparks Fight

Plans for a memorial to Japantown founders faulted as a 'land grab'

By THOMAS R. REYNOLDS

IN CELEBRATION OF its 110th anniversary this year, Japantown leaders proposed a gift to the neighborhood: a simple Zen rock garden at the foot of Cottage Row to honor the first generation of Japanese-Americans, the *Issei*, who established the community here after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

To create the garden, they enlisted the renowned landscape designers Shigeru Namba, who oversees Oracle boss Larry Ellison's extensive Japanese garden, and Isao Ogura. Together the two have already created memorial gardens at San Francisco State and at Tanforan mall, the first stop for residents of Japantown evacuated and interned during World War II.

The gardeners would donate their services and all costs would be paid by private donations. Organizers hoped to complete the garden before the end of the anniversary year.

Then they ran into Bush Street resident Marvin Lambert.

At a public meeting to unveil the project on July 7, Lambert expressed reservations about the garden and complained that he and his neighbors who lived on and near Cottage Row had not been adequately consulted or notified about the meeting.

By a second hearing on August 11, Lambert arrived with a group of neighbors ready to declare his opposition to a Japanese garden on the Sutter Street side of the Cottage Row Mini Park, which he has denounced as "an out-and-out cultural land grab." In turn, Paul Osaki — who is spearheading the garden project from his post as executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center in Japantown — rallied a full house in favor of the memorial.

THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE. "Cottage Row is the only place in Japantown they would recognize," Osaki said of the first-generation founders. He introduced the project by recounting the history of the neighborhood, first when Japanese-Americans were locked up in internment camps during World War II, then again after they returned and the Redevelopment Agency leveled almost all of Japantown.



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Bernal Heights, Castro, Cole Valley, Glen Park, Haight, Lake Merced, Mission, Noe Valley, St. Francis Wood	94110, 94114, 94117, 94127, 94131, 94132	September 16, 17, 18	February 10, 11, 12
Parkside, Sunset	94116, 94122	Sept. 30 Oct. 1, 2	March 3, 4, 5
Chinatown, Marina, Nob Hill, North Beach, Presidio, Richmond, Russian Hill, Seacliff, Telegraph Hill, Western Addition	94108, 94109, 94115, 94118, 94121, 94123, 94126, 94129, 94133	October 14, 15, 16	March 10, 11, 12
Bayview-Hunters Point, Downtown, Hayes Valley, Ingleside-Excelsior, Mission Bay, Potrero Hill, SoMa, Tenderloin, Treasure Island, Visitation Valley	94102, 94103, 94104, 94105, 94107, 94111, 94112, 94124, 94130, 94134, 94158	October 21, 22, 23	March 17, 18, 19

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Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore circulate to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions.



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UPFRONT

FILLMORE R.I.P.(8-9-16)

The final nail to the coffin, the closure of NOAH'S NEW YORK BAGELS. After 20 plus years - a plain Bagel \$1.35 (\$1.21 for SENIORS). I guess the 'MILLENNIALS/TECH' crowd prefers going down the street and paying \$3.00 to \$4.50 for a plain Bagel. Not to say the BUILDING OWNERS are not to blame also.

A 2ND FLOOR business was also FORCED out - PACIFIC HEIGHTS TRAVEL, after 35 years given "the boot"!

Make NO MISTAKE, what's happened these past four years on Fillmore was NOT about "CHANGE". Oh no, it was about the total DESTRUCTION of our much beloved neighborhood!

To the "OWNERS" who booted out JOHNNY ROCKETS DINER - guess what NOBODY LIKES ITS "CARPETBAGGER" REPLACEMENT !!!

To the OWNERS who booted out beloved coffee house - "COFFEE BEAN & TEALEAF" and brought in the STUPID juice bar - I say, "ARE YOU HAPPY YOUR STORE FRONT HAS BEEN EMPTY THOSE PAST 15 MONTHS"?

The same to OWNERS who booted out "JUICY NEWS" (AFTER 28 years!) and your store front sit EMPTY AFTER 18 MONTHS!

The "NEIGHBORHOOD LIVING ROOM" - ROYAL GROUND COFFEE, the "Grown Jewel" - the Heart & Soul of Fillmore - FORCED OUT! I do not need to spend \$280.00 + for a pair of jeans (I buy mine at MACY'S - \$48.00).

A "WHITE T-SHIRT" does not mean your a "FASHION DESIGNER" my T-shirts run around \$12.00.

"WASH & BLOW DRY" your hair - \$40.00! Really? I wash & dry my hair in the shower for about .01¢

Guess Sin "NOT WITH NEW ERA", just seems to me every neighborhood should have a LAUNDRY-MAT.

I hope and pray all these "HIGH END FASHION STORES" (who are not making the rent on their brick & mortar store!) CLOSE/GET THE HELL OUT!

There are "RICH FOLKS" in Pacific Heights - I understand that fact. But alot of them buy clothes in UNION SQUARE STORES (better selection) or buy in New York or Paris (YES they travel to such places).

I know whoever moves into the NOAH'S location - I WILL NOT ENTER THE STORE.

Robert Rutherford  
"LAST OF THE BOHEMIANS"



# Cottage Row Garden Project Reopens Old Wounds

► FROM PAGE ONE

“It wasn’t always a cheerful, happy place,” Osaki said. “One of the only things that was spared was the Cottage Row Historic District.”

When the first Japanese-American in the audience spoke in favor of the project, Lambert demanded that all speakers state whether they lived in the neighborhood. A rumble ensued.

“Knock it off,” one elderly Japanese-American lady finally instructed.

It soon became clear that old wounds were being ripped open again. A number of Japanese-American speakers noted the exile and displacement their families had experienced and embraced the garden project as a way to honor their ancestors.

“But why this spot?” Lambert asked. “Cottage Row was never exclusively Japanese. It has nothing to do with Japantown.”

COTTAGE ROW, THE BRICK LANE that runs mid-block between Fillmore and Webster from Bush to Sutter, opening onto a mini park, was created in 1882 by Col. Charles L. Taylor. As rental property, Taylor built several houses on Bush Street and six row houses behind them in the middle of the block. All are part of the Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, nominated by noted neighborhood architectural historian Anne Bloomfield.

Bloomfield reported: “In the 1930s the walkway was popularly called Japan Street because the entire district was inhabited



*The Issei Garden Project proposes a Zen rock garden on the Sutter Street side of the Cottage Row Mini Park.*

by Japanese-Americans until their internment during World War II. In the tiny rear yards of Cottage Row they grew vegetables, which they offered for public sale at an informal weekly open market held every Saturday along the Row.”

But at the meeting and in a flurry of email circulated afterward, Lambert said Bloomfield and the National Register got the facts wrong in what he called “some flowery but erroneous language” that “is either implausible or demonstrably false.” He called the Japanese-American presence on Cottage Row “folklore” and set up a website with links to a variety of source material and his own report of “corrections to errors in the nomination form.”

He wrote: “This document among other things corrects the notion that the Historic District was exclusively occupied with

people of Japanese heritage at the time of internment, when the truth is that less than one-third of the residences were so occupied.”

Lambert’s report concedes that four of the six homes on Cottage Row were occupied by Japanese-Americans before internment, plus two units at the top of the row on Bush Street.

IT SEEMED THAT ALMOST EVERYONE left the August 11 meeting with bruised feelings. Several supporters of the garden said Lambert had been “disrespectful” to Japantown.

Lambert claimed he had been subjected to “bullying and other harassment” at the meeting and decried “very uncivil behavior at a meeting that was intentionally packed with people following a scripted agenda.”

Lambert said it was important that any memorial honor not only Japanese-Americans, but also “the rich and diverse history of its surrounding neighborhood,” including Euro- and African-Americans and the gay community, all of whom helped nurture Cottage Row through the years.

Osaki wrote to a supporter: “They want us to put the garden on our side of the block.” He added: “I would have never believed that so much racism and bigotry would exist in our neighborhood today.”

A THIRD COMMUNITY MEETING was held on August 17 when the Japantown Task Force considered the Issei garden project.

Paul Osaki again presented the project. Marvin Lambert again opposed it.

“It’s not possible this project can happen this year,” Lambert said. “Let’s just find another location in Japantown.”

But two of his neighbors disagreed, and spoke in favor of the project.

“It’s ideal for this garden,” said Jeff Staben, who owns 1 Cottage Row.

“The park is a perfect location for such a memorial,” said Jan Bolaffi, the former longtime president of the Western Addition Neighborhood Association. “It may not be possible to get it done this year, but it can surely be completed next year.”

Osaki said he would take up the project with the staff of the Department of Recreation and Parks, which has jurisdiction over the Cottage Row Mini Park, before deciding how to proceed. Additional neighborhood meetings will be held this month by committees of the Japantown Task Force.

June 23 - November 6, 2016

## Cinco y Cinco / Five and Five

Victor Cartagena

Rolando Castellon

Adriana Castro

Ana de la Cueva

Lewis deSoto

John Jota Leaños

Gera Lozano

Geri Montano

Bernardo Roman Palau

Gustavo Ramos Rivera

Bernardo Roman Palau, *Cinco y Cinco* (Five and Five), 2016, Oil paint on canvas

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### In Conversation: Curators and Artists

Aug. 25	7pm - 8pm	DeWitt Cheng, Art Writer and Curator, Stanford Art Spaces, in conversation with Anthony Torres
Sept. 22	7pm - 8pm	Anthony Torres, Curator, <i>Cinco y Cinco</i> , in conversation with artist Geri Montano
Oct. 27	7pm - 8pm	Anthony Torres, Curator, <i>Cinco y Cinco</i> , in conversation with artist Bernardo Palau
Oct. 29	5pm - 7pm	Closing Reception

Featuring ten contemporary artists from the U.S., Mexico, and Latin America, the exhibition explores connections, commonalities, and differences in the artists’ values, art practices, and visual sensibilities, revealing diverse histories, intellectual discourses, and modes of self-representation.

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### WELCOME THE NEW YEAR with meaning and joy

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Sunday, October 2, 7:30 pm

Monday, October 3, 10 am

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Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, October, 12, 10 am with programs through 6 pm

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## CRIME WATCH

### Weapons Possession, Resisting a Police Officer Divisadero and Waller July 7, 7:50 p.m.

Dispatch received a report of an individual, described as a white male wearing a dark top and dark pants, who was threatening people with a baton. When officers arrived, they recognized him from prior contacts; he had resisted arrest in the past. The man was irritated with the police for stopping him. They ordered him to get on the ground. He refused several verbal commands to surrender, then fled. Officers chased him on foot and tackled him. While pinned down, he continued to fight. After a brief struggle, he was taken into custody.

Officers searched the suspect and found a black baton in his pocket. Two officers were injured during the incident; both had pain in the knees and one had scrapes on his legs. The suspect complained of pain in his feet and was transported to S.F. General. Officers seized his clothing for evidence. After the suspect was treated and released from the hospital, he was transported to county jail.

### Robbery Attempt With Knife Polk and Turk July 14, 12:26 a.m.

A man was waiting at a bus stop when three men approached him. One said, "Give me all your shit!" Then he pulled out a knife and cut the victim's forearm. The man shouted at them, then spotted a passing police car. He ran toward it, while the three robbers fled.

Officers broadcast a description of the assailants to other units, then gave chase on foot. After a brief pursuit, and with the help of additional officers, all three suspects were taken into custody.

The man who was attacked identified the suspects and refused medical attention. At Northern Station, a computer check revealed all three suspects were juveniles. Two had been reported missing, and there was an outstanding warrant for the other's arrest. The three were transported to the juvenile justice center for booking.

### Stolen Vehicle California and 14th July 31, 5:13 p.m.

A man returned to his parked car and discovered it had been stolen. He called the police, who tracked the vehicle through his iPhone, which he had left in his car. They located it at California and 14th. A man was sitting inside the car. Additional police officers responded; they approached the vehicle and detained the suspect. The car thief was in possession of several items of stolen property, including the missing iPhone. The suspect was

arrested and booked on felony charges.

### Assault With a Caustic Chemical Park Presidio and Lake August 7, 11:22 p.m.

A man who had stopped for a light at an intersection realized the car in front of him wasn't moving when the light turned green. He signaled the driver with a quick honk to let her know the light had changed. Instead of proceeding forward, the driver in the car ahead of him got out of her vehicle, approached him and asked him to roll down his window. When he did so, she sprayed pepper spray at him and his passengers. Then she jumped back into her car and fled south. The suspect is an Asian female from 30 to 40 years old, weighing about 130 pounds and about 5'8" tall, with dark hair.

### Robbery With Force Clement and 5th August 9, 3:28 a.m.

A man walking west on Clement Street was tackled to the ground by three men. They struck him several times in the face and took his iPhone and wallet. The men then got into a silver Buick, which sped north on 5th Avenue. The suspects are three white males between 22 and 26 years old. The matter is still under investigation.

### Stolen Vehicle Turk and Baker August 13, 6:32 p.m.

A man returned to the street where he had parked his car to find it missing. He called the police to report the burglary. Police have no suspects at this time.

### Theft Broderick and Turk August 13, 7:08 p.m.

A man returned home to find his bicycle was missing from his garage, along with several additional items. He reported the theft to the police. The incident is still under investigation.

### Vehicle Burglary Golden Gate and Masonic August 21, 9:25 p.m.

A man called the police to report that someone had broken into his rental car and stolen several items. The incident is still under investigation.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** All information in this month's Crime Watch column comes from Richmond Station, which serves the area of the neighborhood west of Divisadero Street. Despite repeated requests, no new information was released this month from Northern Station, which serves the area east of Divisadero.

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By Fran Johns

A MAGIC ACT of sorts happens in the neighborhood every weekend. Forest Books, a small treasure house of used and rare books at 1748 Buchanan, on Japantown’s Buchanan Mall, transforms itself every Saturday morning into a quiet spot for Soto Zen meditation. From 9:30 to noon, bookshelves are rolled back, shoji screens set up, pillows brought out of the children’s reading nook — and proprietor Gregory Wood, a student and teacher of Zen Buddhism, leads a *zazen*, or seated meditation, in the dimly lit space.

One recent Saturday, a small group of participants settled onto cushions, their spines perfectly straight. Bends in the screen provided a personal space of sorts. Meditation requires concentrating on posture and breath, Wood explains. Good posture opens up the spine to permit deep breathing. There is no slouching.

After 30 minutes of sitting meditation, a small bell rings, the signal for *kinhin*: a walking meditation interspersing the *zazen* periods. Beginning with slow, measured steps, then picking up the pace after a moment or two, the group circles below several incense-bearing altars, occasionally pausing to bow with hands together in a prayerful position. But no one is bowing to the Buddha, “who was just a guy,” Wood explains. “We are cultivating the three active elements: stillness, silence and radiance through the pace and the pause.”

Wood says meditation leads to clarity and calmness. “After meditation, the mind is more receptive,” he says. “There is wisdom associated with emptiness, and calmness lends stability.”



Gregory Wood, owner of Forest Books, is also a student and teacher of Zen Buddhism.

## Meditating at the Bookstore

On Saturday mornings, Forest Books celebrates silence

Stillness and silence settle over the space so completely it’s easy to forget the books all around. But during regular hours (Sunday through Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon to 9 p.m.) they are the heart of Forest Books. In keeping with the mood of meditation, its shelves have sections on Buddhism, poetry, art, Japanese culture and an assortment of

other serene themes. The store’s rare books cabinet also includes a first edition *Manual of Zen Buddhism* from 1935 signed by the revered Japanese author and teacher Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki.

“Our purpose here is to cultivate and express peace,” Wood says.

Wood became a Buddhist as a teenager after he saw a picture of a Buddhist monk

immolating himself and was struck by that ultimate expression of adherence to belief. He and his best friend got a book on Buddhist teaching, and by the time they had finished exploring one of the questions — “What is this?” — Wood knew he had found his spiritual practice. During the long Vietnam war, he was a conscientious objector.

“The simple assertion that I did not want to kill anybody was not enough,” he says. Enrolled at San Francisco State as a student in literature, psychology and comparative religions, he could receive a draft deferment for one semester. But at the end of each semester he was required to appeal again for conscientious objector status. “It was more than anything psychological pressure on resisters, people who were against government policies,” he says. The process did, however, keep him from having to kill anybody and it led him, after a career in Silicon Valley, to open Forest Books. “A bookstore was a business that offers a way to do the least harm,” he says.

Wood studied with American Soto Zen master Zentatsu Richard Baker, who is credited with building the San Francisco Zen Center into its current prominence. He studied at Crestone Mountain Zen Center in Colorado and regularly returns for retreats. For him, it’s a reminder of one of the Buddha’s sayings: “The road is full of dust and toil; come to the side of the road and rest.”

Wood’s side of the road, his bookstore on Buchanan just south of Sutter Street, is strictly peaceful on Saturday mornings. “I think of it as ‘right livelihood,’ ” Wood says. “It’s a way I can interact with people and offer them peace and happiness.”

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# The Story of Our Adoption

BY KEN DAIGLE

MY HUSBAND JD Schramm and I have been on the most amazing journey of our lives: the journey to fatherhood.

We decided to become parents to a child — or children — who needed us and what we have to offer. That decision has stretched us beyond our limits and has limited us in ways we could not have expected. Yet each and every painful or joyful step has brought us to a place of peace, a place of joy and a place of surrender.

In February 2014, we were asked by a young pregnant woman to raise her son because she knew she could not. We flew down to Houston the day before her scheduled c-section. When the baby was born, we held him, fed him and changed his diaper as we waited for him to be released from the hospital. My congregation in San Francisco was so excited for JD and me that they were calling the office all day long. So we decided to blog about the experience and post daily updates and pictures on our Facebook page and in the church newsletter.

On the third day, the birth mother changed her mind and told us that, with the help of her own mother, she was going to raise her son herself. As we packed to leave Houston, I sat down to write my congregation and our followers on Facebook. I told them how much it hurt, but that we were holding to principle: Our good, our happiness, our well-being does not come at the cost of someone else's happiness or peace of mind.

Less than a week later, we received a phone call from Sandra, a woman from



JD Schramm and Ken Daigle with their newborn daughter Roma and their son Tobias.

## ■ TELLING YOUR STORY

The course that inspired this article, "Writing the Story Within," taught by writer-coach Francine Brevetti, will be offered again at Unity on Thursday evenings from Sept. 15 to Oct. 20. For more information, go to [UnitySF.com](http://UnitySF.com) or call 415-474-0440.

Bakersfield, who told us she had read our story online and that she and her husband wanted to conceive and place their child with us. After chatting on the phone for weeks, we met the couple and their beautiful children and asked the same questions over and over again: "Can you really place a child you carry with us? What would your parents say?" One by one, they assuaged our fears and won us over. We encouraged them to have as much sex as possible.

JD and I also decided that while we waited to see if Sandra got pregnant, we would continue to pursue foster adoption. We knew there were many children in foster care — 40,000 in California alone.

I went to the social services agency that had approved us, and trained us, to look through the stacks and stacks of children waiting to be adopted. As I narrowed the search down to a dozen children, one kept popping off the page. The picture of him

was adorable: 15 years old, standing on top of some rock, on top of some hill, in a muscle shirt and flexing, looking as if he had not a care in the world. Yet I knew that had to be far from the truth.

The social workers asked us to be certain before they would introduce us to him. They also reported that despite everything he had been through, "He still dreams of being adopted and to have a forever family." By the end of that meeting, although we had not spoken the word to each other, JD and I knew we were going to say "yes."

Our son moved into our house on October 14, 2014, two days after his 16th birthday.

I often say the good you are looking for is already in your life, or is already looking for you. That wonderful and beautiful family in Bakersfield was already in our lives, following us as friends on Facebook, but we didn't know it. That child on top of the rock flexing his muscles, who today is our 17-year-old son, was looking for a family.

About a month after our son moved in, Sandra called to let us know she was one month pregnant. The week we became parents of our son, our daughter was conceived. On July 12, 2015, JD and I were in the hospital room when our daughter was born; JD cut the cord and I was the first to hold and feed Roma. This month, Tobias's adoption was finalized and we are learning each day just how to be a family.

We could not have scripted this adventure if we had tried.

*Ken Daigle is the spiritual leader and chief executive officer of Unity SF at 2222 Bush Street.*

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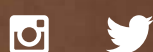
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# ‘Eternal Life Condos’ a Hit at St. Dominic’s

City’s only Catholic columbarium, built in 2012, is nearly sold out

By Chris Barnett

FOR DEVOUT Catholics who plan ahead and believe in eternal life, a meeting with Judie Doherty might be wise. She is the overseer of the most desirable property of its kind in San Francisco — a final resting place in the columbarium at St. Dominic’s Church at 2390 Bush Street.

Inside the Gothic-style church, with its flying buttresses and roots that date back to 1873, are the final 48 of the original 320 niches reserved for the cremated remains of parishioners of St. Dominic’s.

The placement of the columbarium in the church makes it prime property. “It’s within the Friars Chapel behind the grand main altar of the church and along the ambulatory walkway that encircles the altar,” says Father Michael Hurley, the pastor of St. Dominic’s. “It’s where the Dominican brothers would meet and say the different daily prayers.”

Doherty, a St. Dominic’s parishioner and a former senior vice president of San Francisco’s McKesson Corp., has the energy of an entrepreneur and the sensitivity of a salesperson who deals in delicate wares — and a wry sense of humor.

A driving force in launching the columbarium in 2010, she describes the



“It’s within the Friars Chapel behind the grand main altar of the church (left) and along the ambulatory walkway (right) that encircles the altar,” says Father Michael Hurley, pastor of St. Dominic’s.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROSE HODGES

12x12x12-inch niches — stainless steel on the inside with a marble facing on the outside — as “ELCs, or eternal life condos.”

All niches in the columbarium will accommodate one or two people. When it opened, prices ranged from \$4,700 up to \$16,200; however, the 48 remaining niches now range from \$10,700 to \$16,200.

“It’s about location, location, location,” Doherty says. The higher priced niches are inside the Friars Chapel, which she calls “the best seats in the house.” All prices

include the name and pertinent dates of the deceased, engraved in marble.

There are also additional options for honoring the deceased. There is a large Wall of Remembrance with memorial plaques available at \$300 each. The “remembered” does not have to be a parishioner or connected to the church, says Doherty.

St. Dominic’s, with 3,400 registered parishioners, has made internment in the columbarium financially straightforward. There is one charge and payments can

be made in equal amounts over 12 to 18 months, with no interest on the outstanding balance. Ten percent of the niches are set aside at a reduced price for low income and indigent registered parishioners.

But Doherty insists interment in the columbarium at St. Dominic’s is “about being in your church forever, about being in a sacred place. It is about preplanning. It’s not about the money.”

Doherty is a true believer. She was a key player — along with a team of church lead-



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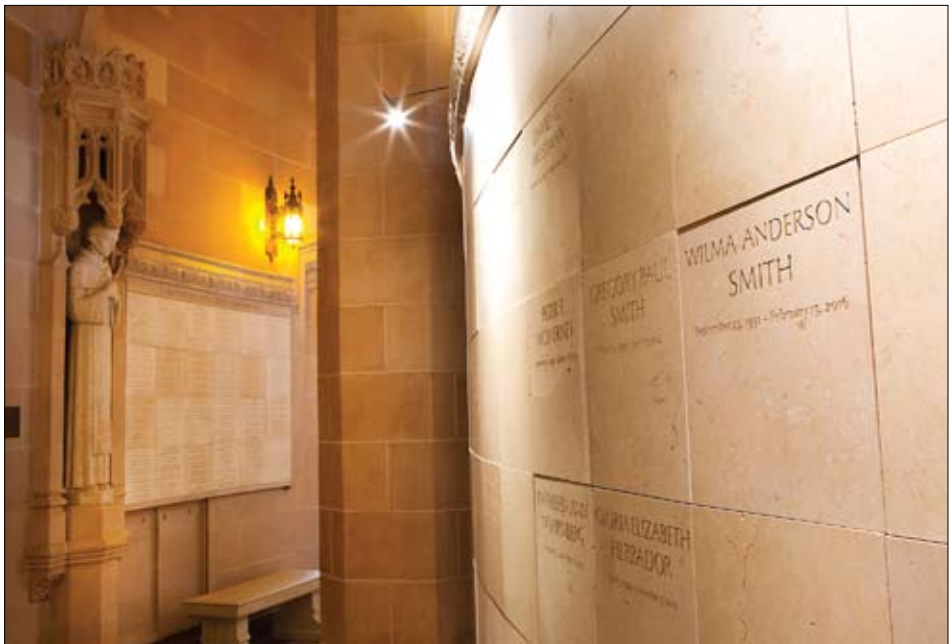
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ers including former pastor Father Xavier Lavagetto, tax attorney Donald Fitzgerald, church administrator Michael Rossi and other parishioners — in creating the columbarium at St. Dominic’s. Her motivation: Doherty’s own mother’s cremains were in her home, and the idea her mother would have a final resting place in her church was, she says, “extremely comforting.”

Getting permission to create a columbarium was no small undertaking. The Catholic Church had a worldwide ban on cremation until 1963. But it was not until 2012 that St. Dominic’s became the first — and still the only — Catholic church in San Francisco to offer a columbarium to its parishioners.

The Neptune Society of Northern California operates a secular and architecturally distinctive columbarium at Stanyan and Anza, and four Episcopal churches in San Francisco also have onsite columbariums.

“The tradition of burying folks in a

church goes all the way back to the very beginning of the church,” says Father Hurley. “The first places of Catholic worship were cemeteries — actually the Roman catacombs, the tunnels for burials where Christians would go to worship to avoid persecution.”

As Father Hurley explains it, the Catholic Church opposed traditional cremation for so many years because the disintegration of the body would thwart the resurrection of body and spirit. “In this contemporary age, cremation is permissible for practical and financial reasons as long as it is not an implicit denial of the resurrection of the body,” he says.

When the niches all sell, can the columbarium at St. Dominic’s be expanded, even double decked under the church’s soaring ceiling?

A cryptic question indeed.

“Any discussion of that would be very preliminary,” says Hurley. “Right now, we are focused on filling the niches we have.”

# Missing: The Old Rugged Cross

ON THURSDAY, August 17, probably in broad daylight, a thief broke through the locked steel-plated bottom of a custom-constructed case made of gold and shatterproof glass and stole a priceless relic — authenticated tiny fragments of wood from the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. It was on display for parishioners and visitors at St. Dominic’s Catholic Church.

“I don’t believe it has any monetary value,” says Michael Rossi, the church administrator. “But for people of faith, who believe that Christ was crucified, a piece of the true cross is invaluable.”

Father Michael Hurley, pastor of St. Dominic’s, says: “We’re praying for a miracle. If someone knows anything about it, please return it in an envelope with my name on it. We would just take it back, no

questions asked.” A sign reading “Stolen Relic” is affixed to the case and makes a similar plea for its safe return.

The relic was donated to the church five years ago by a parishioner who had lost her two sons, according to Hurley. It was locked in a secure reliquary made by a professional cabinetmaker and placed in the south wall of the church in front of a reproduction of Michelangelo’s Pieta, featuring Mary holding Jesus after the crucifixion.



The relic was housed in a special case in a shrine near the main altar of St. Dominic’s.

“If someone tries to sell it, they’re not going to get much for it,” says Hurley. “It’s worth far more to the devotional life of the community and of the church than it would be financially.”

A sign inside the display case states that the relic was authenticated by Pope Pius VI, the 250th pontiff, who headed the Catholic Church from 1775 to 1779. The thief left behind the wax papal seal said to be from the 1700s.

— CHRIS BARNETT

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Jean Rochefort stars in the French film *Floride* as a feisty octogenarian determined to live independently.



# FilmFest on Aging Returns to J-town

By SHEILA MALKIND

FROM September 16 to 18, the New People Cinema in Japantown will again host the annual Legacy Film Festival on Aging — the only three-day festival uniquely devoted to films on aging, now in its sixth year.

This year’s festival showcases documentaries and narrative films from the United States, Japan, Holland, France, Spain, Belgium and New Zealand — and once again includes several films about local subjects by Bay Area filmmakers.

The 15 films that make up the seven programs represent important aspects of aging: The Art of Living; Who Cares?; Deep Learning; Generations; Memory; Life, Death and Love; and the upbeat closing program, Gotta Dance!

Each film is followed by a lively post-screening

Q&A session led by filmmakers, film subjects and aging experts.

People sometimes balk at the word “aging” in the title of our festival. But that often leads to a discussion of the most politically correct word for adding years to life. Presently “older adult” has superseded the formerly popular “senior.” From our point of view, aging is a dynamic moving process, not a freeze frame.

And it needn’t be a bleak one. A recent study from the Yale School of Public Health, for example, showed that older people who were subliminally exposed to positive stereotypes about aging can demonstrate improved physical functioning that persists for several weeks.

Without denying the challenges, our films depict adaptation to life’s changes and the potential for growth throughout the human life cycle. They spotlight contemporary issues:

- One of the opening night films, *A New Color: The Art of Being Edythe Boone*, is a joyful and heartwarming story about community, art and lives that matter.
  - *Queen Mimi*, one of two films in the “Who Cares?” segment, is a documentary about a 70-year-old homeless woman who finds a warm home in a laundromat and, thanks to a kind owner, lives there for the next 20 years.
  - *Remember Me*, starring local celeb and Academy Award winner Rita Moreno, delivers unexpected twists and turns when two adult cousins are charged with delivering their grandmother to an assisted living facility.
  - In *Florida (Floride)*, a French film with English subtitles, a feisty octogenarian wages a comedic battle with living independently despite increasing bouts of forgetfulness and confusion — and hectoring from his oldest daughter.
  - *Albertine* underscores the life and psychic changes an elderly widow experiences when her head gets turned by a gentleman in her apartment building who comes to help change a lightbulb.
  - And *Deep Learning* consists of two robot-centered films that explore how technology may provide supplementary aids to caregivers, and also stimulate curiosity and playfulness.
- The mission of the Film Festival on Aging has remained unchanged: to educate, entertain and inspire intergenerational audiences about the issues surrounding aging.
- Judging by some of the responses from previous festivalgoers in post-film evaluations, we are fulfilling our mission. A sampling of the responses:
- “I can’t think of anything more inspiring than seeing how others cope.”
- “Made me want to live until 90.”
- “These films help us live our lives with respect, courage and value.”

Sheila Malkind is executive director of the Legacy Film Festival on Aging, which runs from Friday to Sunday, September 16 to 18, at New People Cinema, 1746 Post Street. For tickets and more information, go to [legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org](http://legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org).

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# An Anti-Victorian Pair of Townhouses

Built in 1898 as Pacific Heights expanded westward into Presidio Heights

By BRIDGET MALEY

THE TWO English-inspired Tudor style townhouses at 3356 and 3362 Jackson Street are a perfectly matched set. Built for George and Ruth Beveridge in 1898, this charming Presidio Heights ensemble was designed by the short-lived architectural partnership of Newton J. Tharp and Edward L. Holmes.

George Beveridge, a successful miner who made considerable investments in Mexico, married Ruth Coffin in 1895. Two years later, he purchased the double lot on Jackson Street and commissioned Tharp and Holmes to design two abutting, well-appointed townhouses — one for the Beveridges to occupy and the other to sell or rent.

The household, settled in at 3362 Jackson, at first consisted of Ruth and George Beveridge; their daughter, Frances; Mrs. R.J. Coffin, Ruth's mother; and Kitty O'Leary, the Beveridges' Irish nanny.

Between 1895 and 1910, as Pacific Heights expanded westward into Presidio Heights, significant homes and apartment buildings were designed and built in the vicinity, including:

- Ernest Coxhead's hillside houses in the 3200 block of Pacific Avenue (1902-1904)

- the shingled apartments at 100 Walnut Street by Walter Mathews (1903)

- three shingled houses by Albert Farr in the 3300 block of Pacific for Edward Bullard and brothers Robert and Hugh Postlethwaite (1903)

- Julia Morgan's 3377 Pacific (1908)
- Bernard Maybeck's Roos House at Jackson and Locust (1909).

The twin Tudor-themed townhouses are an early contribution to this burgeoning residential enclave that attracted the city's best architects, catering to some of its wealthiest citizens. The 1905 Sanborn Map indicates a center cluster of houses in the block bounded by Jackson, Walnut, Laurel and Pacific, including Tharp's twin townhouses and Farr's three shingled gems for Bullard and the Postlethwaite brothers. In an iconic photograph of Farr's shingled Presidio wall grouping, the westernmost of the two duplexes designed by Tharp and Holmes appears in the background.

Tharp, not as well known as some of his contemporaries, was an Iowan who received architectural training in Chicago, then studied in Paris and traveled in Europe before apprenticing in Chicago and New York. He settled in San Francisco in 1889, working in the office of Edward R. Swain. A *Chronicle* announcement on



The Tudor style townhouses at 3356 and 3362 Jackson Street are a perfectly matched set.

March 12, 1897 noted: "Newton J. Tharp, the designer and draughtsman, has gone to Europe and will be absent from eight to ten months. The cathedral towns of France and England and the triumphs of the Renaissance in Italy will be the special objects of his study."

Shortly after Tharp's return, he began designing the attractive townhouses on Jackson, no doubt inspired by English cottages viewed during his travels. The January 1, 1898, *Chronicle* reported: "George K. Beveridge will soon commence the construction of two residences on the north side of Jackson Street, between Walnut and

Laurel, on plans by Tharp & Holmes. They will cost about \$11,000."

Tharp's brief partnership with Holmes appears to have ended in the summer of 1901 when the *Chronicle* reported that Tharp had "retained the old offices of the former Tharp & Holmes, and has considerable work under way." One of the architect's best known commissions, the Dewey Monument in Union Square, commemorates Admiral Dewey's 1898 victory at Manila Bay. Tharp's other projects include a Stanford University fraternity house for Sigma Alpha Epsilon and at least two other Presidio Heights residences, one for



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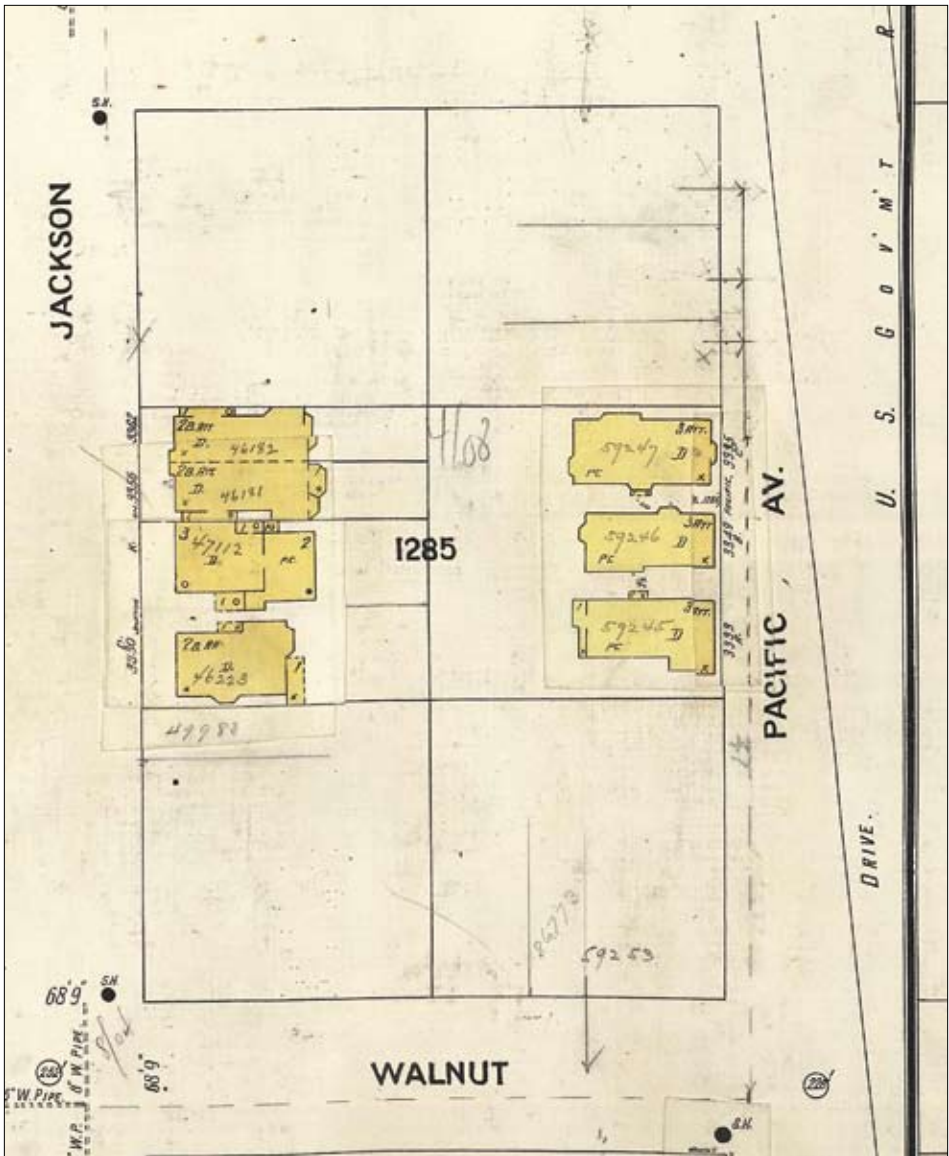
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The 1905 Sanborn map shows a cluster of houses in the center of the block, and little else.

Wallace Bradford at the northwest corner of Clay and Maple, and one for Belle F. Lee on the south side of Jackson west of Locust.

Tharp was also a writer and critic, publishing a long, scathing article in the December 1900 issue of *Overland Monthly*

titled “What Bad There Is and Good There Might Be in Inexpensive Architecture.” He lamented the buildings of the day, and bemoaned “how much better they would look divested of all their false work and milled ornament,” and instead depended upon “the rustic boarding with well pro-



The two duplexes are visible uphill behind Albert Farr’s shingled Presidio wall grouping.

portioned openings and a logical roofing for an architectural effect.” His Jackson Street townhouses for the Beveridges illustrate this new anti-Victorian architecture embraced by many Bay Area architects.

After the destruction of the 1906 earthquake and fire, Tharp was appointed city architect. Over the next few years, he was responsible for well-designed firehouses and schools, as well as Clarendon Hall at Laguna Honda Hospital. Active in the arts and the business community, Tharp was a member of the Bohemian Club. He married Laura Hanna of Los Angeles in 1892.

While visiting New York to inspect and study newly designed schools and hospitals, Tharp became sick and died quite unexpectedly. The May 13, 1909, *Chronicle* in a special dispatch from New York recounted that Tharp “died at the Hotel Knickerbacker early this morning. He was taken suddenly ill last week with an attack of grip, but his ailment was not considered serious until yesterday, when heart failure developed.”

The Beveridges lived at 3362 Jackson until about 1905, when they moved to a larger residence at 43 Presidio Avenue. A subsequent resident was Frederick Patek, a butcher. By 1925, and until his death in 1948, architect Samuel L. Hyman owned the house. Hyman was a prolific architect, with many commissions within San Francisco’s vibrant Jewish community, including the seven-story Mt. Zion nurse’s building (1925, demolished); the Hebrew Home for the Aged (1923); the Eureka Benevolent Society Building (1930-31, altered) and the Sinai Memorial Chapel (1937). Hyman’s neighbor, developer Laurence A. Myers at 3434 Jackson, was often his client.

The easternmost of the two townhouses, 3356 Jackson, was occupied by James Ellis Tucker, a financial agent, from 1899 to about 1902. Later the townhouse was home to Andrew Carrigan, then Emmanuel Lederman, a real estate agent. For a long time, it was owned by Howard Salz, a tanner with operations in San Francisco, Benicia and Santa Cruz.

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1702 Broderick St	1	1	1	760	41	7/29/2016	695,000	750,000
1856 Franklin St #8	1	1	1	719	23	7/19/2016	699,000	765,000
1835 Franklin St #403	2	2	1	1,400	114	7/28/2016	1,099,000	850,000
2133 Pine St	2	2	0	n/a	47	7/27/2016	849,000	850,000
2475 Sutter St	2	1	1	900	19	7/22/2016	885,000	890,000
1840 Washington St #603	1	1	1	837	96	8/8/2016	1,050,000	945,000
2121 Laguna St #26	2	2	1	n/a	20	7/27/2016	898,000	1,015,000
2172 Pacific Ave #3	1	1	1	891	4	7/29/2016	1,050,000	1,100,000
2921 Washington St #6	1	1	1	1,070	13	8/2/2016	1,195,000	1,205,000
2075 Sutter St #517	2	2	1	1,035	17	7/29/2016	949,000	1,275,000
1755 Filbert St #J	2	2	2	1,475	62	8/9/2016	1,475,000	1,350,000
3051 California St	4	4	2	2,047	128	7/26/2015	1,995,000	1,375,000
1770 Pacific Ave #302	2	2	1	1,500	52	8/4/2016	1,595,000	1,375,000
1650 Broadway #203	2	2	2	1,120	57	7/29/2016	1,450,000	1,445,000
3124 Clay St	3	2	1	n/a	11	8/4/2016	1,425,000	1,695,000
1800 Gough St #3	3	3	1	3,455	37	8/2/2016	2,700,000	2,550,000
3233 Jackson St #1	4	4	1	n/a	16	7/15/2016	6,250,000	6,250,000



DICKIE SPRITZER

**A great view is always in demand**

While the highest end of the housing market has been slowing in San Francisco over the past few months, buyers will still pay big prices for properties in prime condition in locations that also offer top-shelf views.

Such was the case with 2755 Fillmore Street (above), which sold for its asking price of \$13.25 million in late July. Many industry insiders were surprised at the high price, given that the home traded less than three years ago for around \$10 million. To put the most recent sale in perspective, it netted nearly \$2,600 per square foot — a big number even in Pacific Heights, where single-family homes sold for an average of about \$1,700 per square foot during the last year.

The four-bedroom, 5,142-square-foot home, extensively renovated in 2013, has a contemporary design and showed well during open houses. But perhaps its biggest selling point is its view of the bay, Alcatraz Island, the Palace of Fine Arts and the Golden Gate Bridge. Even in a market gradually normalizing after a frenetic few years, a sale like this demonstrates that the luxury segment remains resilient.

— Data and commentary provided by PATRICK BARBER, president of Pacific Union. Contact him at [patrick.barber@pacunion.com](mailto:patrick.barber@pacunion.com) or call 415-345-3001.



**SOFT STORY PROPERTY OWNERS: Your permit application is DUE!**

If you are a property owner of a multi-unit building with 3-stories and 15+ units, your permit application is due by **September 15, 2016, which is less than 15 days away.**

Turn in your permit application to DBI by September 15 to avoid getting this placard and a Notice of Violation on your property.

Find out if your property is on the list by visiting [sfdbi.org/soft-story-properties-list](http://sfdbi.org/soft-story-properties-list).





FROM THE ARCHIVES

30 YEARS AGO

Harry’s on Fillmore opens

Editor & Publisher David Ish writes: “It was great to see Harry finally open his doors after almost a year of effort and many months of nothing happening. I think everyone was rooting for him, and opening night there was so crowded I thought I was back in New York City. . . . The burgers are absolutely ace. I think he has a definite winner on his hands. Welcome to the neighborhood, which seems to be having a store opening at the rate of about one a week.”

**FILLAMENTO A RISING STAR:** For one heady week in August 1986, Fillamento owner Iris Fuller and her staff became actors, actresses and assistant crew for an entirely new marketing concept: an entertainment shopping video. Known as a trendsetter, the Fillmore shopowner has done it again by committing time and money to an innovative MTV-style video mail-order catalog.

20 YEARS AGO

‘Streetscaping’ in the jazz district

The Jazz Preservation District project of the Redevelopment Agency took another step forward with the awarding of a \$472,000 contract to Michael Willis & Associates to provide a “streetscape” design for Fillmore Street from Turk Street to Sutter Street — with particular attention being paid to the Geary Boulevard overpass — for the purpose of providing a unified look and feel.

**LUISA’S PACBAG:** At long last, the black hole at the corner of Fillmore and Pine is no more. This month Pacific Heights Bar and Grill is reopening as Luisa’s Pacific Heights Bar and Grill, under the ownership of one of San Francisco’s finest Italian restaurateurs. Luisa’s Pacbag will be Italian, of course, but with a seafood flair. The oyster bar will be reopened and well stocked. [Ed. note: Luisa’s never opened.]

10 YEARS AGO

Sculpture on the park

For years, the dog walkers in Alta Plaza Park watched the construction site at the top of Jackson Street. Two townhouses disappeared and builders began constructing one house where two had been. Architect Olle Lundberg, the wonderboy behind the design, has succeeded in creating at 2606 Jackson a see-through house that reads like a piece of modern sculpture, while celebrating the views of the bay to the north and the park to the south.

**THE FAMILY DOG:** Built in the 1890s in the Eastlake Stick style, the home at 2148 Pine Street occupies an incredible position in the illustrious history of San Francisco. This house served as a base for one of the most famous parts of San Francisco’s 20th century history: the ‘60s Love & Peace movement. The block was called the “Dog House” because many of the homes from 2125 to 2148 Pine were occupied by The Family Dog, a gathering of people headed by Chet Helms, and including singer Janis Joplin, who helped define the psychedelic movement of the ‘60s.



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6:30 & 8:00 am & 5:30 pm

SATURDAY

7:40 am Rosary, 8:00 am Mass

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and into the early evening.

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Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

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Sun 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

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Tue & Fri 8:30 pm



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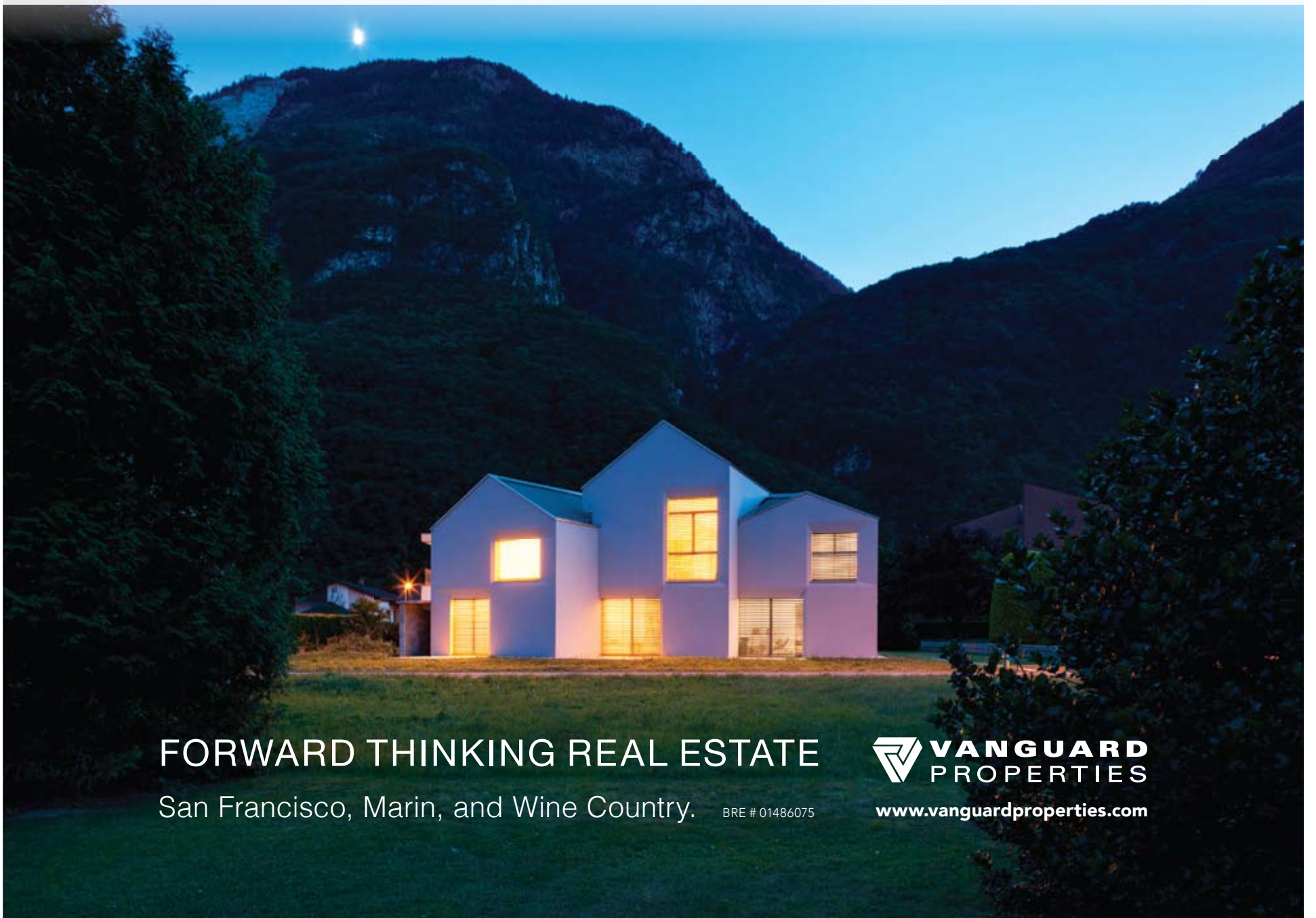
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