

# SEASIDE Prize™ Recap

*The Seaside Institute reflects on how our built environment plays an integral part in shaping who we are and how we live*

By Kimberly Stanley

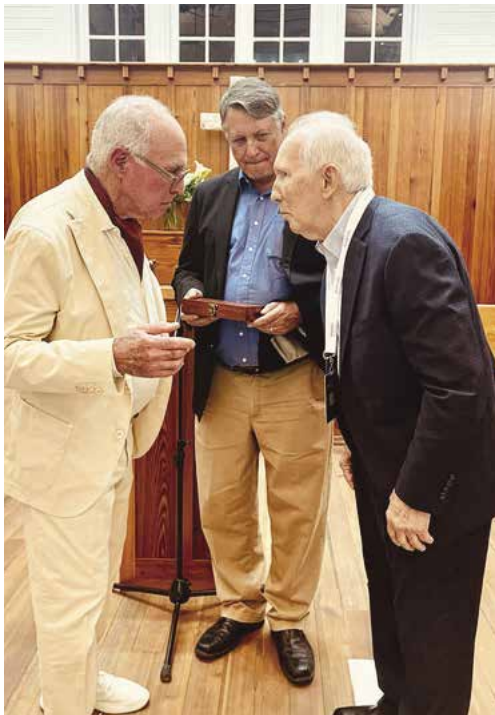
The Seaside Prize is more than an event. It's a celebration of the individuals who have dedicated their careers to transforming communities through innovative design and thoughtful planning by using the concepts and principles of New Urbanism. This year's 30th celebration, held Feb. 2-4, was even more special, as it included the sister towns of Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach. The weekend of symposia, walking tours, and awards brought together visionaries, architects, urban planners, community leaders and supporters to commemorate decades of progress and inspiration.

The celebration kicked off in Rosemary Beach with a stroll through SO-WAL House for guests to savor a signature cocktail (hosted by Distillery 98 and Odd Pelican Brewing Co.) before taking part in a town tour, led by Andrés Duany, a pioneer in the New Urbanism movement. The evening continued with a reception at The Pearl, before guests filled Rosemary Beach Town Hall for the keynote address, delivered by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk of DPZ CoDesign.

The heart of the weekend's festivities unfolded in Seaside on Saturday, with a series of symposia featuring notable speakers Bernice Radle (Buffalove Development), Allan Branch (Panama City entrepreneur), Dr. Philip Stoddard (former mayor of South Miami), John Simmerman (Active Towns podcast), John Massengale (former Seaside® Town Architect), Victor Dover (Dover, Kohl, and Partners) and Joe Kohl (Dover, Kohl, and Partners). These presentations delved into topics ranging from historic preservation to sustainable urban development, inspiring attendees with innovative ideas and practical solutions.

After lunch, attendees participated in walking tours of Seaside, led by Robert Davis, Micah Davis and Larry Davis. There was also an opportunity for attendees to purchase signed books by Daryl Davis (*The SEASIDE Style*), Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk (*The New Civic Art and Suburban Nation*), John Massengale and Victor Dover (*Street Design* coauthors).

The highlight of the weekend was Saturday's Awards Ceremony, held in the Seaside Chapel, where this year's



Robert Davis, Joe Kohl and Edward F. San Juan at the awards ceremony. Photo by Christy Milliken

recipients, Victor Dover and Joe Kohl, were honored for their contributions. Their firm, Dover, Kohl, and Partners was responsible for leading the revitalization efforts in Panama City following the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in 2018. Seaside Founder Robert Davis presented each recipient with a key to the town, delicately housed in a handcrafted wooden box made by E.F. San Juan. The evening concluded with a dinner hosted by Bud & Alley's Waterfront Restaurant.

On Sunday, the weekend festivities concluded with a Caliza brunch and 20th Town Anniversary Celebration hosted by Alys Beach. This was followed by a tour of Alys Beach, led by town architect, Marianne Khoury-Vogt (Khoury Vogt Architects). Attendees were invited back to Seaside to view the Escape to Create Exhibit, hosted by Anne Hunter Galleries.

While the Seaside Prize is filled with a weekend of celebration, it is also a reminder of the enduring legacy of those who imagine a better future for our cities, towns and communities. In honoring the principles of New Urbanism, this annual celebration inspires everyone to continue striving for inclusive, sustainable and vibrant communities for generations to come. It also allows us to reflect on the transformative power of design and how our built environment plays an integral part in shaping who we are and how we live. 🌊



The Seaside Prize key in its handcrafted wooden box by Edward F. San Juan. Photo by Brandon Babineux



Robert Davis leads a Seaside town tour. Photo by Brandon Babineux



Victor Dover and Joe Kohl in the early days of their work. Photo courtesy John Massengale



Joe Kohl, Robert Davis and Victor Dover at the awards ceremony. Photo by Brandon Babineux