

# A rose by another name

## Historic Rosebriar Mansion reopens as Airbnb rental

BY NIKKI DAVIDSON

**A**fter years of quiet, the historic mansion that sits at 14th Street and Franklin Avenue in Astoria is buzzing again with weekend activity.

The big white house has withstood many lives in its nearly 120 years. Originally a personal home for Frank Patton, one of Astoria's early successful businessmen, it transformed into a convent in the 50s, then a hotel in the 90s, followed by an addiction treatment center for women in 2009.

Now, it will be a hybrid space that incorporates much of the past in a brand new way.

New owners Djordje and Trudy Čitović and their kids plan to live in half of the home. The couple has begun renting out the other half of the mansion as an airbnb or event space for large groups.

The Čitovićs beamed with excitement while showing off the new common space for airbnb guests, a restored chapel, lined with stained-glass windows and antique furniture—lit by computerized color-changing LED lights. It's just one testament to how far they've come in their mission to meld the old with the new inside an aging giant.

The pair acknowledge that restoration of the 8,700 square foot, two-story home and carriage house has been a wild ride. Their journey is a rollercoaster of ups and downs that started before the deal on the property was finalized.

### Digging into the past

The day the papers to purchase the property were signed, Djordje opened the door of the old chapel to find water. More than an inch of water settling into the floor, and dripping down the walls. The drywall ceiling was dramatically sagging under the weight of a massive leak.

He recalled working on a toilet that wouldn't stop running in the room directly



The newly renovated chapel inside the Rosebriar Mansion.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A finished bedroom in a space that used to be part of the convent.

above the chapel the day before. What had seemed like a minor problem at the time was suddenly like a Tom Hanks scene in the movie "The Money Pit."

"The drywall was just holding water so I punched it to release it, and there was probably like a 10-foot hole in the ceiling," laughed



A leaking toilet created a massive hole in the chapel ceiling during the renovation process.

Djordje. "And then sure enough, the real restate agent walks in. I said 'I take full responsibility, we're still buying the place,' and she just turns around and says 'I wasn't here.'"

The mansion needed a lot of work. The Čitovićs also discovered a puzzling electrical mess from years of renovations, and a bat



Nikki Davidson

Djordje Čitović discovered the original wallpaper when stripping down the walls of the mansion.

### Behind the scenes

See videos and pictures of the Rosebriar Mansion renovation process on Instagram: @RosebriarMansion

### If You Go

636 14th St, Astoria  
info@rosebriarmansion.com  
rosebriarmansion.com

in the attic.

"There was a women's rehabilitation center here for 10 years, and unfortunately they didn't take great care of it," said Trudy. "They painted the walls lime green. I would say that the spirit of it was there, but it was it was tarnished."

See Page 9



Join CRMM for **"THE RIVERS THAT CONNECT US: EXPLORING AMERICA'S GREAT RIVERS"** Virtual Lecture - Sept 16

The Mississippi River: Centuries of River Culture, Commerce and Conservation

Register for the 4-part series at [www.crrm.org/lecture-series.html](http://www.crrm.org/lecture-series.html)

**COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM**

OPEN DAILY 9:30 TO 5:00 • 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria • 503.325.2323 • [www.crrm.org](http://www.crrm.org)

