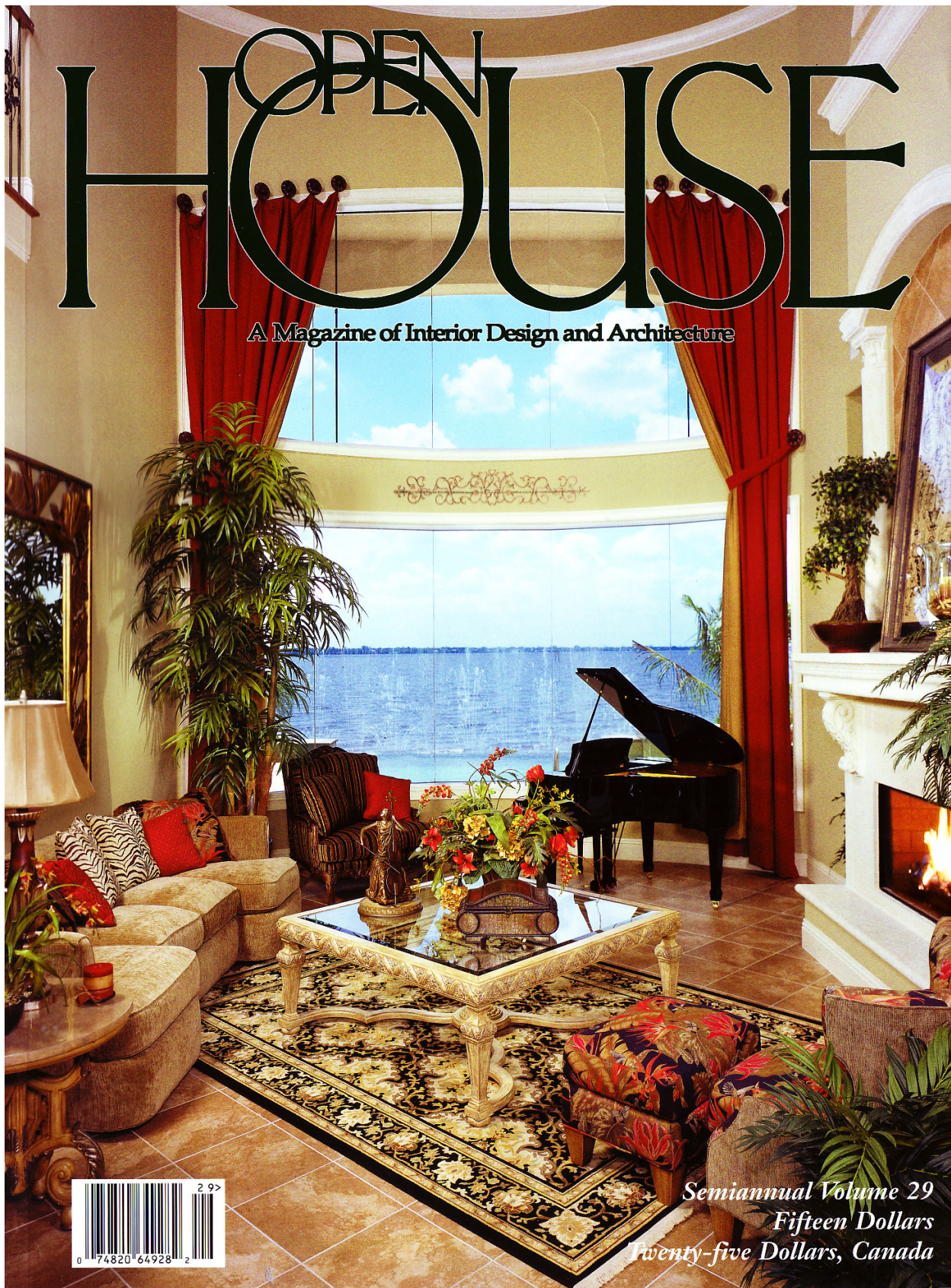


OPEN HOUSE

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Various roof lines and levels create visual interest on the front exterior.

COVER HOUSE: PUESTA DEL SOL ("THE SETTING SUN")

LIFESTYLE INTERIORS, INTERIORS
CHERYL P. ZAGER, ALLIED MEMBER A.S.I.D., INTERIOR DESIGNER
JEANELL WETHINGTON, DESIGN ASSOCIATE
BLOXHAM HOMES, GENERAL CONTRACTOR
STEVE HANDLEY, RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER
CALOOSA PROPERTIES, DEVELOPER
TOM HARPER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Puesta del Sol, "The Setting Sun," is an extraordinary estate which overlooks the Caloosahatchee River on the southwest coast of Florida. What makes it even more extraordinary is that the proceeds from the sale of this magnificent project will be donated to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Caloosa Properties was founded by Jack and Shelley Blais to develop and build waterfront estates in Southwest Florida specifically for the purpose of funding cancer research. With the intention of designing a luxurious residence with the finest of materials and appointments on an exquisite waterfront setting, the developers joined with residential designer Steve Handley, the general contracting firm of Bloxham

Homes, and the interior design firm of Lifestyle Interiors to make this goal a reality. The site itself is large enough that the design of the home could be slightly angled to relate to the front of the property as well as maximize the water views to the rear. There is a drive through porte cochere to the left which allows family or visitors to continue past to an informal parking area which leads to the family room and the kitchen. Because these areas are considered to be where people will spend much of their time, they are situated toward the back of the house where the best water views can be enjoyed. So the evolution of the design was dictated largely by the views and how they related to everyday activities. Off the porte



The waters of the negative-edge pool and the river give the illusion of coming right up to the bowed glass wall of the living room.

cochere is a three-car garage while to the right of the house is a small carriage garage. With the porte cochere leading to one garage and a colonnade leading from the other, the varied roof lines with different heights and levels began to create the aesthetics of the front of the home. Handsome touches such as keystone balustrade and window details enhance the rich feel of the exterior. An arched and columned, two-story-high entryway with custom-made, solid mahogany front doors establishes a grand sense of arrival. It is from here that one steps through the entry immediately to be enveloped in the awe-inspiring living room. One views across the room to a wall of two-story-high, bowed and mitered glass, through which the water of the disappearing, or negative, edge swimming pool seems to become one with the

waters of the Caloosahatchee. The overall illusion is that water seems very nearly to be lapping up against edge of the living room. As if this were not enough, there is the spectacular musical water fountain. This fountain features hundreds of fountain head nozzles and different colored lights. It is integrated with the sound system of the house and can be synchronized to rise and fall with the cadence of the music. In what is called "musical fireworks," the height and speed of the colors can be programmed in any number of different selections. Inside the living room and throughout the house, interior designer Cheryl P. Zager, allied member A.S.I.D., and design associate, Jenell Wethington, sought to complement the outdoor water elements with tropical touches but also wanted to maintain a strong sense of

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COVER HOUSE: PUESTA DEL SOL



Extra light and views are brought into the kitchen by the window spanning underneath the section of cabinetry which seemingly hangs suspend

comfortable elegance. Flooring is two toned and set on a diagonal to create visual interest. Above, the two-story-high ceiling is a double-stepped tray, painted in the middle, which contains indirect lighting in each step. Seating includes an upholstered sofa in a khaki-colored chenille. Two smaller chaise longue ends make it an unusual, interesting piece. The glass-topped coffee table is quite large at six feet by six feet. It is completely bench made and hand carved in Italy. Across the room, the fabric on the outer back panel of the chair matches the chenille on the sofa while the bird-of-paradise print on the inside of the chair and ottoman matches the pillows on the sofa. This large, bird-of-paradise print is in a red, almost a garnet red, with black. The bird-of-paradise motif is seen again in the carving of the frame of the mirror above the sofa. Across the room, the fireplace features keystone in the mantel, columns, corbels, and arch detail. Porcelain tile was set on a diagonal above the fireplace as a relief to artwork there. Above that, on a

molded ledge, is hand detailing to replicate ironwork. This hand-painted effect is seen again between the transom and bottom window of the glass window wall. The window wall drapery treatment is a silk-like drapery side panel on medallions. An impressive 18 feet in length, it is reversible with the garnet on one side and taupe on the other. The same treatment, but in reverse, is seen on the windows in the dining room. The dining room is to the left of the front entry, with windows facing street side. Tapered columns provide a sense of delineation while maintaining an open flow to other rooms. The space itself is huge with the soaring columns and ceiling but, remarkably, the feeling is a warm and comfortable one. Flooring is the lighter version of that in the living room; however, in the dining room, it features an inlay border of hickory which has been hand scraped to give it a very textured, European look. The flooring inlay echoes the inlay marquetry of the dining table which is hand-carved alder wood topped with inlaid bird's-eye maple

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Tapered columns give a sense of visual delineation to the dining room.

COVER HOUSE: PUESTA DEL SOL



Hosting a more masculine feel, the cigar bar and media room include a martini bar, game table, chess board, and outdoor space for smoking.

and finished in a "cognac" tone. The table is so long that there are two chandeliers above it for illumination. Dining chairs match the table except for the host and hostess chairs which are in a floral print for accent. The nearby kitchen is a gourmet's delight. A six-burner gas stove, two dishwashers, two convection ovens, and a warming oven are but a few of the features which make this a cook's paradise. The custom-made cabinetry features a finish called "burnt sienna" with "tropic brown" granite countertops. To avoid monotony in a space this large, the island was finished in a much darker tone with a black glaze. The cabinetry is accented with corbels and decorative touches. An unusual feature is where a portion of the cabinetry is suspended above



Dark bookshelves and wainscoting wrap around the media room for a rich, warm feel.



The family room faces a garden to one side and the water to the other. Sliding glass doors pocket away to integrate the outdoors with the inside.

the countertop, leaving space for a window underneath. This lets in sunlight as well as allowing those inside to see outside to the private garden. Entertainment was a major factor in the design of this home. There is what is called the "cigar bar and media room" on the second level and, on the opposite wing, also on the second level, a separate game room with wet bar, refrigerator, dishwasher, and microwave. The cigar bar is very masculine in feel with a martini bar, roulette table, chess board, and a separate outdoor space for smoking. Adjacent is the media room which, again, is masculine in feel. Reclining theater seats are plush and more man-sized for comfort. Lower-level bookshelves wrap around the seating area while dark-toned wainscoting wraps around the walls of the room. For an airier setting, there is the family room with views

of the garden area to one side and water views to the other. Open to the kitchen, the family room includes two facing sofas of matching chenille in a gold diamond pattern. A wine-colored, leather shag rug pulls in the reddish tones of the drapery on the window overlooking the garden. To accommodate different looks, the throw pillows on the sofas are reversible with gold on one side and red on the other. The coffee table is hand carved with leather binding and a wood top. There is an arched recess into which the entertainment center was built. The arch of the niche echoes the arch over the window of the garden area. To the water side, the sliding glass doors pocket away to disappear from view. When the doors are open, the outside and inside integrate to become one enormous expanse of incredible views and breezes.

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COVER HOUSE: PUESTA DEL SOL



A mitered glass window overlooks the water in the upstairs guest retreat. Additionally, sliding glass doors lead to a large balcony.

Outside the glass doors to the left as one views the water is where the outdoor barbecue and wet bar area is located. There is a summer kitchen with granite countertops, a gas grill, refrigerator, dishwasher, and beer tap refrigerator. An electric screen enclosure comes down to protect this area from bugs, if necessary, but still allows the breezes and views to be enjoyed. There also is an outdoor fireplace with a keystone mantel and corbels to take off the chill during the winter months. Furniture is a weather-resistant vinyl which has a wicker-like appearance. At the opposite end of the house, but also overlooking the pool and patio deck is the master bedroom suite. It includes a separate sitting area which

feels private because there is a columned archway with a sheer drapery treatment between it and the bed area. The bed itself sits in a columned and arched niche created by the interior designer. The full columns at the entrance of the sitting area and the half columns which frame the bed were finished in a very textural, very unusual floral tapestry look. Furniture is in a cashew finish, hand painted with antique gold accents. The bed benches are wood with a pewter finish while the lamps carry pewter accents. The silk fabric used on the pillows on the bed picks up these pewter tones. The darker color on the pillows is a brick red made of ultrasuede. The same material is seen on the cornice in the sitting area. The



The master bedroom is elegant and luxurious. A columned archway with sheer drapery treatment lends a sense of privacy to the sitting area.

the master bedroom is a bit more formal than the rest of the home, but the idea was to create an extremely luxurious, elegant retreat for the man and lady of the house. Not satisfied with simply elegant or luxurious, the builder included a safe room in the master closet. There is the regular walk-in closet, then passage through a fire-rated steel door with a deadbolt. The floor, ceiling, and walls of the 12-foot by 12-foot room are solid concrete. In the event of a power outage, there is ventilation and a heavy-duty, oversized generator to take care of energy needs. One can feel very comfortable in the event of, say, a hurricane. The spacious master bathroom features

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The dropped soffit in ceiling of the master bath mirrors the shape of the marble-topped

COVER HOUSE: PUESTA DEL SOL



A fireplace takes the chill off the lanai in the winter time. The outdoor kitchen is complete with many appliances and granite-topped cabinetry

marble-topped vanities and tub surround with the same marble used as an accent on the floor and walls. The ceiling has a drop-down soffit which mirrors the shape of the tub below. The rainhead shower is a walk through, accessible from either side. A brick red wallpaper with taupe and black floral accents picks up the tones of the bedroom. The residence includes three guest bedrooms, a butler's pantry, a wine room with provisions for more than 100 bottles, a custom-finished elevator, and so many fun or entertaining or interesting features that we could not possibly mention them all here. The home was designed and decorated with the

idea that it would be so completely furnished and appointed that anyone could move in without needing to bring anything more than a toothbrush. It also was designed with classic elements and themes so it would be just as attractive 25 years from now as it is today. We applaud the extraordinary efforts and success of developers Jack and Shelley Blais to raise money for cancer research. To date, they have pledged \$51 million to Dana-Farber and the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. We also celebrate the talents and success of the entire design team who created this spectacular, one-of-a-kind masterpiece.



Above, outdoor living is enjoyed on the expansive lanai and deck. Below, the multi-colored fountain feature adds a wonderfully exciting dimensi

