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A home for inspiration

Brunswick idea house built to stir visitors' creative juices

By Elaine Gaston
For The Sun News

Unexpected color combinations, clever styling, a commitment to sustainable products and distinctive architecture make Coastal Living's idea house at Seawatch at Sunset Harbor a home worth exploring.

Coastal Living magazine and this coastal development are opening the doors of this 7,678-square-foot property Sept. 3 through Nov. 29 to allow visitors an opportunity to browse and collect inspiring architectural and design ideas. Built by Mark Saunders Luxury Homes, the three-bedroom, multilevel abode, which overlooks the marsh savannah and waterway and is surrounded by a canopy of trees and foliage, will also be for sale.

Proceeds from the sale of tickets to tour the home will benefit the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina. The Cape-style house with its bell-shaped roofs will be featured in the November issue of Coastal Living magazine. The magazine builds idea homes in areas committed to shoreline preservation and environmental friendliness.

"They selected this site because of the marsh," said architect Sam Guidry. "We tried to use a Southern flavor with big porches and high ceilings. It has a really nice flow to it. And we tried to design the home to capture the views."

Certainly, the views are what drove the color palette and inspired the decor, according to designer Phillip Sides. Shades of gray, splashes of yellow, bursts of lilac and orange and green abound throughout the three-story structure, creating an ambience that is exhilarating, elegant and carefree.

"Fabrics were chosen to make the house less formal," Sides said.

For example, the master bedroom features a yellow and gray color scheme painted on the walls in vertical stripes that were inspired by the botanically inspired fabric.

"We were inspired by the marsh grass and the trees," Sides said. "When we first visited the site, it was winter. The color scheme was generated by the fabric. There was no magic. We knew we wanted to use that fabric."

Another fun fabric in a coffee pot motif in tan and white inspired the design for the dining room. Cleverly, Sides covered the walls in this whimsical fabric and dressed the windows in the same fabric using custom-made drapery.

To create a transition between the dining room and kitchen, Sides lowered the ceiling and chose black cabinetry on either side of the walk-through, flanked on one side by a large walk-in pantry.

"That's to imply that you've walked through a pantry to get to the kitchen," Sides explained.

The black cabinetry extends along the base of the kitchen countertops, providing a pleasant contrast to the white upper cabinets. Sides achieved a custom feel by installing brackets beneath them and finishing them with a simple molding along the bottom edge.

"It just makes them feel like furniture as opposed to a cabinet box," he said. "This is something anyone can do in their own kitchen to give it a custom feel."

The focal point of the space is a cherry kitchen island that feels more like a dining table than an island. Sides chose a set of whimsical stools covered in cowhide to line one side of the table.

The upstairs offers more unexpected design ideas, such as the loft area that features a cupola ceiling and a pair of bunk beds, each featuring a pendant reading lamp hidden behind a shuttered cutout in the wall, and a sleeping porch that exudes warmth and charm.

"It was conceived as a porch that has been enclosed," said Ron Wiese with Mark Saunders Luxury Homes. "It's very warm and cozy."

The sleeping porch features a planked cathedral ceiling in golden wood tones, orange, yellow and green fabrics, a

fireplace, a wall of daybeds and a hanging bed.

The home's exterior is as luxurious as its interior. There is an outdoor dining room featuring cultured stone and elegant archways. It's accessorized with long flowing curtains, a round table and an orange outdoor rug. The space also is equipped with outdoor kitchen facilities and heated floors to allow for year-round use. A wooden deck is situated under the trees just off the stone back porch and a pond adjacent to the deck hides an underground cistern, designed to collect rainwater for irrigation purposes. Stone, pervious pavers also were used to prevent runoff from entering the marsh nearby, all intended to be environmentally conscious elements.

Inspiration abounds throughout the house, but the key element the architect said he hoped visitors would walk away with is the homes attention to comfort.

"I want people to feel comfortable outside and inside the home," Guidry said. "People moving into this area are retiring. This will probably be their last house. Your shelter is real important. It should be comfortable inside and out."

If you go
Coastal Living Idea House

When | Noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday Sept. 3-Nov. 29

Where | 2221 Southport-Supply Road, Bolivia, N.C.

How much | \$10, payable at the door

Call | 877-732-9282 or visit www.seawatch-nc.com

View more photos of the Coastal Living Idea House in Bolivia, N.C., at TheSun News.com.

Contact ELAINE GASTON at 457-2869 or at laineygaston@aol.com.

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