

Sunday Real Estate

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A staircase spirals to the entrance of the Dunn home in The Landings. The home, built in 1987, has features that compare with those found in new homes today.



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Home builder Gary Roberts and Realtor Candy Swick in front of Swick's listing in The Landings. Roberts built the house in 1987.

Trendsetter still has appeal



Large windows light the living room of the Dunn home.

At a time when many homes from the 1980s are showing their age, this Landings house has many features that are in demand today.

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SARASOTA — Gary Roberts likes to think he was ahead of the curve in 1987 when his company, Bamboo Building and Development, completed a gracious, 5,300-square-foot home in The Landings for Susan and Richard Dunn.

It has a two-story living room with Palladian clerestory windows, wide-plank wood floors, French doors, solid-core doors, a radiant barrier to cut electric bills, a three-car, side-entry garage and a detached music room/office.

"This house has all the things people want today: high ceilings, hardwood floors, crown moldings, large windows, views of old oaks,"



A new home by builder Gary Roberts, near the 1987 Dunn home, is for sale at \$1,399,000.

said Candy Swick, who is listing the Dunn home at 1605 Peregrine Point Court for \$1,250,000. "It's timeless, yet it has today's most in-vogue features and a back yard pool area right out of 'Southern Living.'"

Never lived in

Swick also is listing a brand new Gary Roberts/Bamboo home around the corner at 4800 Peregrine

Point Circle West for \$1,399,000. Roberts built the home for Steve and Kate Nelson, who are transferring to New York without ever moving in.

Swick is struck by how many features of the trendsetting 15-year-old home are in the new home, which is almost the same size. It has the three-car side-entry garage, the raised foyer, the two-story

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1987 Landings home was 'ahead of curve'

LANDINGS FROM II

ry living room (a whopping 25 feet tall), a large media/game room upstairs. Both homes have a second staircase, "for midnight cookie runs," as Swick puts it.

The new home, built where a Dart family home burned down, has a few cutting edge features of its own. It has structured wiring, a home theater, a wine cellar area and family room sliders that "disappear" from the corner. Downstairs ceilings are 12 feet. The dining room has a scalloped recessed ceiling with indirect lighting. A second fireplace, flanked by French doors, is in the master suite. Some of the bath sinks look like art glass bowls.

The older master bath almost equals the new home with its large garden tub, separate shower and transom windows over the trendsetting framed mirror and double vanities.

Other highlights of the older home are a curving grand staircase with wetbar below, a formal dining room with butler's pantry, French doors framing the living room fireplace and 16-by-24-foot downstairs master suite opening to the pool area.

The Dunns wanted a porte cochere with wrought-iron gates leading to the side-entry garages in back. The roof is cedar shake because Roberts said that no one at the time would install cement tile on such a steep roof.

The new home has a cement-tile roof with chipped edges to look like slate. It's a four-bedroom home with an office and five and a half baths. The upstairs media/theater room has its own balcony. The double lot has lots of trees, a large pool, spa and outdoor cook center.

"People want a traditional

home with lots of glass," said Roberts, who has built more than a dozen such homes in The Landings. "This is a beautiful, gated neighborhood with lots of oaks and winding streets. Kids can bicycle around and tennis is close by."

A Sarasota builder for 30 years, Roberts says he used to be about the only builder doing two-story homes. Most were in established neighborhoods until The Landings came along. Several of his homes have been on Junior League holiday tours. He became known as the designer/builder of the country French home that Donald Regan, President Reagan's chief of staff in the 1980s, bought in The Woodlands at Bent Tree.

"Today my love is designing and building waterfront homes," said Roberts, who has an architecture degree from University of Michigan. He has built at Beneva Oaks, Prestancia and other developments. He's developing and building at Silver Oak at Palmer Ranch, where a new model center opens later this month.

Excerpt from Sarasota Herald-Tribune