

REAL ESTATE



Bamboo's \$1 million house is a formal country French estate that looks onto the golf course.

First Prestancia Models Deliver Upscale Lifestyle

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Staff Writer

Prestancia's first model home center lives up to its upscale image. Of the three models by the selected master builders, one is priced at an even \$1 million and the other two at more than \$600,000. All three are geared to entertaining and have more than 4,100 square feet of air-conditioned areas, plus spacious pool and terrace areas.

"These homes set a new standard for Sarasota," said Joselle Culp, director of sales for Prestancia, Bay Venture's first phase of development at the Palmer Ranch, east of Beneva Road between Clark Road and Sarasota Square Mall.

If you can't picture yourself living in the \$1 million French country estate by Bamboo Building & Development, Culp says that Prestancia has homes starting at \$300,000.

"Our average single-family price is \$450,000 to \$650,000 and we're going to have young families here. We know of 11 children who will be on Las Palmas Way," Culp added.

Bamboo's formal country French estate, designed and built by Gary Roberts, is the largest of the models with 5,500 square feet under roof, and a total area of 7,500 square feet. The house is pale mauve stucco with an angular shake roof, turret, motor court and porte cochere, in addition to the two-car garage. The entry foyer and great room are two stories high with fluted doric columns, dentil moldings and Italian marble floors. French doors lead to a paneled library to the left of the entry. Bookcases in the great room extend two stories high on either side of the marble and paneled fireplace. From the poolspa area, Palladian windows, columns and a gazebo with turret roof stand out.

The family room, with its oak plank floor, has a Palladian design inside a larger Palladian window that opens the entire south wall to the golf course. Again, a marble fireplace is flanked by bookcases. The breakfast area has an octagonal shape to match the gazebo sitting area in the spacious poolside master suite. The kitchen, geared for catered entertaining, has a 9-foot-long island with a granite top; a brass railing defines a granite shelf. A second sink area is designed for salad-making. The kitchen also has a desk area, some glass-front pickled oak cabinetry and views to the north and south. The laundry is brightened by an antique stained-glass window.

Upstairs is what Roberts likes to call a maze of three bedrooms of interesting shapes (2½ baths) with another small space available as a nursery or sewing room. Back stairs lead to a game room with a wet bar, tray ceiling and view of the first floor. The curving main staircase from the foyer was built on the site. It leads to a piano balcony, overlooking the great room, and then to the bedrooms, one of which can be used as an exercise room. One of the children's rooms has a built-in window seat; another has a cathedral ceiling.

All three of the models have spa areas beside the pools, but Roberts' also has a waterfall. He built in the seating for a party around the side of the pool. Roberts estimates the base price of this house at \$850,000.

Excerpt from Sarasota Herald-Tribune



STAFF PHOTO: SALLY PETHIBON

Between the Lines

For 15 years, Gary Roberts, president of Bamboo Building and Development, has been building luxury houses. He said business has always been good, but it got unexpectedly better after former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan became one of his clients.

The next thing he knew, after selling the Regans a house in Bent Tree, a host of the couple's friends and acquaintances expressed an interest in his services. And the numbers were further enhanced by people who learned of the sale through newspaper and television accounts.

"I didn't realize the ramifications of selling them the house until after all the media attention," he said. "It's really been fabulous for business."

It helps to have friends in high places - or who used to be in high places.

Former Chief of Staff Moves Into New House

SARASOTA COUNTY Former White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan has moved into Sarasota's Bent Tree Village and is customizing and remodeling the 5,000-square-foot house.



Regan

Gary Roberts, president of Bamboo Building and Development, said Regan and his wife, Ann, moved into the house last Thursday and spent the week working on their home - a four-bedroom French country-style, which cost \$489,500. The builder and developer said this included some interior remodeling and electrical work.

"It's all minor," he said. "Nothing will be done that would challenge the design." Roberts said the Regans will live in the house, which they bought last fall, most of the year.