

march 2007

orlando leisure

**ARNOLD PALMER:**  
King of the Green

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
NOSHING**

**JEWELS OF THE  
CARIBBEAN**

# city chic

Swimwear  
Sizzles  
This Season

**Art in the Park**  
48th Winter Park  
Sidewalk Art Festival

ide  
omes  
a Heights



## Technology, Creativity and Environmental Sensitivity

# RENEWED AMERICAN HOME and NEW AMERICAN HOME

by Andrea Stanley | Photos by Christi Ashby

*When the International Builders' Show rolled into the Orange County Convention Center in February, it brought with it a flock of builders and purveyors looking for the newest technology, trends and top-notch ideas for building homes in the 21st century.*

*This year, the dream factory was right in our backyard with the New American Home and the first-ever Renewed American Home, nestled in urban Eola Heights, a historic downtown Orlando neighborhood. The real-life results stand as tangible muses for the latest and greatest in home design and features.*



## RENEWED AMERICAN HOME

For 25 years, the National Association of Homebuilders, in conjunction with the International Builders' Show, has been presenting the New American Home to serve as a totally tricked and teched out prototype to demonstrate new products and inspire ideas. The location for the 2007 New American Home was occupied by a vernacular, Florida-style, historic home built in 1909.

In order to preserve the authenticity of the neighborhood and comply with city regulations regarding historic properties, it was proposed that the structure be moved to the lot next door and transformed into a project of its own. The committee loved the idea of a renovated and restored home, and thus, the Renewed American Home got the green light.

PSG Construction Inc. was selected as the builder, and for the next year and a half, the firm worked to bring its brain-child to life. Numerous teams worked around the clock to mesh the history of the home with the necessary modern upgrades in structure and features.

"This was a very neat project," said Stephen Gidus, partner and co-owner of PSG Construction. "It took us a lot of time to get all the pieces and parts together."

And what happened when it all fell into place?

A new three-story, dusty yellow home that looks like it belongs in the era of its origination. Doubling its original size, the 7,175-square-foot, Victorian-style bungalow remains a beautiful montage to the period. However, wrapped inside the antique walls are countless modern amenities. An expansive spread of four bedrooms and five-and-a-half baths fill up much of the interior, while still leaving room for an elevator system, wine cellar, workout area and plush family room, thanks to a rare Florida anomaly, a full basement.

To enter the modern masterpiece, you climb an inviting brick staircase that leads onto a plantation-style porch. Wainscot shaker-style doors with clusters of stained glass, flanked by oversized gas lanterns, introduce you to the cozy appeal of the home. The genuine oak plank floors and gaslight sconces lining the foyer are warm and inviting against the hue of husk-colored walls and pure white custom millwork. A formal dining room and office opposite each other greet you upon your entrance.







The next room in line is a kitchen fit for any cooking queen — or king — with an open layout and lots of space. Smooth surface Formica granite countertops accent cherry-ribbed wood cabinets, while a porcelain-framed farmer's sink pays tribute to the history of the home. The room also includes an oversized island and vegetable sink.

The attached family room is adorned with enchanting features such as a coffered ceiling grid. Curtains, swags and pillows accent the room with shades of chocolate brown, mustard yellow and rich reds, along with dark wood stains.

Lead designer Ron Nowfel of Robb & Stucky implemented the color scheme for a fresh take on favorites from the past. "You can marry the old and new together," he said. With the exception of a honey yellow and soft blue-colored parents' suite on the main floor, the majority of the rooms are located on the third floor.

The perfect palace for any little girl made of sugar, spice and everything nice is a rosy pink room accented with an apple green-striped ceiling. An alcove, hidden behind a set of doors, can be transformed into a life-size dollhouse. Just a few steps down the hallway is an aviation-themed room geared for a boy.

Passing by a luxurious morning bar complete with a dishwasher, under-counter refrigerator and microwave, you find yourself in the relaxing grips of a maroon and gold master suite. The attached bathroom contains classic vintage pieces, such as a claw-foot, white porcelain tub and small diamond-shaped tiling common to the era.

Buried in the bottom of the home is the basement, where some of the best-kept features are found. A comfortable soft-

carpeted living area, complete with a camel-colored leather couch, oversized entertainment center and table with a built-in chess board, takes up a vast amount of space. However, there's still plenty of room for a workout area, concrete safe-room and laundry room, complete with a gift wrapping station. To add to the myriad of marvels, a wine cellar kept at a crisp 70 degrees is capable of holding 1,500 bottles of wine — a true toast to the home's modern elements.

For added space, a guest suite sits atop the detached garage. In close proximity is an outdoor entertainment center with a plasma television, fire pit and retractable phantom screens to block out pesky creatures.

Infusing elements of the past, present and future under one roof creates a century's worth of choices in designing your own home.

**ARCHITECT:** Lucia, Kassik & Monday, Inc.

**BUILDER:** PSG Construction Inc.

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Robb & Stucky

**LANDSCAPE:** Glatting Jackson

## NEW AMERICAN HOME

The vibe of urban living has always appealed to my deepest sensibilities. The thought of walking to work or patronizing the newest downtown hotspot is very alluring. When Maylen Dominguez Arlen, creative director for Homes by Carmen Dominguez, pitched the idea of building a contemporary downtown, loft-style home, this was exactly

what she had in mind. Today, her vision stands as a three-story-tall reality — the 2007 New American Home.

With only a width of 47 feet available to construct on the property, Maylen had to build the 3,733-square-foot home vertically. So, the contemporary urban abode stands taller than most on the street, but the natural wood plank exterior and visible bolts help to mesh the house with the quiet vibe on the street.

The primary concept was designed around an eco-friendly theme, and Maylen and her team went above and beyond the current housing committee requirements. The structure is com-

