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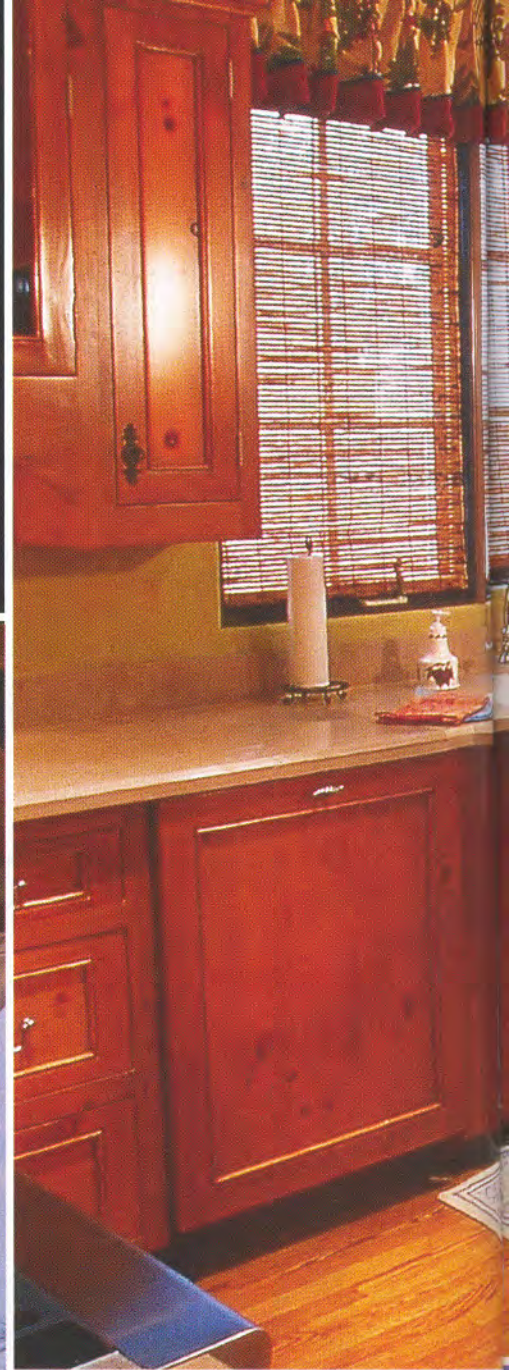


AWARD-WINNING *florida living*

Orlando architects, builders and design professionals receive kudos for their best of the best in new home construction and design.

BY PATRICIA LETAKIS

Marc-Michaels Interior Design



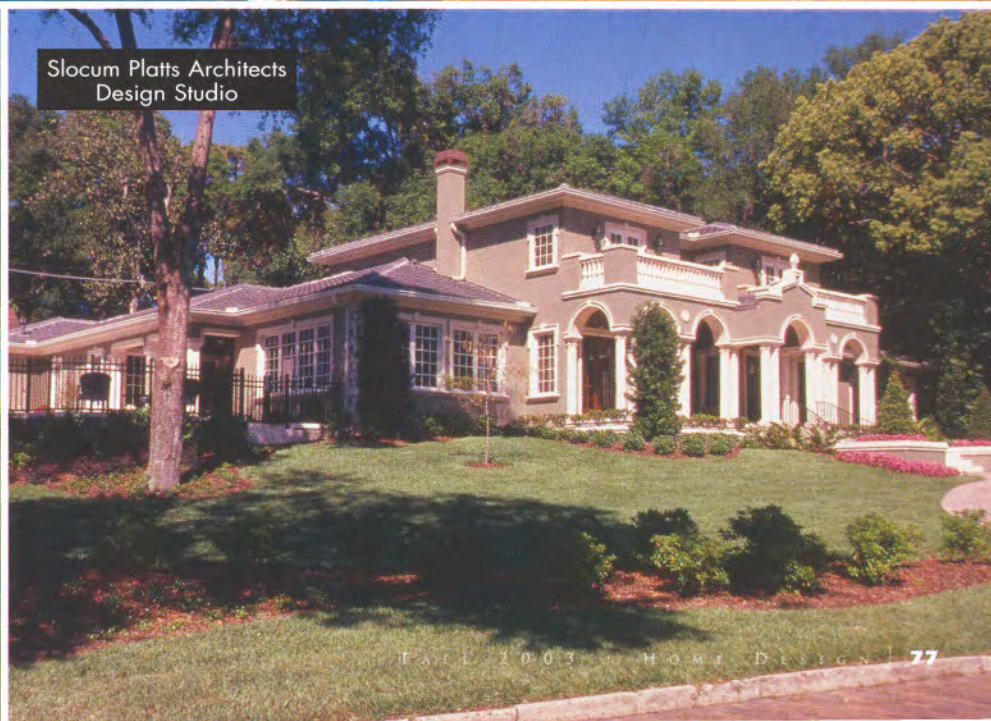
Goehring & Morgan
Construction, interiors by
Gribble Interior Group



Beasley & Henley
Interior Design



Slocum Platts Architects
Design Studio





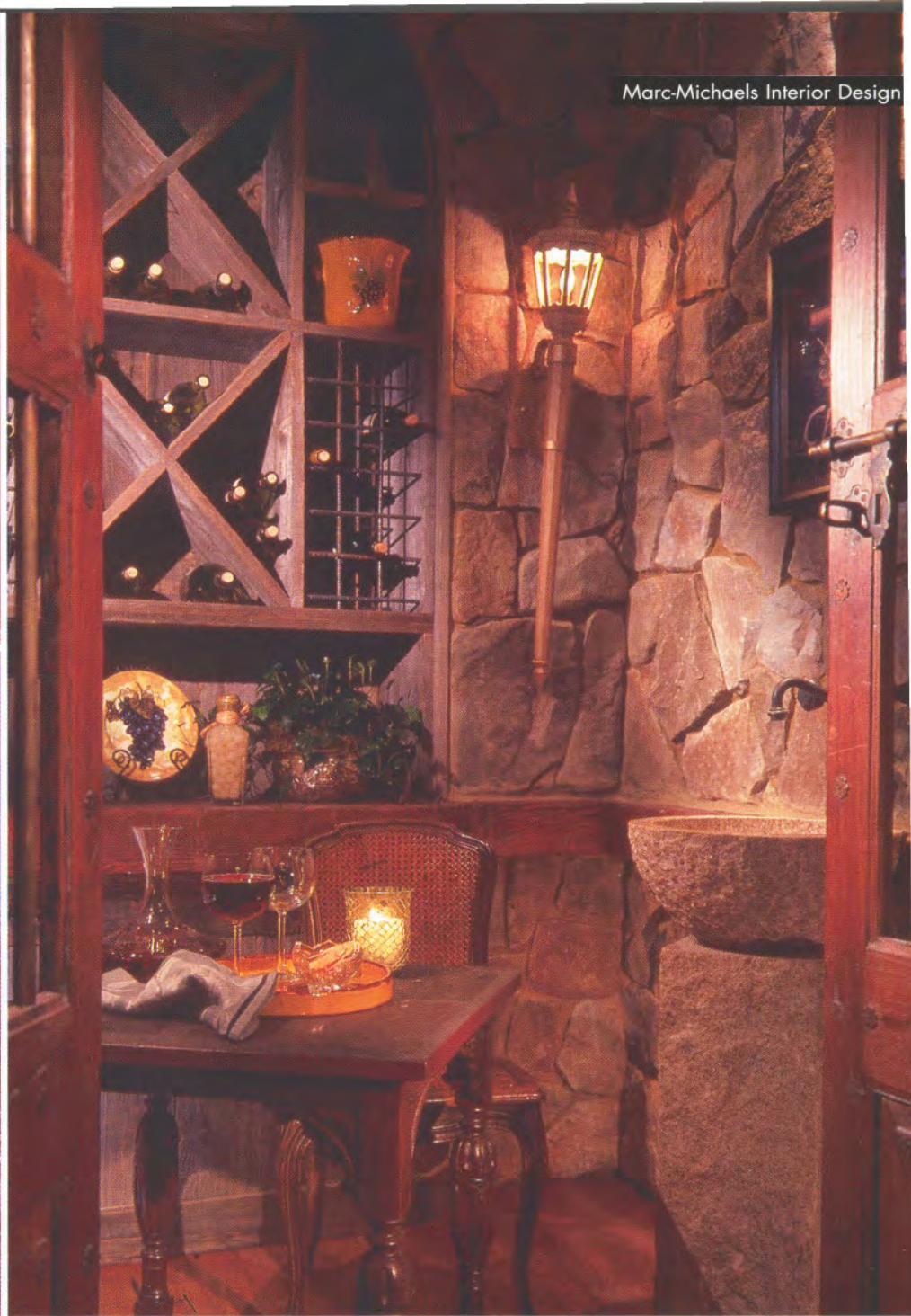
Charles Brock & Associates,
interiors by Beasley & Henley



Goehring & Morgan
Construction, interiors by
Gribble Interior Group



Slocum Platts Architects
Design Studio



Call us spoiled. Call us lucky. No matter which way you look at it, Florida homeowners are a privileged group. We live in one of the few states where water, from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to numerous lakes and canals, combines with a wealth of flora, such as exotic palms and majestic oaks, to create the perfect setting for our homes. And architects, builders, developers and designers have not taken this for granted. If you look around the state, you will, without a doubt, come upon some of the most striking homes in the country.



Each year the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA), whose members include builders, developers and remodelers as well as associate members ranging from architects to engineers to interior designers, sponsors the Southeast Building Conference, held at the Orange County Convention Center in July. The highlight of the conference is the AURORA Awards, which recognize the achievements of the industry's professionals. Kay Greene, the chairperson for the 2003 AURORA Awards and an Orlando interior designer, calls the AURORA Awards the Grammys of the home-building profession. "It symbolizes tremendous achievement, honor and distinction among building-industry professionals," she says.

The competition is open to residential construction professionals from 12 south-east states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The work is judged by the entrants' peers—other leading industry professionals. This year there were 430 entries of new home construction and design. Categories include detached single family homes, custom homes, kitchens, baths, interior merchandising, residential developments, rental apartments, landscape design and various technical categories.

The theme of this year's 24th annual AURORA Awards was "Designs of Distinction," and Orlando-based builders, architects and interior design professionals walked away with a fair share of prestigious AURORA Awards. And the winners are ...

Custom Home/One-of-a-Kind

\$2,000,001-\$3,000,000

Slocum Platts Architects Design Studio was recognized for the design of a private residence in Windermere. The challenge was to be build a 10,051-square-foot house on a slightly sloped and oddly shaped corner lot. The two-story house was designed to maximize the golf course view from as



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A collection of decorative items is displayed against a green background. On the left is a tall, ornate brass sculpture. Next to it is a round, oval mirror with a decorative frame. In the center is a wooden caryatid, a tall, slender sculpture of a woman. To its right is a copper vase with a rounded top and a pedestal base. Further right is a large, colorful marble sphere on a brass base. Below the caryatid is a dark wood cabinet with a decorative panel. To the right of the cabinet is a copper pedestal with a rounded top. Below the copper pedestal is a white pedestal sink with a chrome faucet. On the far right is a wooden door with a grid pattern and a silver handle.

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many rooms as possible and avoid obstruction from the garage. This was accomplished by designing a floor plan that is stepped back on both sides of the rear elevation for viewing purposes. The property has backyard symmetry with a centered pool and bay screened-in projections. The French eclectic style includes a symmetrical design, a flat concrete tile roof, precast concrete entryway and rim details, as well as dark green windows and doors. The home has a European floor plan where the rooms are defined by arched and columned openings, as well as interior French doors, resulting in an intimate environment. Pellegrini Homes, Inc. was the builder, and Smith Earnest Interiors, Inc. did the interior design.

Custom Home/One-of-a-Kind

\$1,500,001-\$2,000,000

Slocum Platts Architects Design Studio won an AURORA Award for their design of a Winter Park private residence. The two-story European-style custom house, 5,522 square feet, boasts French elements that add a sense of elegance to a family home. The house's location on a Central Florida lake was of primary importance and allowed for a number of rooms to have water views and access to the lake. The side yard is home to a pool and summer kitchen, which were strategically located so adults could monitor children's outdoor activities from the kitchen and family room. The house's interior was done by Corinthian Studios of Winter Park.

Interior Merchandising

Over \$3,000,001

Winter Park-based Marc-Michaels Interior Design was recognized for the interior design of a Vero Beach house, created for empty nesters. The home's breathtaking Florida location allowed for a stunning ocean view that is strategically framed with columns and arches. An Old World opulence defines the home in the Villa Beach Ocean Estates.

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Interior Merchandising

Under \$300,000

Beasley & Henley Interior Design won for the interior design of a one-bedroom, one-bath urban apartment in Orlando's Echelon at Uptown. The unit was designed for the upscale professional who enjoys the urban living trend of the new South. The model has a certain edginess seen in the unconventional living room configuration where two chaises are used instead of a traditional furniture arrangement. The plasma TV is on the opposite wall. The small dining room adjacent to the living room is set apart by its Asian-influenced table and chairs. Bold blue walls work well with two-tone blue horizontal draperies, suspended by a sleek cable rod system. Select artwork and accessories reinforce a sense of modernity in the design.

Rental Apartment Community

Charles Brock & Associates, a Maitland-based architect and design firm, received an AURORA Award for their work at the North Lake Park Apartments. The apartment building was part of a traditional single-family-home community and needed to blend into the neo-traditional neighborhood of a luxury niche community. Faced with building heights limited to three stories, Charles Brock's solution was to create apartment townhomes over first-floor apartment flats. The units' interior design was done by Beasley & Henley Interior Design.

Remodeling & Rehabilitation Whole House Renovation

Over \$100,000

Winter Park's PSG Construction, Inc. received an award for a Longwood project: the dramatic transformation of a formal and very dated 1980s house into a casual but very pampering 21st-century home. The client wanted the house downsized from over 11,000 to 9,178 square feet and a less formal layout. The best example of the reformation is how the former ballroom overlooking the lake was converted



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Slocum Platts Architects
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to a 50 foot by 36 foot open kitchen, dining room with multiple seating areas and a family room. Each of these rooms flows into the other without divisions. This casual area is surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows and French doors that provide a panoramic view of the lake, pool and spa. Entertaining can easily spill over to the outdoor area that includes a refinished pool deck, new cabana, brick enclosed grill, private beach, new sea wall, boathouse and observation deck.


Another example is the stiff entry that was overpowered by mirrored accents and a glass-enclosed staircase balcony. The area was redesigned to be warm and welcoming with earth tones and natural materials, including wood-trimmed glass doors, a 20-foot-high tongue-and-groove ceiling accented with pine beams, wood floor with marble inlays and a curved balcony with a wood-and-iron railing.

Even though the home was designed for informal living, luxurious elements, such as marble counters, granite inlays and mosaics, are numerous. The layout encourages relaxed and informal entertaining in a manner reflective of today's culture, and this project clearly illustrates how an outdated and formal layout can be dramatically improved for more livability without forfeiting luxury and elegance.

Other Winners

Goehring & Morgan Construction won an AURORA Award for a custom, one-of-a-kind home in the \$750,000-\$1,000,000 price range. The Orlando home's interior was done by Gribble Interior Group.

In the Interior Merchandising \$1,000,000-\$1,500,000 category, Marc-Michaels Interior Design received an award for a property in Tampa.

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