

AT HOME

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A MODERN MANSION IN THE ESTUARY

+

THE ARTISTIC DWELLING
OF CHICO'S FOUNDERS

ARCHITECTURALLY CHIC
ON CRAYTON ROAD

GARDENING ART IN
PELICAN BAY

A SPA-LIKE RETREAT
IN NAPLES



WATER CAME FIRST
This modern Estuary mansion was designed around its unique swimming pool, a portion of which flows between the master suite and the living room.

PASSION FOR DETAILS

A Toronto builder creates his tropical paradise in the Estuary at Grey Oaks.

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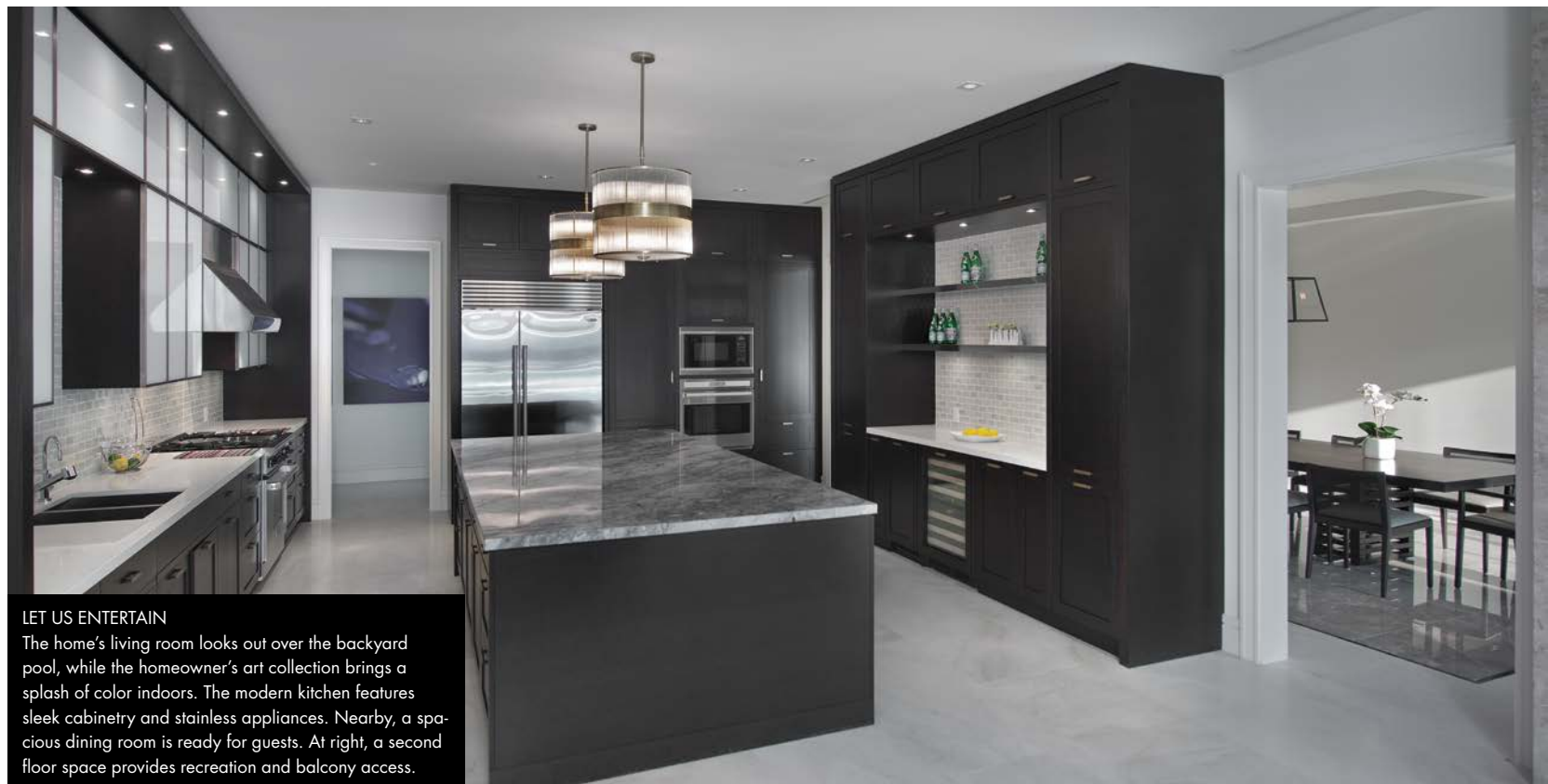
A CUSTOM HOME BUILDER FROM TORONTO, GREG SELIGMAN WAS KEENLY AWARE OF A SENSE OF PRIVACY THAT WOULD SURROUND THE HOUSE HE INTENDED TO BUILD IN THE ESTUARY AT GREY OAKS. A golf green, a fairway, a pond and a preserve would protect the site into the future.

Before finding this one, Seligman had looked inside many of Naples' gated communities for the ideal location to build the home. "I wanted the house to feel like a retreat," he says. He envisioned an escape fashioned after the Four Seasons, with dark shutters and rich woodwork.

Admittedly, Seligman has vision. In Toronto, the firm he built from the ground up for 27 years is G.E.S. Construction Limited, a high-end residential builder that takes pride in producing detailed projects.

With the slow economy of recent years, Seligman decided the time was right to build his Naples place. (His father, a retired architect, and his mother reside in Bonita Bay, so Seligman has been visiting the area for the last 20 years.) Most of his Canadian projects are traditional, but in the Estuary, he took advantage of a warm climate and nearby water to create a modern, spa-like oasis.

"We could have a little more fun here because of the weather," he explains. Work with Canadian architect Richard Wengle, with whom he'd partnered



LET US ENTERTAIN
The home's living room looks out over the backyard pool, while the homeowner's art collection brings a splash of color indoors. The modern kitchen features sleek cabinetry and stainless appliances. Nearby, a spacious dining room is ready for guests. At right, a second floor space provides recreation and balcony access.



in Toronto, started first with Wengle designing the swimming pool. The large pool has an accompanying stream—think lazy river effect—that winds its way in and out of an alcove that partially separates the master bedroom wing from the main home. Upon his first glimpse of the plan, Seligman says, “I loved it.”

Once that was finished, the spacious home was designed around an awe-inspiring gallery of columns, deep-hued woodwork and vertical windows that bring in the vibrant blue of the water that flows by. “It all started with the pool,” he explains. “We have these windows, the columns. That’s kind of the look and the feel.”

The home today features what he calls “pods” of living space: the dining room and kitchen area; the isolated master suite; a backyard cabana at the rear of the property, near the pond. “I really wanted to push everything toward the pond so that when you’re sitting in the cabana you are as close to water as you can get,” he explains.

Indoors, exquisite detailing by Grand Woodworking and others provides a sleek, modern design. “What drives me is my passion to do it well,” Seligman says, regarding his work. His firm created the cabinetry in the kitchen, bathrooms and master—shipping it all from Canada to be installed.



GRAND DETAILING

Stone columns are integrated with rich, dark woodwork in the expansive gallery that greets visitors to this Estuary home. With the help of Grand Woodworking and others, the homeowner designed a hidden ventilation system in the ceiling panels and an automated blind system, by Automated Shading and Lighting Control, in window valances. Integrated vertical windows provide lustrous views of the swimming pool and other landscaping elements.





ARCHITECTURALLY AWESOME
The master suite's coffered ceilings add architectural appeal while, at right, the home's pool is integrated among other landscape features. Outside Productions Inc. did the landscaping, while Jackson Pools Inc. created the swimming pool, with glass tile provided by Trend USA Ltd. and additional tiling by Marmol Export, USA.



OUTDOOR AMBIANCE
A spacious outdoor pavilion matches the architectural detail of the home and offers views of the nearby water.

Grand Woodworking undertook the massive project of integrating wood panels with the stone pillars that line the gallery of the home. As part of the intricate design, Seligman integrated the ventilation system discreetly above the recessed paneled ceiling where air is supplied on one side and then returned on the opposite side. Also incorporated are custom wood valances, which house hidden automated blinds.

While the home was under construction, the homeowner visited every two weeks to check in with local contractors—including builder Harwick Homes—regarding their progress. “I’m anything but complacent,” he says. “I

push people to think outside the box. I managed everything.”

By the time his building process was completed, Seligman had started to think about doing business in Southwest Florida. Believing that his vision and decades of expertise would work well in the area, last fall he launched Seligman Builders with plans for a John Cooney-designed spec home across the street from his own. “I’m really passionate about what I do,” he says. “I’ve been exposed to so many great ideas ... it has to be something that’s well designed.” ^H

Architect: Richard Wengle
Builder: Harwick Homes in conjunction with G.E.S. Construction
Interior Design: Mazen El-Abdallah | Woodwork: Grand Woodworking
Landscape Architect: Outside Productions Inc.