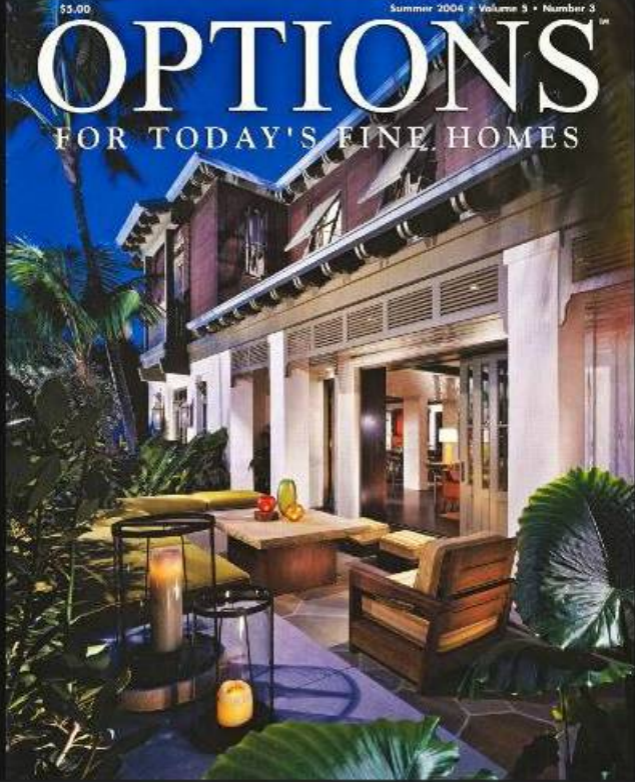


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OPTIONSSM

FOR TODAY'S FINE HOMES





Builder, House Thyself

THE HEAD OF ONE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST RESIDENTIAL BUILDING COMPANIES CREATES HIS OWN AWARD-WINNING ENCLAVE IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF.

BY KIM SINGLETARY

It should come as no surprise that this year's Gold Nugget Award of Merit for Best Custom Home under 4,500 square feet is not only an extraordinary home, but was also created by and for extraordinary members of the residential construction community — Guy Jr. and

LEFT: The Alexander residence in Newport Beach, Calif., features two courtyards. The central courtyard, seen here, accesses the living room and kitchen via sliding mahogany doors that disappear into the wall when open.

ABOVE: "The central living space and fireplaces are composed of island bricks with hand troweled flish mortar finish, reflecting the look of an old solid brick house," says Courtney Paul, owner of c.c. & company, the interior designer for the project. All photos by Eric Figge

Cheryl Alexander of Alexander Communities, one of the largest residential builders in Southern California.

Located in a small gated community on the harbor in Newport Beach, Calif., the 3,678 square-foot two-story home is a new addition to an established neighborhood. More than being the new house on the block, what really sets it apart is that in a sea of often Martha's Vineyard-inspired architecture, the Alexander Residence took a wondrous turn.

"Our primary inspiration is that we wanted something unique — an architectural style more inspired by the Florida Parterade," say Cheryl and Guy Alexander.

When it came to building their home, the Alexanders had a clear advantage as members of the industry — they already knew what they wanted on their own. As the architect, the Alexanders chose Schuman Architects, a



firm that has worked on many of the builder's commissions over the last 10 years. For interior design work, Cheryl Alexander — an accomplished interior designer herself — chose Courtney Fial, owner of c.c. & c. company, who has also worked on several of Alexander's projects.

According to Mark Scheurer, AIA, president/principal of Scheurer Architects, working on the future residence of a builder added a new dimension to the project. "The anticipated judgment by friends and peers in the industry certainly played into the team's decision not to compromise on details and finishes," he says. "This home had to be a great example."

Scheurer described the home's six-month design process as "fun, stimulating and highly interactive," a statement echoed by Fial. "The Alexander's were involved in all aspects of the design and construction of their home, from the first paper sketches, to the first floor plans, to the design of the interior and exterior details, to the construction of the home — it was a personal labor of love."

Fial says she began working with the Alexander's one year prior to construction, getting to know their tastes and needs and searching for antique artifacts and natural materials to be used during construction.

The result is a home brimming with craftsmanship. All cabinetry, doors, windows

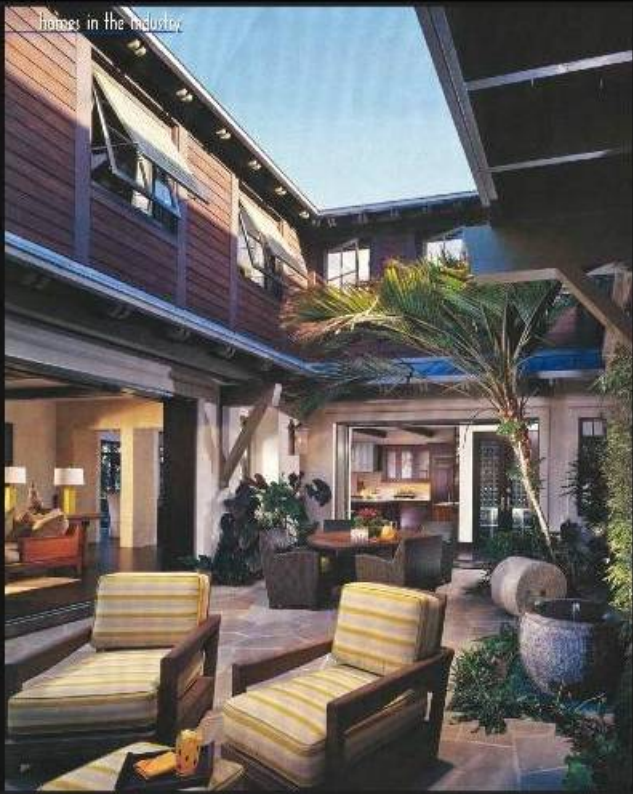


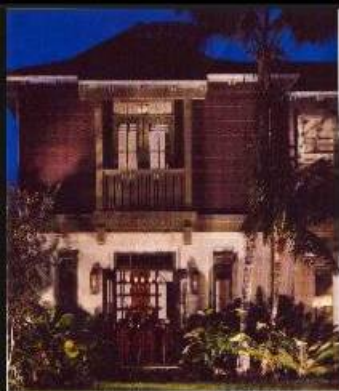
ABOVE: An exterior view of the Alexander residence. Architecture by Scheurer Architects.

LEFT: The home's light fixtures were designed by Courtney Fial and hand forged by Lantern Masters.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The home blends a variety of materials, including limestone, copper, iron and a generous use of mahogany and exotic tropical woods.

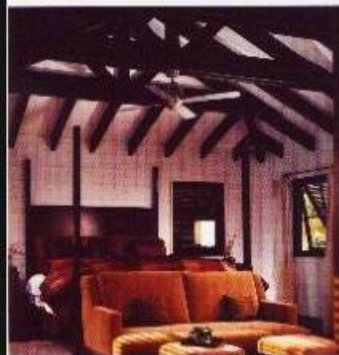
Homes in the Industry





LEFT: The Alexander residence features an architectural style drawn from the Florida peninsula and accented with tropical plants hand-picked by the Alexanders.

BOTTOM: Vaulted ceilings in the home's second story feature true structural mahogany exposed beams.



and redolent with humidity, so was all the wild, warm, waxy, pine, the sun, the air, the breeze — from the white, warm, to the dark, warm and luscious, across, down to vaulted ceilings like the flying roofs. Style features were inspired by Ferdinand forged by Luciano, Mexico.

The relaxed, tropical atmosphere creates with the architecture and sense of the landscape, for more with even detail, the Alexanders' hand selected all tropical plants with the help of VMA Landscape Design.

Building on the Florida theme, the main/basement, including the living, designed to be open to outdoor spaces, the home has two terraces — one on the side and a central courtyard accessible to both the kitchen and living room for easy outdoor entertainment. The dining room opens to the side courtyard and the living room, defined by both terraces.

By alluding to a family-owned island of vacation and leisure, the Alexanders have especially played with the home's custom mahogany wood paneling, which when seen, seemingly disappear into the walls. "The Florida style is not just a style, it's a way of life, a way of living, a way of being, a way of being, a way of being, a way of being," says the architect.

The mahogany floor continues to be a key element, vaulted ceilings, accented by true structural mahogany hand-finished exposed beams. Many of the interior pieces are also made of mahogany, as well as custom tropical wood that feature accents of hand finishing and staining. Other materials that feature the theme of the modern include limestone, zinc, copper and brick.

For added privacy, the family room is located second and serves as the hub for the home's three bedrooms. Large for a house of this size, the entire second floor is located at the rear of the house, just off the front entrance, providing quick access from both the three-car garage and the kitchen.

After six months spent drawing, designing and prototyping, and a few months to build, enough time that could have been a year later, I think you'll want to see this house in person," Rehring says.

As with all great construction, the Alexander residence remains a living work of art, a constant evolution and expansion for a couple enjoying their own custom Paradise dream, a dream that says, my world says, let's help create for other families in California.





below: A pair of Lantern Masters' sconces grace the wall above an 18th-century French cabinet. They are solid brass with a rubbed oil finish, topped by scalloped brass shades, selected to compliment the warmth of the wood finish of the cabinet and mirror. Below left: A pendant light over the bathtub is a Lantern Masters' signature. "A tub is supposed to be relaxing and soothing. Everything is on a dinner table to create a soft glow all around you as you soak." It is finished in nickel over solid brass. The wall sconces flank a vanity table by Zeithing Cabinetry are set to criss with the client's face. Lighting has from both sides. Silk dupioni shades create a soft, diffused glow in the room. Left: The sconces flanking the mirror are miniature versions of the pendant above the tub. Brown glass cylinders suspended from an "S" shaped hook of solid brass. Clester took the "S" hook design from a large fish hook, and used it throughout the house in honor of Newport Beach's nautical history. By dropping the fixtures into the range of the mirror, Clester deepens the room's light via reflection.

