

Luxury Home & Design

By: Shellie Benson

The Asian Island Look
May 2009

When the original three-bedroom ranch house on Gordon Drive was leveled to the ground, Naples architect David Poorman was challenged to help his clients, a couple from Missouri, build a new home that would act as guest quarters to their beach house across the street.

Because the homeowners wanted a Southeast Asian island motif, Poorman's design was inspired by the works of famed Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa as well as traditional Balinese elements, he says.

"The materials used to build and the furnishings installed are kept natural and earthy in both texture and color, while the landscape provides the bold contrasting color," Poorman says. "It made a lot of sense to use this tropical inspiration for a home in Naples."

The finished home, with three bedrooms, a great room, lanai, pool and boat deck, is commonly used for the homeowners' adult children for fishing trips with the guys or visits with the grandkids.



From distant shores: To create the island feeling in the home, the homeowners chose leather upholstery, intricately detailed wood furnishing and woven wicker baskets, some of which they acquired during a trip to China. The architect, David Poorman, brought natural light into the great room by creating an open bamboo beam ceiling with clerestory windows. Above, the home's exterior with its lush landscaping.

Opening statements: The dark terra cotta flooring makes a seamless transition from the great room to the lanai through an accordion glass wall. The ample seating and an outdoor kitchen make the space ideal for entertaining.





At left, the home's Honduran mahogany front door. "It's a three-dimensional interpretation of a trompe l'oeil painted door," Poorman says. "The wood workers [in Honduras] who made the door, I was told, were beaming when they finished it."

The boat house: A catamaran rests in the Gordon Pass waters that lead up to the home. In the early evening, the back of the home is well lit against the Gulf's sunset.



Architect: Andrea Clark Brown + David Poorman Architects

Interiors: Kelli Vince-Sultan and Christine Caangay from Vince Muller Interior Design

Landscape Architect: the late Russell Bencaz

Contractor: A. Vernon Allen Builder, Project Manager – Randy Richards

Photographer: David Poorman