

Building the best in luxury

Andrea Stetson Special to Fort Myers News-Press

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This new home in Quail West by Florida Lifestyle Homes is known as the Waterfall House because of the fountains and waterfalls on either side of the entrance. *Photo By Andrea Stetson*

A new home in Quail West goes far beyond the must-haves for luxury estates. It goes beyond giant guest rooms with large bathrooms and walk-in closets and beyond outdoor living that doubles the square footage. The house goes beyond being a smart home and beyond the intricate ceiling details and sparkling chandeliers.

This home has a \$40,000 price tag just for the 12 shower heads and the little computers that control everything from temperature and water to the music pumped into the master bathroom. The his and her bathrooms have his and her toilet rooms; hers with a bidet and his with a urinal beside the toilets. The spa room has a sauna, steam room and massage table. In the laundry room there is an appliance that steams clothes.

“It is unique. It is really one of a kind,” said Bill Ennen, president of Florida Lifestyle Homes, which built the more than \$8 million custom house.

The specialty items begin before entering the front door. On either side of the entrance are fountains and waterfalls.

“It has this really cool water feature,” Ennen described.

Ennen said the house has some of the basic layout of their models, but was then custom designed for the client.

“We started with one of our models and silly putty stretched it because it is a pie shaped lot,” he joked. “It is a fabulous house. It is really unique. It is really one of a kind.”

Sydney Warren and Luanza Maitland, designers with Norris Furniture and Interiors, created the look of the home.

Inside, the great room has two sitting areas: one with couches and the other with plush chairs by a round coffee table. Both areas sit under a ceiling of rounded wood beams displayed over white shiplap.

“It reminds me of the bottom of a ship,” said Randy Frederick, a sales professional with Florida Lifestyle Homes.

“We added the shiplap in some areas especially in the ceiling because they are so high,” Maitland explained. “It contrasts the dark beams. It makes it not so cavernous up there.”

Another ceiling of beams and shiplap hovers over the kitchen where dual islands are featured. One island has seating on both sides creating another full dining area.

“I like the double islands because when you are entertaining you can have people on both sides,” Frederick said.

The kitchen has two dishwashers and four ovens. A full butler’s pantry has a tall cabinet door that leads to a huge walk-in hidden pantry. There is also an urban cultivator that can be programmed to adjust light and water as it cares for herbs.

Floor to ceiling glass doors make the wine room a focal point in the great room.

“We were all talking about the wires and how it would be suspended and we could light it from up and down,” Maitland said. “I think it’s stunning.”

The house spans 7,401 square feet under air and a total of 11,489 square feet. It has four bedrooms and five full and one half bathroom. There is a den and an entertainment room. The entertainment room features two walls of sliding glass doors that pocket and open to the lanai. There’s a bar, table, comfortable recliner couches and lots of storage space. The den has glass French doors that lead to the lanai. It also has a private entrance. These rooms have views of the pool and lake. The designers added special details such as wood rectangles along the lower parts of some hallway walls.

“It is more of a modified wainscoting,” Maitland said. “It adds some interest to the hallway.”

“There are three really long hallways in that house so we did that to break up those spaces,” Warren added.

Another unique detail is the steamer in the laundry room.

“They had put that in a previous model and it got quite a few great reviews,” Warren said. “People really thought that was a good idea. Everything just seems very contiguous and built in. It doesn’t come off as a laundry room. It is one of those things you would not expect behind a door.”

While every guest room has a king sized bed and a couch or long ottoman, each one is created differently. One room has a peaked ceiling of shiplap and a chandelier of wooden beading. Another has a shore theme with sea fan prints and coral lamp bases. The third has a wall of inlaid wooden shapes behind the bed.

While the master suite looks simple, it is all the amenities that make it luxurious. There is a morning bar with a sink. There is a private outdoor shower and the high tech indoor shower. The suite area also has the spa room that has sliding glass doors that lead to a little garden.

Outside the pool has waterfalls and four fire bowls. A trough of water leads from the main pool around the raised spa to a shallow pool with fountains. Under roof there is a spacious area with two sitting sections, a long table, a bar and outdoor kitchen. Screens and shutters come down with the push of a button.

“I think the pool and the lanai I like the most and the touch screen shower,” said Andrew Olmsted, project manager.

Warren and Maitland said one of their favorite things is the faux art that has a layering effect behind the television in the great room.

“This client really likes texture and things that are more organic and he likes mixing those together,” Warren explained. “This client likes elegance.”

Ennen said the client also really likes specialty items. While he has built homes with a few unusual items, Ennen said he’s never done anything like this before.

“This has the most unique elements in it,” he said. “I have done some other ones that have some elements, but this one has the most by far.”



Thick wood beams attached in a barrel shape over a white shiplap ceiling give both elegance and warmth to the room. The same type of beams form a crisscross pattern over the white shiplap ceiling in the nearby kitchen. *Photo By Andrea Stetson*



The master bathroom shower has 12 sources of water including a rainhead and many side sprayers. There are no faucet handles. Instead everything from water flow to temperature is controlled by little computer screens. The computers also control the music from the speakers in the shower. *Photo By Andrea Stetson*