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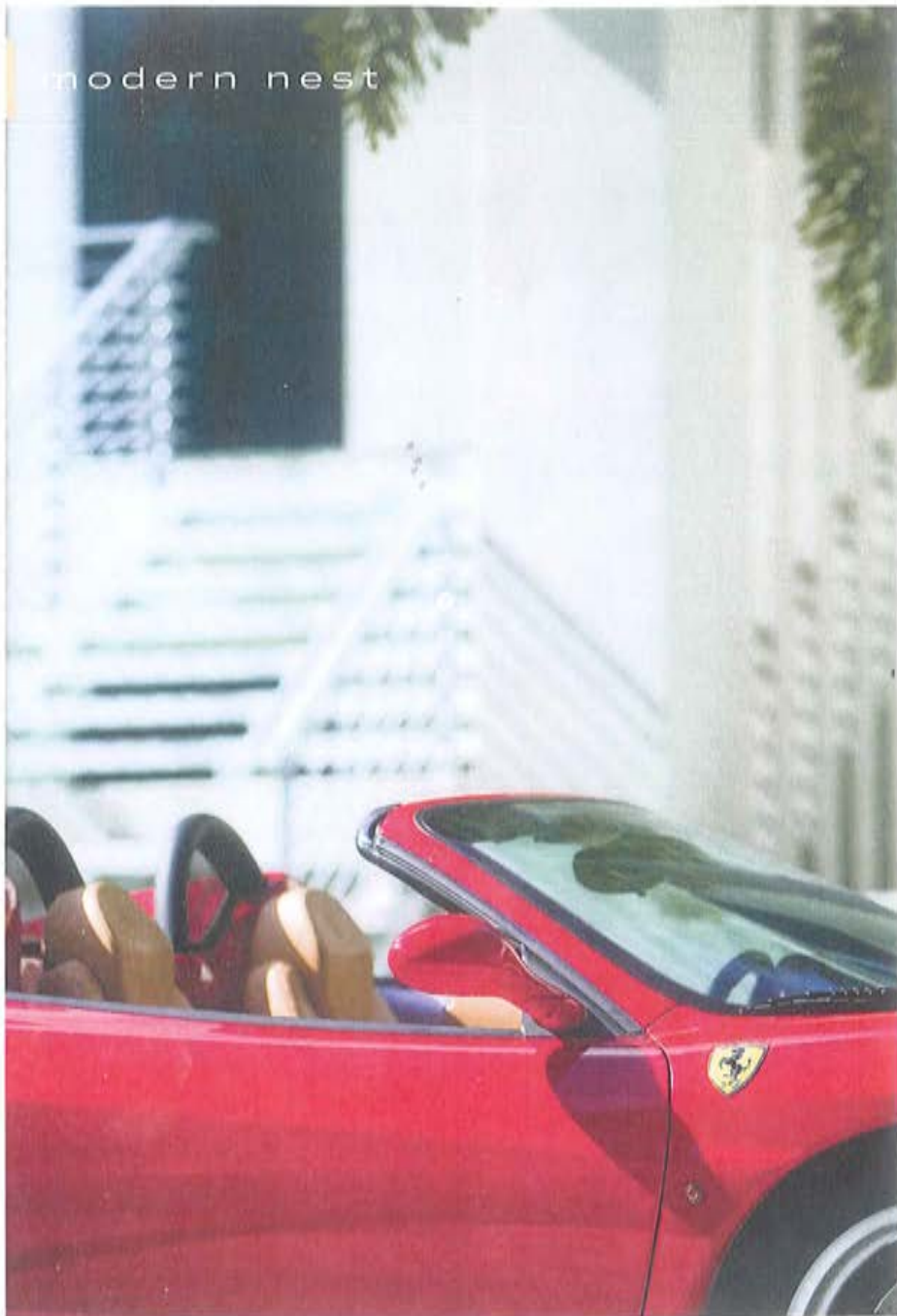
EUROPEAN FLAIR

THE DEBUT RESIDENTIAL PROJECT FROM FINERGY DEVELOPMENT, THIS THREE-STORY RETREAT IN THE INDIAN BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD HAS ALL THE AUTHENTIC TRAPPINGS OF A EUROPEAN HOME.

Opposite page: D. L. Steiner, "Chartreuse Twilight," State of the Arts Gallery.

Up the concrete drive, past a canopy of lush mango trees and royal palms, a red Ferrari Spyder and silver Maserati Quattroporte glisten in the shade. Sarah Brightman's "Lascia Ch'io Pianga" streams from the outside speakers and the aroma of fresh brewed espresso emanates from the kitchen. This is Enzo Gagliardi's private retreat in the Indian Beach neighborhood—design homage to his Italian roots with all the epicurean delights of home. It is where he unwinds in the Jacuzzi while sipping San Pellegrino on the rocks with a slice of lime and ruminates on his annual summer cruises across the Mediterranean Sea.

WRITTEN BY ABBY WEINGARTEN PHOTOGRAPHY BY GENE POLLUX



When first envisioning the \$11 million residence, Gagliardi and his team from Finery Development had one ideal in mind: modern European chic. The décor would have to rise above the local status quo, and every curve and corner would have to be sculpted with as much meticulousness as a marble Roman statue. "We were tired of seeing those fake Mediterranean revival houses all over Sarasota. There's nothing new and original about them, and they're kind of boring to us," Gagliardi says. "The thing about it is, if you're spending millions anyway, you can make a house truly unique, not just traditional. It's all in the details, and we like to push modern architecture to the limit."

That they did, down to the faceplates, light switches, faucets, dials, obscured nooks and alcoves. Gagliardi from Saus, Italy, renowned interior designer Dominique Copin from Paris, France, and executive Eric Collin of Sarasota's Finery launched the construction of the 16,000-square foot, nine-bedroom, ten-bathroom home in April 2008. Early in 2009, Gagliardi and his family settled in, after adorning the rooms with imported furnishings.

Every miniscule object in the home is replete with character—even the outlets at knee level and the crisply carved windowsills. A bookshelf is tucked into the wall and slanted to the right with off-kilter grids. A walk-in closet is flanked by framed, stacked panels that take on different fluorescent lights from yellow to blue to green, like an exotic art installation.

Drawing the eyes outside is the waterfront landscape on Sarasota Bay, and, like the not-too-distant Cà d'Zan, it is one of the most sought-after spots in the county. Set on 2.2 acres on Alameda Lane near the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, the three-story home was carefully maneuvered around a towering, antique oak tree and a historic Indian mound. The subdivision is more than 5,000 years old and is



Previous page: D. L. Steiner, "Marden Study." This page: D. L. Steiner, "8 x 8." Opposite page: (bottom photo) A. Dasha Reich, "Angel Hair," (left) D. L. Steiner, "Chartreuse Twilight," (right), State of the Arts Gallery, 1525 State St., sarasotafineart.com, 941-955-2787.

former habitat for Tocobaga and Seminole tribes, as evidenced by the shells and pottery shards recovered on the site. Many developers were reluctant to build there, claiming too many code restrictions or that the angle of the hill would pose foundation problems, but Finergy welcomed the challenge. Gagliardi enjoyed unearthing nearby artifacts and sensitively preserving the integrity of the land. "Settling on an American Indian archeological site that carries so much history and significance is humbling for us," he says.

Once owned by winter resident and retired shoemaker Robert P. Hazzard, the original, asbestos-paneled home Finergy razed dated back to the era of the Ringling brothers. Now, it embodies the same grandeur of the Roaring '20s, only with a contemporary charm. From the beige concrete exterior to the hurricane-proof, blue-tinted windows to the polished concrete floors and aluminum railings, the home has a strong green bent. In the back is a saltwater pool, a Jacuzzi with tiny blue glass tiles and a cascading step-down waterfall, and a concrete deck with a central fire pit. While guests swim or soak in the hot tub, they can marvel at the sunset or meander onto the sandy patch of shore. A sliding-glass-door-encased recreation room with an adjacent outdoor grill peers out onto the ocean and is equipped with the vastness to entertain hundreds of guests.

Inside, the 12-foot ceilings are illuminated with bucket lighting and the first-level floors boast glass cutouts that look down onto the sleek garage. Neutral grays and vibrant hues comprise the palette, and every crook—from the doorframes to the meeting of ceilings and walls—is cut with an unwavering hand. No moldings or casings are visible anywhere, showcasing the craftsmanship and the lack of need to "cover up any imperfections," Copin says. Nano bulbs are fit into the walls and some of the ceilings for the ambiance of starlight. "In Europe, the homes all have themes for their spaces. You'll walk in and call a room 'the orange room' or 'the yellow room,'" Gagliardi says. "It gives every room a certain identity."

The entire house is primed for surround sound and the showers are wired for Internet access. There is a fitness room with a suspended LCD TV, an entertaining room on the lower level that peers onto the Gulf of Mexico and shaded balconies attached to all the bedrooms. Nearly every fixture and material was imported either from Belgium, France or Italy. The kitchen alone, with its camouflaged refrigerator and freezer and built-in appliances by Gaggenau, a premiere German manufacturer, took nine months to finish. "What makes a house comfortable to live in is the details, and we spared nothing when it came to that," Collin says. "Everything you see in this house, you won't see anywhere in Sarasota." **PHOTO**

