

COASTAL

Homes & Lifestyles

CELEBRATING LIFE ON THE EMERALD COAST

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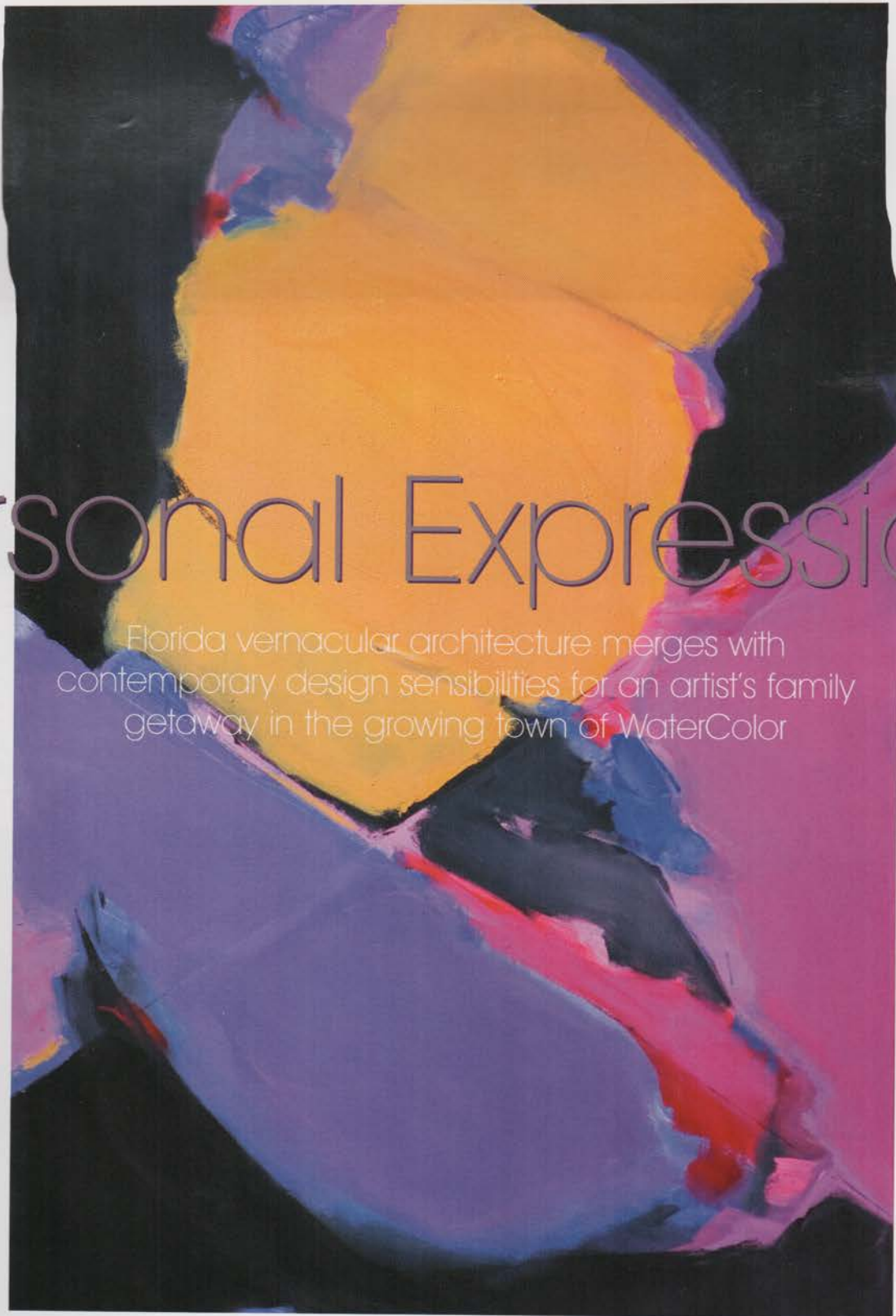
Calming Waters

Embrace nature in a kayak

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Personal Expression

Florida vernacular architecture merges with contemporary design sensibilities for an artist's family getaway in the growing town of WaterColor



Left: This untitled abstract painting represents one aspect of Carolyn Goldsmith's work. Prominent as well in her body of work are figurative canvases exploring the relationships of the people depicted in the colorful and dynamic pieces.

By Lynn Nesmith

Photography by Tommy Crow

Architect Lourdes Reynafarje reinterprets Florida vernacular architecture and infuses contemporary sensibilities for an artist's family getaway in the growing town of WaterColor



A house, more than any other building, is free to be idiosyncratic. And a second home has even more latitude for personal expression. A place at the beach doesn't need to duplicate your permanent residence. It should be a getaway reflecting not necessarily who you are, but who you like to be while on vacation.

Carolyn and Rusty Goldsmith's home in WaterColor is just such a personal portrait.



Rusty and Carolyn are constantly hanging new art in the cottage.

Below left: An intimate conversation area focuses on a low fireplace and one of Carolyn's signature works with figurative forms in color and dynamic compositions.

Right: The house possesses a grace and elegance in its architectural aspirations, the appeal lies in its simplicity and straightforward design. The house is a true collaborative effort—the swinging low bed was built by one of their sons.

Carolyn is a renowned artist whose engaging paintings merge abstract and literal, while Rusty is an Episcopal priest and former professor at the University of the South. Their house doesn't shout for attention, yet it clearly has poise, a memorable presence and its own distinct personality. As one of the first houses built in WaterColor, the Goldsmiths understood that the design could help set the tone for the emerging community. "We wanted an architect who appreciated the special characteristics of this place and understood the process of building in a town like WaterColor," says Carolyn.



They turned to Lourdes Reynafarje of Kiara Designs who had designed numerous houses in the older communities of Grayton and Seagrove, as well as Seaside and Rosemary Beach. With an understanding of the WaterColor Pattern Book, Lourdes merged architectural traditions ranging from Florida Cracker to Carpenter Gothic with touches of contemporary design sensibilities. Simple geometry, straightforward materials and refined finishes—rather than decorative embellishments—give the house its character and charm. Standing as a gracious two-story structure,
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Carolyn's paintings are placed in every room of the house, including the two upstairs master suites.



Above: The open stairway creates a visual backdrop for the living room and accentuates the room's 11-foot tall ceiling. The loose arrangement of seating areas and dining space makes for an inviting home comfortable for casual entertaining, extended-family gatherings, or a quiet weekend for two.

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the house boasts a deep front porch that presents an engaging face to the street. A row of 10-foot-tall mahogany double doors enhances the welcoming interchange between indoors and outside.

"Double eight-by-eight square pillars introduce a sense of permanence and a pleasing rhythm, scale and proportion," explains Lourdes. A metal roof and horizontal siding defer to tradition, while gently sloping eaves provide shelter from the sun and rain.

Because the architecture has such an understated character, Carolyn and Rusty let it set the tone for the interiors. The colors and furnishing take a decided turn toward warm neutrals and earth tones drawn from nature. Throughout the house, the design is restrained and pared down and the perfect background for Carolyn's art.

The spirit of the house converges in a gracious main living space, defined by a series of loose furniture arrangements. To suit varying moods, a large table close to the kitchen seats 10 for dinner, while a smaller round table accommodates games and cards and casual suppers. An intimate conversation area faces the fireplace, while the largest seating area with overstuffed sofa and plush chairs focuses on an armchair outfitted with stereo and television. A sheltered screen porch off the back of the house is a perfect spot to start the day with a cup of coffee and the morning sun.

From the beginning, the Goldsmiths planned to place the house on the WaterColor rental program to help cover expenses. They wanted a home that suited their personalities and lifestyles, as well as renters who would stay in the house. Upstairs are two master suites, allowing two couples to share the home at the same time. The large corner lot also accommodates a separate carriage house



Above: The kitchen stands as its own delightful space—not huge but functional and attractive with a stainless steel central island, tall cabinets, sleek appliances, and granite counters.

along the alley, with a second-story space that serves as a comfortable one-bedroom guest suite as well as a studio for Carolyn.

Although the Goldsmiths were among the first property owners in WaterColor, they were far from impulsive when they purchased the home site. "We've been vacationing in this area for more than 20 years," says Carolyn. "We were always checking out the area for our own beach house. Over the years, we must have considered a million possibilities."

They were enchanted by the white sand and

A variety of Carolyn's paintings is on view and available for purchase at the J. Proctor Gallery, located at the entrance of Ruskin Place, Seaside's lively art colony. Representing more than 20 artists from around the world, J. Proctor Gallery hosts an impressive array of paintings in watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals and fine-art photography. 850 231-1091 or www.jproctorgallery.com

For information about renting this home or other vacation cottages in WaterColor, call toll free 888-775-2545 or visit www.watercolorvacations.com

emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico the first time they vacationed in Destin in the early 1970s. Over the next two decades, several friends from Alabama had built homes in Seaside and Seagrove. Carolyn and Rusty found the relaxed atmosphere of the beaches along 30-A the perfect spot for family vacations—first with their three sons and now as grandchildren come into the mix. With Grayton Beach State Park to the west, Point Washington State Park to the north and Seaside to the east, WaterColor is a perfect vacation location. It offers all the good that comes with living at the beach.

Carolyn and Rusty take advantage of every chance to spend time in WaterColor and are making plans to spend their third holiday season in the house. "This place has become such an important part of all of us," says Rusty. "It's such a wonderful retreat from the rest of the world."

Clearly, they have created the setting for a lifetime of unforgettable adventures and cherished days and nights for a growing family and new friends from far and near. ■