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One of the most fascinating items in publishing is the extraordinary individuals I cross paths with.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Giovanni Lunardi, an internationally celebrated photographer, and his wife Ines, an accomplished model. A wonderful couple they make. Giovani heralding from Parma, Italy, and Ines from Lehsen, East Germany. The Lunardi Studio, located on University Parkway, is a celebration of their careers; in black & white and color.

During the course of his 40+ year career Giovanni has shot and produced over 4,000 magazine covers featuring the world's most beautiful women. Ines was a professional model for over 15 years gracing the world's best known magazines. At one point in her career Ines was tracked down in Rome on location by Eileen Ford and the Ford Modeling Agency to model for them, a rare event in the realm of professional models.

Now Ines works alongside Giovanni handling makeup and wardrobe. Some would say it is a match made in heaven. I believe it is a match of two artistic, loving souls.

We'll learn more about the Lunardis and have a chance to experience their creative talents first hand in this issue. I must say it is an honor to have Giovanni and Ines' work featured in this month's edition of REAL Magazine. Look for more of their artistic endeavors in future issues.

Il prossimo mese (Until next month).

August 2009

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Pamela Hughes

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14	100	on the cover 3731 Indian Beach Place - Casa Elegante by Tracy Eisnaugle								
18		invitation only Clifford M. Scholz, CMSA Architecture by Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa								
24	1	invitation only Mirta Klauber REALTOR, Michael Saunders & Company by Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa								
28		rsvp required  Rhonda Coblentz, Principal Financial Group by Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa								
36		All Fa	tion o iths Fo Tracy E	ood E						
16	(	interviews Giovanni Lunardi Renowned International Photographer								
30	i	n the	news							
39	•	exceptional properties								
12		perspectives Design Lines - Houses With Boats Design by Pamela Hughes								
20		An Overview of the Withholding Requirements for "Foreign Persons" Legal by Steven R. Greenberg								
22	τ	Understanding HVCC  Mortgage by C. J. Coury								
26		Site Characteristics For Southwest Florida Coastal Properties Architecture by Clifford M. Scholz								
34	1		Estate							

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38

46



AGAZINE"



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## **Design Lines - Houses With Boats**

By Pamela Hughes

Pamela Hughes, the founder and owner of Hughes Design Associates, is well known nationally and internationally. Hughes Design Associates is one of the premier interior design firms known throughout North America for specializing in prestigious custom interiors. In Sarasota, Pamela has completed many exceptional projects including The Ritz-Carlton, The Members' Beach Club, The Tower Residences, and Plaza at Five Points. Her portfolio also includes some of the most luxurious and distinctive residences in Sarasota. Pamela's work has been published in the best interior design magazines such as Architectural Digest and Veranda, as well as numerous other publications. Also, Home and Garden Television (HGTV) featured her in the program, "Public Places, Private Spaces", showcasing her work on the Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia, and a luxurious private home in Chicago. In addition to their work in Sarasota, Pamela and her firm design projects throughout the US, Canada, the Bahamas and the Caribbean.

What could be more fun than by Nick Bollettieri and a La Prairie depending on the scheme-offering having a house on one of our many spa. Sounds pretty spectacular, contrast to the dark wenge custom beautiful Sarasota waterways and doesn't it? having a boat with the house as well? Well, not much, as long as the The design concept for the made in Los Angeles especially for gorgeous locale.

it would be entertaining to write elements enhance and emphasize ceilings, bathrooms, and kitchens about a project we are completing the magnificent sun, sky and water are all somewhat unique and in the British West Indies. The surroundings project is 19 Deckhouses at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman. These So what will the interiors of these and on walls, and other materials in are individual luxury homes with Deckhouses be? Well, we designed all the services of the nearby Ritz- four color schemes: neutral, blue island-like informality and their Carlton. Each home includes an and white, aquamarine and seafoam dramatic island colorations. Aquariva Super yacht made by green, in two different styles: Riva with a beautifully crafted Modern and West Indies. The Artwork and accessories, boathouse integrated into each houses are 7,000 square feet each, especially, heighten the feeling of home for the ultimate in have 12 foot ceilings and glass being in a very special place with convenience and luxury. Riva is an window walls on three sides, gorgeous island flora and fauna Italian yacht builder who is known affording beautiful, endless views images and shapes. for extremely elegant, fast, antique- of water and land, and flooding the styled wood watercrafts. Your homes with sunlight and easy Although The Deckhouses are in Aquariva Super is your access to the wrap-around decks. Grand Cayman, all of the design transportation of choice at your Living here truly will be a elements and concepts transfer "best of land and sea" Deckhouse.

celebrity chef Eric Rupert, tennis are informal- colorful or calming fun!

house is in Sarasota or some other Deckhouses is to create one's own The Deckhouses by one of the more private island, complete with exclusive manufacturers in the U.S. infinity pool, garden, private beach

designed wood pieces. Decorative lighting fixtures are iron or nickel,

For this month's column, I thought and guesthouse. All of these Finish materials for floors, walls, reference this wonderful place. Custom tiles are found in showers the baths were selected for their

synchronous indoor/ outdoor perfectly to our own spectacular experience. Exotic hardwoods are Sarasota homes. So, The In addition to your incredibly found on terraces, in the interior Deckhouses are truly a dream come fabulous personal yacht, you have millwork, on soaring beams, spiral true, as are our many Sarasota your own golf cart, full butler staircases and in custom crafted properties, particularly if you love service by the Ritz-Carlton, access cabinets. Slate and wood floors add houses with boats! Now, off to to the resort's Greg Norman- a warm and informal element with explore the North Sounds and designed golf course, dining by soft area rugs for bare feet. Fabrics world-famous Stingray City! What

# BEYOND THE FRONT





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# 3731 INDIAN BEACH PLACE

Photography by SRQ360







Paradise unfolds at Casa Elegante. This unique estate is surrounded by the tropical treasures of Sarasota Jungle Gardens and the coveted waters of Sarasota Bay. Privately located upon the roads end, where one is greeted by the noble gates of this palatial mansion, almost an acre of lush waterfront property graciously enclosed by a towering hedge of Chinese bamboo.

Tranquil sounds of a water fountain draw one to the front porte-cochere where regal columns and sweeping arches provide coverage from inclement weather and access to the cascading stairwells leading to the grand front entry. Custom carved mahogany doors give way to the spectacular display of towering ceilings, intricate moldings, polished marble and aweinspiring views.

Developed by Laughlin's Luxury Lifestyles and built by Triangle Construction the entire estate incorporates green building practices creating an environmentally conscious residence achieving Green Certification. Creating a safe haven through the integration of hurricane resistant impact glass windows and glass doors with sixty-eight pilings driven twenty-eight feet into the bedrock and full concrete construction; while also incorporating a whole house water purification system, CAT 5 wiring, Lite Touch lighting controls, foam insulation, and high-tech security system. Each space is an abundant display of articulate design including; exceptional stone work, gold plated fixtures, motorized chandeliers, renewable forest woods, onyx and marble appointed baths, and one-of-a-kind vanities.

The remarkable first floor includes multiple living spaces, open terraces, gourmet kitchen, utility area, and a secluded suite. The formal living and dining rooms share a double sided gas fireplace, each side featuring different custom carved Carrera marble. A dramatic oval dome ceiling in the living area is delicately finished with trompe l'oeil and intricate moldings. While a colonnade of marbleized columns separates the dining room showcasing a Swarovski crystal chandelier and inlayed marble floor.

A well-appointed butler's pantry and utility hallway give access to the casual living areas, where the epicurean designed kitchen becomes center stage. Distinctive Pennville Cabinetry features cherry custom carved corbels, moldings and window valence; every cabinet option is incorporated to please even the most fastidious chef. Professional appliances, three stainless steel sinks, and exotic granite complete the chef's suite. Within reach is the cedar lined temperature controlled wine cellar with custom etched glass door.

The second floor contains the master suite, quiet room, den, and two guest suites each with its own bath, walk-in closet and balcony area. The master suite contains two walk-in closets, private balcony and morning bar, which provides access to an additional room that can be used as a nursery, massage room or fitness area. The master bath is an opulent display of Breccia Oniciata marble, with separate "his" and "hers" accommodations.

Unlike any other location Casa Elegante provides expansive views spanning from downtown across Longboat Key to the end of Anna Maria Island. The ground floor contains endless outdoor entertaining opportunities including; an open kitchen, refreshing pool, large covered area with dance floor and bar, and gas fire pit. A torchere lit pathway leads to the sandy beach area with boat dock, jet ski lifts and davits. Being environmentally conscious and taking into consideration the unique traits of its surroundings, Casa Elegante utilizes salt/drought tolerant plantings and sod.

Take in mesmerizing sunsets and create lasting memories from this exceptional estate. Contact Peter G. Laughlin to schedule a personal home demonstration of the enchanting Casa Elegante.

> Peter G. Laughlin Signature Sotheby's International Realty 941.356.8428 peter.laughlin@sothebysrealty.com signaturesir.com



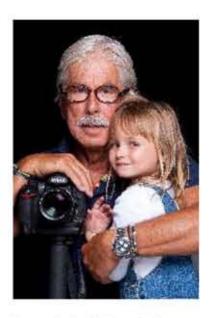
By Tracy Eisnaugle



### Interview With Giovanni Lunardi

By Ed Bertha

Renowned International Photographer



Born and raised in Parma, Italy Giovanni Lunardi now calls Sarasota, Florida his home. Traveling the globe Lunardi let his lens and artistic talents define his career. Shooting upcoming and accomplished models for the world's top magazines he has defined a career like no other. Sitting in Lunardi's 14,000 square foot studio with his lovely wife, and former model, Ines we have an opportunity to engage this extraordinary artist.

Giovanni Lunardi 941-359-9155 www.lunardi.com

# Giovanni, what lead you to photography and what keeps you passionate about it after all these

"When I did my Geology degree, I was looking for something that would give me freedom of expression. At the beginning of my career I tried to be an assistant director for movies. I thought that this would be my career. After two years I decided that this was too complicated, involved too much coordination, too many people and too much money. I was looking for a career where I could be more independent. One thing that I like about my career is that I have the freedom to accept a project that I enjoy and decline those that I do not. I don't have to follow anyone else's rules or direction. I make the choices I want. I have also had the opportunity to travel all over the world. Through this experience I have encountered many different people, cultures and ways of life. Things are always changing in my career. This makes life exciting."

#### Why do you think you became so famous and sought after?

"I do not know the reasons I became famous. Many people have liked my pictures and have used them for covers of magazines. To date, almost 4,000 of my pictures have been featured on magazine covers around the world. Currently, I produce two to three hundred magazine covers in Europe per year."

#### What kind of relationships have you had with the women in your career?

"I have always felt very comfortable with the women that I photographed. I have worked with many models, makeup artists and stylists, most of whom were women. I have worked with women the majority of my career. There are two different types of relationships: One is with the women who work with me to achieve the photograph, such as the stylists and makeup artists. The other is the relationship between me and those in front of the camera. When I work with women, I try to explain my goals and what I hope to achieve through my photographs. I have always found it easy to relate to women. I try to explain to the women in front of the camera that they must focus on only me and the camera. They have to look at me and the camera as they would look towards someone they love and feel passion for. To create a great photograph, fifty percent must come from me, and fifty percent from the woman in front of the camera. If someone is not following me, the picture will not come out. Before taking the pictures, I like to meet the women and spend some time getting to know them. I memorize how they move, how they speak, how they smile so that I can take pictures when they are at their best. After the pictures are taken, I work with my computer to give freshness to their face, to give them youth, to adjust imperfections. I try to make them appear their best."

#### Tell us about some of the famous people you have worked with and photographed.

"I have worked and traveled with many beautiful models. Many of them have become famous and have had a great career. Some of the models include Jean Shrimpton, Maud Adams, Greta Scacchi, Brooke Shields, Carol Alt, Heidi Klum, Valeria Mazza, Charlize Theron, and Jack Scalia. I never become friends with the models, as they are always traveling around the world. Sometimes you never see them again. I choose to keep my life private. The life the models live is not this way. If you ask me who my favorite is, I would choose Carol Alt. She was a very nice person, very simple. She was very grateful to work with me when she was starting her career."

#### Where has your career taken you?

"I have a very long list of places I have traveled to for work. I have worked in Australia, Iceland, Vietnam, and all over South America. The places I most enjoyed were Peru and Iceland. I also completed a coast-to-coast trip in the United States, covering 20,000 miles, for a 20-page shoot for an Italian Magazine named Grazia. This was a great experience."

#### What made you decide to choose Sarasota as your home?

"We were in Florida for many years to do catalogues and magazines in winter, while it was very cold in Europe. We were spending two to three months in Florida every year. In 1994, I decided to buy a place to leave my equipment. When I saw the house where I live now, I decided that my dream was to move here. We then bought our home and moved here full time in 1997. Since the digital camera has replaced film cameras, everything is easier. I can still work with agencies and magazines in Europe due to the technology that is now available."

#### What part did your wife, Ines, play in your career?

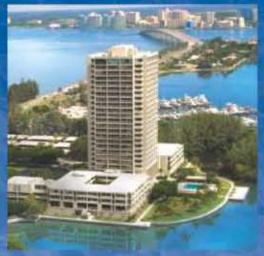
"Ines was modeling for a long time. She began in the 1970's, worked for many years and became very successful. She worked for famous photographers Helmut Newton, Guy Bourdin, Irving Penn, and many others. Her pictures have appeared in magazines such as Vogue, Bazaar, Elle, and many other magazines. When she stopped modeling, she began working with me as a stylist and makeup artist. She is very good at this."

#### Giovanni, one last question. What is your most favorite photograph?

"My favorite photograph is always the last one I take. That makes it Mirta Klauber's in your









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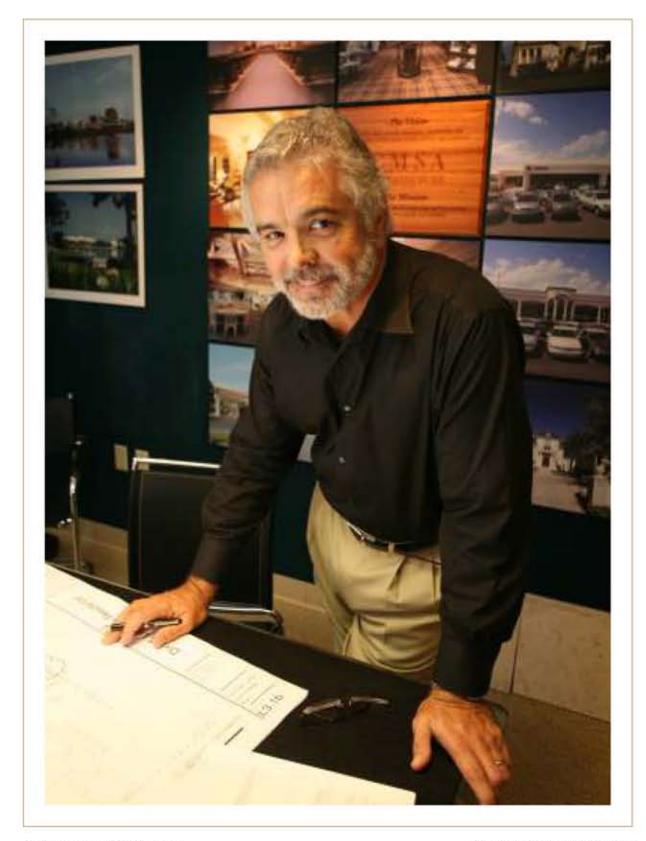




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By Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa

Photography by Chad Spencer







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# **CMSA ARCHITECTURE**

A Lifestyle Approach

architect Clifford M. Scholz has remained project for maximum results. dedicated to offering distinctive service throughout the design and build process. The communicative process is also a key With a focus on achieving timeless products element to ensuring that each clients' wants The team at CMSA Architecture, which that reflect careful consideration to their and needs are met. While Cliff and his team includes Cliff's longtime professional impact on the natural surroundings, Cliff and are not defined by a particular style, he partner and company vice president Larry his design team work to achieve exceptional observes that there "is something W. Hale, is an integral part of the firm's results on every project they handle.

continue to see socially for years," he reveals. "What we're doing is much more than just surroundings." drafting a drawing, more than just a way of extension of that clients' vision."

Communicating that vision, notes Cliff, opportunity to undertake residential meets with every project. "Visiting sites and involves cultivating a synergistic renovations, design commercial properties, talking to my clients is very stimulating," he relationship with all parties involved in the and work with golf and country club says. "It's exciting to meet new people, to design and build process. "A successful developments. The group has found success share in their dreams and visions, and to turn project involves much more than a great beyond Sarasota, frequently working with them into realities." Anatural-born problem finished product," he explains. "There is residential and commercial clients solver, Cliff looks forward to his future pricing and timing to consider, which means throughout the Southern United States. An endeavors, "It's about design opportunities, that the homeowner, architect, interior active member of the local community, Cliff rather than the size of a project," he explains. designers, contractor and subcontractors, maintains memberships in a number of "With so many phenomenal properties in material suppliers and other professionals organizations including the Florida Gulf Sarasota alone, I'll never retire. I enjoy what involved must work together. And the Coast Chapter of the American Institute of I'm doing too much to stop!"

n his firm's work with custom can ensure that all of the components Sarasota County, and the National Trust for

good architecture that feels right amongst its and that is sustainable."

residences, commercial involved fit as seamlessly as possible." Historic Preservation. In addition to holding properties, country club and Experience, Cliff adds, is what enables him LEED AP certification, Cliff is also a golf course developments, to effectively prioritize throughout each Certifying Agent for the Florida Green Building Coalition, and is a Licensed General Contractor in the State of Florida.

distinctive" about the firm's work. "We success. The team is a tight-knit group of generate proportional drawings that reflect talented individuals who share a vision of When clients turn to CMSA Architecture, the Classical style of architecture I was the collaborative creative process. "Design says Cliff, they can expect to embark upon a raised and mentored on," he offers. "This isn't just about sitting in a room and coming journey that will likely extend beyond the may result in the 'feel' that our clients up with renderings," says Cliff. "It happens business at hand. "The vast majority of our consistently refer to when describing our throughout every project. Our goal is always clients end up as friends, people whom we homes. It's not easy to define; I look at it as to infuse creativity into a product that works,

After over 35 years in the architecture and designing a house or a building. It's an While CMSA Architecture is known for its construction industries, Cliff reveals that he stunning custom residences throughout the remains enthusiastic about his profession, Sarasota area, the firm also enjoys the and the opportunities and challenges he



Clifford M. Scholz, President CMSA Architecture 7013 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231 941.923.2400 CScholz@cmsa1.com www.CMSA1.com

ALL THINGS REAL ESTATE 19



# An Overview of the Withholding Requirements for "Foreign Persons"

By Steven R. Greenberg

Steven R. Greenberg has practiced Real Estate law in Sarasota since 1986 and is a shareholder in the law firm of Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg, P.A. He is board certified by the Florida Bar in real property law and frequently lectures on matters involving real estate transactions. Seven may be reached at (941) 365-6216 or by calling Linda Witt, Director of Marketing, directly at (941) 586-4412 or by email at REinfo@icardmerrill.com.

foreigners (individuals and entities) from property without paying tax on the profits.

the closing, unless:

- taxpayer identification number; or

enacted FIRPTA (Foreign Investment in at the property for at least 50% of the time FIRPTA is to minimize the ability of the next two one-year time periods taking the proceeds from the sale of U.S. will sign a Residency Affidavit to that

Section 1445 of the Internal Revenue 3. The seller has applied to the Internal Code ("IRC") requires that the buyer of Revenue Service ("IRS") for a U.S. real property collect and pay over to Withholding Certificate because the the Internal Revenue Service 10% of the seller's tax liability will be less than 10% the purchase price. purchase price within twenty days after of the sales price. The Withholding Certificate that is issued determines the The FAR9 Contract Comprehensive 1. The seller is a U.S. taxpayer and IRS. If the Withholding Certificate is seller is a "foreign person" as defined in certifies under oath their social security obtained prior to closing, only the amount the IRC (generally, a person or entity who number, or if an entity, the federal as reflected on the Withholding Certificate is not a U.S. taxpayer). It should be noted to be withheld must be paid to the IRS. If that this Addendum "W" requires the 2. The purchase price is \$300,000.00 or prior to the closing date, but not yet directed any instrument, affidavit, or less and the buyer, or a member of the received by the closing date, 10% of the

Effective January 1, 1985, Congress buyer's family, has definite plans to reside purchase price must be withheld at closing and held in escrow pending the receipt of Real Property Tax Act). The purpose of that the property will be used in each of the Withholding Certificate. Upon receipt of the Withholding Certificate, the escrow following the closing date and the buyer agent pays to the IRS the amount of the tax liability and all remaining escrow funds are refunded to the seller. Of course, the Withholding Certificate procedure only makes sense in the context of a sale when the seller's tax liability on the profit on the sale is less than 10% of

> amount of the seller's tax liability to the Addendum "W" should be used when the the Withholding Certificate is applied for buyer and seller to "execute and deliver as Continues to page 23





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# **Understanding HVCC**

By C. J. Coury

C.J. Coury is a Senior Vice President with Bank of America and oversees their residential mortgage division serving Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte Counties. Prior to joining Bank of America in 1995, C.J. was President of Mortgage Brokers of America in Birmingham, MI for 7 years. He has been an active mortgage finance professional since 1983. C.J. may be reached at 941-952-2888 or by email at charles.j.courv@bankofamerica.com.

As you all know, the Federal government has now implemented the Home Valuation Code of Conduct (a.k.a. Appraisal Independence) and all lenders must adhere to it if they are going to sell the loan to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. The rules, regulations and requirements do not apply to FHA or VA loans.

The pressure that appraisers felt to hit a predetermined figure when appraising real estate is what ultimately led to this momentous change for our industry. We now must work our way through some new routines while we develop a clear understanding of what is, and is not, acceptable behavior.

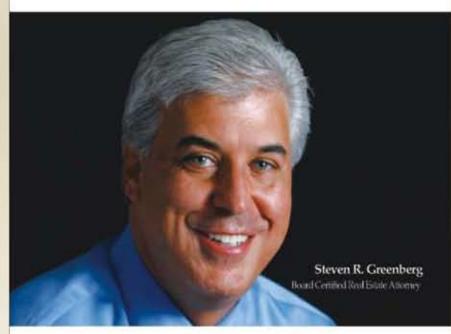
One of the main misconceptions is that you are not allowed to speak with the appraiser that is simply not true. The only thing that you are prohibited from doing is pressuring them to hit a number or questioning their evaluation. My suggestion is that you help the appraiser to arrive at an accurate market value by providing the most accurate comparable data available to you at the time you are contacted for the inspection. Don't pass over short sales and foreclosures as they are simply too prevalent in today's market to be ignored. However, as you know, foreclosed properties, and possibly short sales, are in varying states of disrepair. Make certain that you have done the legwork to provide the appraiser with knowledge that he or she might not be able to easily obtain.

A few months ago I wrote about a \$150,000 spread between the sale price of two foreclosed properties in my neighborhood both of which sold at approximately the same time and were virtually identical in square footage and amenities. The reason for the large discrepancy (almost 30%) was the fact that one had been meticulously maintained while the other was completely ignored inside and out. What do you think the odds are that the listing agent will take the time to provide a comprehensive report of condition to the appraiser? It is highly likely that a telephone call to them would never even be returned. Your transaction may depend on the appraiser obtaining accurate and detailed information about the comps beyond what the MLS might provide take it upon yourself to see that this happens.

report it is allowable to send in additional adjustment made after the fact. Please make reconsideration of their evaluation, provide this invaluable information to the However, it is a time consuming and appraiser as early in the process as possible ineffective manner of doing business, not to you will like the results!

Once the appraiser has completed their mention that there is rarely much, if any, information via the lender and request a it a part of your routine to gather and

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22 REAL MAGAZINE

Continued from page 20

### Withholding Requirements for "Foreign Persons"

By Steven R. Greenberg

statement reasonably necessary to comply with the FIRPTA requirements, including applying for a TIN (taxpayer identification number) within three days from Effective Date of the Contract and delivering this respective TIN or Social Security Number to the Closing Agent."

There are several issues that may arise with regard to the FIRPTA withholding requirements. Depending on the amount of the liens encumbering the property and the amount of the closing costs, the seller may not net 10% of the purchase price and may have to bring money to the closing in order to close the transaction. If the seller is unable to come up with the funds necessary to meet the 10% requirement, the closing will not occur. Furthermore, if the seller is a foreign person under the IRC and the buyer initially agrees to sign a Residency Affidavit pursuant to the second exemption above, but later refuses to do so, the seller will have to comply with the obligation for withholding and may not be in a financial position to bring money to closing.

The remittance of the withheld funds to the IRS is considered the filing of a tax return; and that is why the seller is required to obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS. Moreover, it may still be necessary for the seller to file a tax return even if no withholding is required.

This article is intended to be a brief overview of FIRPTA. The regulations are extensive and consultation with a tax advisor is appropriate to determine requirements in any particular transaction.



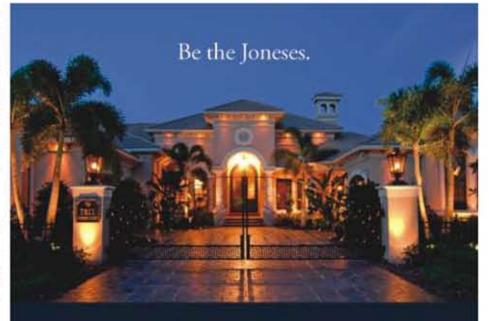
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ALL THINGS REAL ESTATE 23



By Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa

Photography by Giovanni Lunardi







# MIRTA MATHEU KLAUBER

Matching People With Properties And Lifestyles

professional Mirta Matheu buyers and sellers." Klauber has represented propwork, and her professionalism.

of experience in the hospitality industry; ciate her knowledge and experience. during which she gained significant mana-Saunders & Company.

consistently rose to the challenges that the street." were presented daily," she recalls. The with others is a key element of my ability tomers in maximizing their homes' expo-

Mirta's move into real estate followed years and industry-related colleagues who appreachieve their goals."

career as a real estate agent with Michael estate is one of the most fulfilling occupa- binding that holds my life together." tions around. As an agent I have the opportunity to help people change their lives for Her commitment to matching people with

ships for life, with both my clients and my approach to each client's unique transac- and sellers with exceptional service. colleagues," she asserts. "Working well tion. As a listing agent she assists her cus-

or over 28 years, real estate to facilitate a smooth transaction for my sure, and in attracting prospective buyers. When working with buyers, she develops a strong rapport with her clients, learns their erties throughout Sarasota Fluent in English, Spanish and French, lifestyles and needs; and helps keep them and Manatee Counties. Her experience in Mirta describes herself as a great commu- motivated during the process of searching luxury waterfront homes, coupled with her nicator who adapts well to her clients' for their ideal home. To every client she fluency in three languages, has enabled needs. Her ability to gain the confidence offers an unwavering dedication to meeting Mirta to attract a local, national and inter- and trust of her clients is something that their particular needs. "The sale and purnational clientele who appreciate her mar-clearly comes naturally. Perhaps it's chase of real estate is such an important ket knowledge, her strong collegial net-through her easy manner, or her friendly decision," she asserts. "I'm here to serve as and relatable nature that Mirta has devel- a resource and an advocate for my clients oped such a strong network of loyal clients and to do whatever possible to help them

Mirta is equally committed to her profesgerial expertise working for the Sonesta Refusing to limit herself to a specific geo- sion and her family, as well. A firm believer chain of luxury hotels and resorts in New graphical region, Mirta has focused instead in the value of ongoing education, she has Orleans, LA. Next, she assisted then- on building her business through extensive earned a GRI designation in order to offer a husband Michael Klauber in the opening of networking. "There is no greater service I higher level of professional service to her Sarasota's now-legendary Michael's On can offer my clients than being able to clientele, and to distinguish herself among East Restaurant. The work, though highly quickly understand their lifestyles and then her fellow agents. A proud mother of daughdemanding, provided a strong foundation in be able to match them with the perfect ters Kelly Elizabeth and Molly Michael, she customer service upon which to build her properties." Mirta adds "I believe that real describes the two young women as "the

"In my managerial positions, I was con- the better, whether they're moving to properties and lifestyles has enabled Mirta stantly dealing with changes and crises, and another country, another state, or just down to enjoy longevity in the often tumultuous field of real estate. Her dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism have earned her work also tapped into her ability to com- Mirta typically works with buyers and sell- the respect and appreciation of clients and municate effectively with a wide range of ers of primary residences, investment resi- colleagues alike. In Sarasota's real estate personalities, which has served her well in dences and commercial properties and market, Mirta Matheu Klauber is one of a real estate. "I know how to build relation- employs a broad range of skills in her kind and is committed to providing buyers



Mirta Matheu Klauber, GRI Michael Saunders & Company 440 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, FL 34228 941.704.6749 MirtaKlauber@MichaelSaunders.com www.SarasotaPropertiesUnlimited.com

ALL THINGS REAL ESTATE 25



# Site Characteristics For Southwest Florida Coastal Properties

By Clifford M. Scholz

As founder of CMSA, Cliff has over 35 years of experience in architecture and construction. His sense of design and clear-cut goals have created a reputation for quality and excellence for his firm. As lead architect, he is responsible for the design of projects consisting of custom residential developments, office structures, commercial renovations, golf clubs and high-rise condominium buildings. He takes a proactive role in every project as the client contact, and directs his team of highly skilled professionals to keep every endeavor in balance. Cliff received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield, Michigan, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. Cliff is also a Licensed General Contractor in the State of Florida and certified as a LEED AP. Cliff may be reached at 941-923-2400 or via email at cscholz@cmsa1.com.

CMSA has been designing residential and commercial properties on the coastal regions of Florida for the last 17 years. I personally, with partnerships prior to the formation of CMSA, have been designing coastal properties for approximately 30 years. I am fortunate to be involved in the development of these properties, as they are some of zone is for coastal properties that are the most beautiful in the world.

Coastal properties are also accompanied by ramifications with regard to guidelines from the federal, state, and local jurisdiction levels. These need to be followed very carefully and as a 100 year storm event. The X-zone is designer, experience is needed in knowing how to provide a beautiful and natu- limited, if any flood elevations for finral setting that is both environmentally sensitive and sustainable. The typical coastal properties that we see in southwest Florida range from a ground elevation of approximately 5.0' to an elevation of 12'or 13'. Coastal properties come along with the given possibility The FDEP criteria are shore parallel of storm events, and this brings in the federal, state, and local flood criteria to regulate the construction and improvements on these properties.

The entity on the federal level is FEMA, which is the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the FDEP - the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for beach tion. and dune protection. The local regulations are administered by the county or The county criteria are enforcement of city areas for possibly even stricter the above criteria and possible further requirements than at the federal or design protection requirements due to state level. A good example of this particular attributes of a site.

would be the Sarasota County Gulf There is a plethora of criteria to be Beach Setback Line (GBSL) which was adopted by Sarasota County in order to further review construction seaward or within that line.

The FEMA criteria are broken into V-

zones, A-zones or X-zones. The Vsubject to a wave crest occurrence in a 100 year storm event. These properties will be required to be constructed on a piling supported foundation. The Azone includes coastal properties subject to flooding due to tidal rise in a usually for non-coastal properties with ished floors, although it should be noted that area drainage master plans should be reviewed as sometimes storm events can affect drainage canals and inland waterways.

width of the structure versus the property width, first level floor minimum elevations, piling cap elevations, as well as piling depth elevations. All of these are considered for potential scouring action during a storm event and tidal reaction from the subject property to adjacent properties. The flooding. At the state level, we have preservation of beach dune natural systems is the main goal in this applica-

addressed while bringing the finished project to an established presence in balance with the natural environment and safeguarding the public and property improvements. This is where an experienced architect is mandatory. If done correctly, the result is a beautiful, natural, and timeless setting benefiting both the environment and the inhabitants of the property.

Other aspects of the geography of a coastal site are the existing soils, environment and vegetation to protect, and in some cases, natural rock formations below grade. Existing soils on a coastal property can be located in an A-zone, which typically does not require pilings but may still have the need for a piling supported foundation, due to the organic soils which are incapable of supporting the structure above. On our coast, and many coasts in the state of Florida, this is due to organic material that was filled upon by dredged soil material generated from the bottom of a canal or waterway. This practice was prevalent in the early 20th century but is rarely found in current times.

The above considerations for site characteristics for southwest Florida properties is only the beginning of the process to approach a site, review it for its potential and the regulations that exist, and then move onto the design program in order to transform the property into a sustainable and beautiful finished product.



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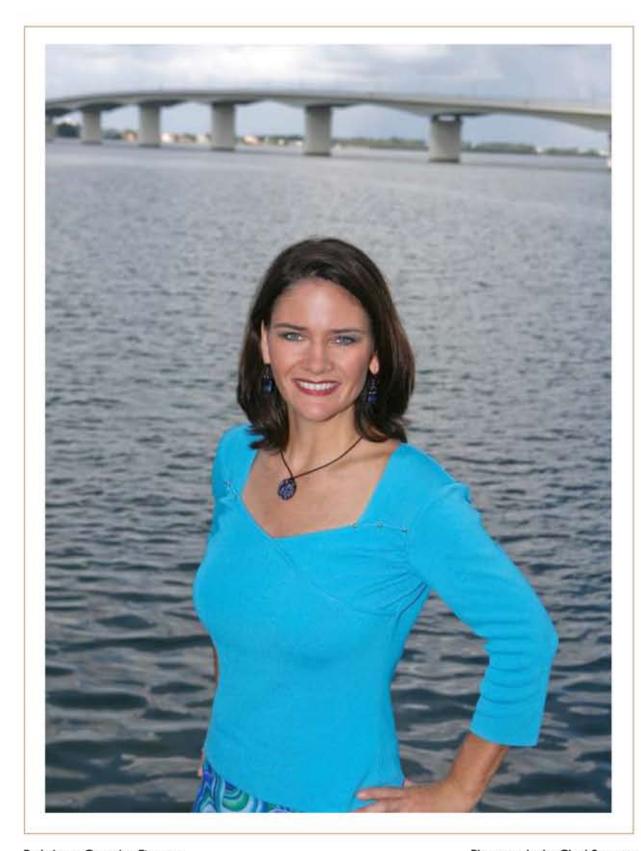
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26 REAL MAGAZINE



By Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa

Photography by Chad Spencer







# RHONDA COBLENTZ

The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital. ~ Joe Paterno

from The Principal, with 130 years of REALTORS® to physicians to attorneys- and personal endeavors." experience and a wealth of resources, who must account for unexpected their fiscal planning by keeping a steady sight on their long-term goals, while preparing them as they encounter the inevitable hurdles and challenges that life's path will reveal.

marathon, individuals who are seeking to create or update their financial plan should professional;" she says, "someone who can teach them how to create a strategy and an action plan, to motivate them when they encounter difficult periods, and to keep them on track as they run the course."

spent years in the industry as a licensed accomplish their goals. "It's not the hard-earned reward. REALTOR\* and mortgage broker), uncommon for individuals and businesses

for secure futures.

individual and small- to medium-sized of others." business owners, Coblentz emphasizes "I believe that, just as in training for a that she does not offer "the flavor of the month" when it comes to her clients' best interests," she explains.

Coblentz offers a unique, well-rounded to hold multiple accounts with different perspective in her approach to financial companies," she says. "I can examine all future, Rhonda Coblentz, planning, Her ability to translate the the pieces and offer an overview of the Financial Representative effects of credit scores and mortgages as pulse of someone's financial health." When with the Principal Financial Group\*, (The they relate to her clients' portfolios is an appropriate, she'll make recommendations Principal") understands that the race is won invaluable tool to helping them better on how to strengthen the plan that is in one leg at a time. The marathon runner and understand how to work towards place, or to assist in creating an updated single mother of two teenagers knows accomplishing their long- and short-term plan of action. Ultimately, says Coblentz, firsthand the importance of pacing and goals. And because she's intimately the idea is to provide individuals with strategy, and works with every client to familiar with the unpredictable nature of financial confidence. "When that's coach and guide them through their course sales-based incomes, Coblentz has found accomplished, my clients are able to focus to financial success. Backed by support a niche with professionals - from on their true passions, in their professional

Coblentz helps her clients take charge of financial situations to arise as they plan Coblentz continues, "When a strong financial plan is in place, you open the doors of opportunity. There's a sense of While The Principal offers a vast range of clarity, which leads to individuals being products and resources designed for more effective in their lives and in the lives

Every runner knows that no race can be completed without taking the first step. In investments. "Like The Principal, I am planning for her clients' financial futures, align themselves with an experienced committed to excellence and integrity, to Rhonda Coblentz coaches them from start ensuring that I do what's in my clients' to finish, regardless of where exactly the starting point lies. In the end, each person competes to win, and Coblentz is there for Coblentz also works with individuals who the long haul, offering motivation, advice currently have a financial plan in place, and industry knowledge designed to take offering an asset allocation review to every client successfully across the finish With a strong background in real estate (she ensure that they are on track to line, where the prize of financial freedom is

> Rhonda Coblentz Financial Representative Principal Financial Group 4010 Boy Scout Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607 Office (813) 872-5887, Cell (941) 504-9010 coblentz.rhonda@principal.com

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# Property Selected For Movie "PALMETTO" Sets Sales Record On Casey Key



Signature Sotheby's International Realty's Joel Schemmel and his team at The Schemmel Property Group (Schemmel, Kathleen Ucci and Sharon Chiodi) recently closed a \$6.2 million sale on Casey Key. The property is located at 1538 North Casey Key Road in Osprey. Nicole Hammons-Dovgopolyi of Michael Saunders & Company represented the buyer. According

to the Mid-Florida Regional MLS, the residence, known as "Sugar Bay Estate", is the highest sale on Casey Key since February 2007. Often referred to as one of Sarasota County's Marquee properties, in 1998 Hollywood sought it out as the leading location for the movie "Palmetto" starring Woody Harrelson and Elizabeth Shue. The home sits on 2+ acres stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Intra-Coastal Waterway. The entire façade and interior of the home is constructed of "fossilized coral stone" mined from a private quarry and shipped to Casey Key. Stonemasons spent over three years working on the home, which contains many other custom stone carvings and features. The estate includes an elaborate main home, dock/guest house, enormous patios, a tennis court and an incredible stone fountain/pool area. "Particularly in today's economic environment, homes of this caliber require a unique, dynamic and comprehensive marketing strategy along with the ability to consistently communicate market activity and pricing trends to both sellers and buyers", says Schemmel. "The Sotheby's International Realty network provided the platform to market this estate not only locally but nationally and internationally as well."

## **Ron Masseo Opens Home Inspection Business**



Masseo Home Inspections becomes Sarasota/Manatee's newest home inspection business. Ron Masseo, a member of ASHI (American Society of Home Inspectors) was previously an executive in the development department at Lakewood Ranch Communities. Masseo's experience includes supervisory responsibilities in land planning and development. He also participated in all phases of infrastructure construction, site development, residential production home building, platting, engineering and permitting. Masseo currently serves on the board of directors for The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund (Chair-elect); Chairman: Lakewood Ranch YMCA, Manatee Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Manatee; and formerly the Greenbrook Village Board and Collier Building Industry Association. "Ron is one

of the hardest working people I know. He is smart, hardworking, technically able, and easy to work with," states Neal Communities' **Pat Neal**. "I think he will do a great job with his new business." Masseo holds a degree in Civil Engineering, a General Contractor License, Excavation Contractor License and Underground Utility Contractor License. For more information, call 941-907-0772 or visit www.masseoinc.com.

#### Derek Nelson Awarded Arthur Rutenberg Homes Franchise



Derek Nelson, a former Arthur Rutenberg Homes Building Company President will operate Nelson Homes, Inc., an independently owned and operated Arthur Rutenberg Homes franchise. Nelson Homes will build luxury homes in Sarasota/Manatee upscale communities and on customer-owned home sites. Remodeling services will also be offered. Nelson started with Arthur Rutenberg Homes in 1989, working his way up to Building Company President in 1997. Under Derek's leadership, the Sarasota franchise won the prestigious Builder of the Year award four times and twice won The Gold Cup, an award presented annually to the Arthur

the Arthur Rutenberg franchise with the highest customer satisfaction rating based solely on customer surveys. Nelson Homes, Inc. will open a furnished model home in Lakewood Ranch's Valderrama in Country Club East. Nelson will also build in nearby Leopard Creek. Nelson will price Country Club East homes from the mid \$300's including homesite. In Lakewood Ranch's Country Club West, Nelson will build in LaCantera and Highfield with prices starting in the mid \$500's including lot. Arthur Rutenberg Homes' portfolio of more than 85 single-family, executive and estate designs ranging in size from 1,600 to 7,000 square feet of living space will be offered by Nelson Homes. All plans are customizable. Arthur Rutenberg Homes Inc. is the nation's largest franchisor of custom-home building companies. Based in Clearwater, FL, Arthur Rutenberg Homes currently has 31 independently owned and operated franchises operating in 35 Florida counties. The firm also has franchises in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Since founding the company in 1980 its franchises have built nearly 19,000 homes. Nelson may be contacted at 941-907-6771 ext 307 or dnelson@arhomes.com.

## Sharon Villars Attends WCR Leadership



Sharon Villars of RE/MAX Alliance Group participated in a two-day Leadership Academy in Chicago, IL sponsored by the Women's Council of REALTORS® (WCR). WCR is a national professional development organization with 16,000 members of which Villars is President-elect of the Manatee County Chapter. More than 275 WCR officers attended the annual, invitation-only event. The Leadership Academy provides leadership and chapter management training for incoming WCR local and state chapter presidents. The Academy provided hands-on training in areas like team building, conflict management and effective meetings. Villars also learned techniques for developing education pro-

grams, providing business networking opportunities and recruiting/retaining members. As a WCR leader Villars' role is to deliver on the Council's promise to provide education, business tools and support that meet the distinct needs of the REALTOR\* community. For more information about Women's Council of REALTORS\*, please contact Villars at 941- 920-0669 or visit www.wcrmanatee.org.

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# Carla Rayman & Patricia Tan Selected As RIS Media Top 5 In Real Estate



Left to Right: Patricia Tan and Carla Rayman

Carla Rayman and Patricia Tan of Prudential Palms Realty were selected to participate in RIS Media's The Top 5 in Real Estate. The Top 5 is a select network of real estate professionals who have met a stringent series of career qualifications and are committed to continually developing their professional skills and services. RIS Media selects Top 5 agents based on their: Experience, Results and Sales Productivity, Professional Education, Use of Information Technology and

Commitment to their Community. Top 5 was created to raise consumer expectations and encourage consumers to become more selective when choosing a real estate agent. Top 5 in Real Estate believes elevating consumer expectations is a byproduct of elevating real estate professionalism. This is the third award that Rayman and Tan have achieved this year. The duo, who together manage the Prudential Palms' International Division in Sarasota, were recognized as the company's leading short sale specialists earlier this year. At Prudential's national sales convention in Las Vegas they were named to the prestigious Leading Edge Society for 2009. This award recognizes residential sales professionals who achieved outstanding sales productivity in challenging market conditions.





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# **Real Estate Investing For All Ages**

By Jeff Riddell

Jefferson F. Riddell is a Florida Board Certified Real Estate attorney with thirty-five years of experience assisting people with a variety of residential and commercial real estate matters. U.S. 1031 Exchange Services, Inc is a 1031 exchange qualified intermediary (QI) and a member of the Federation of Exchange Accommodators (FEA). As President of U.S. 1031 Exchange services Jeff has been facilitating 1031 exchanges for more than twenty years. Jeff has been awarded the Certified Exchange Specialist (CES) certification. Jeff may be reached at 941-366-1300 or via email at jeff@us1031.com.

In the next few articles, we'll talk about the approach of different age groups to real estate investing. Let's start with the 20-35 age group; let's call them beginning wealth builders or BWBs. Unless they won the lottery or inherited a lot of money. BWBs are usually capital challenged. Most people in this age bracket are finding it difficult enough to make a down payment on a home, let alone enough to make an investment real estate down payment. But for those who have the discipline to swing it, this is the place to start because the power of leverage and compounding will benefit them the most. Those BWBs who didn't win the lottery or inherit a lot of money will probably start their real estate investing careers by buying a rental house. John Schaub says in his book Building Wealth One House At A Time that:

not scary. Their performance is predictable. They produce income when rented, and house rents have a long history of increasing. Likewise, house prices have increased at an average annual rate of roughly 5 percent for about as long as we can measure. Some years houses go up at a much higher rate, and occasionally, they do not go up at all and even drop in price.

Buying rental houses is as basic as it gets in real estate investing and John Schaub's book tells you how to do it.

Another approach to getting started in investment real estate is to buy a home for your own use (mortgage terms are sometimes better for owner occupied properties anyway) and later convert it to

Houses are not complicated, and they're a rental property when you are ready to move up to your next home. If you live in your home for two years and then turn it into a rental, you can still claim the Section 121 exemption when you sell it, but only if you resell within 36 months following the date you moved out and the tenants moved in.

> Duplexes are similar to houses; you can start small and the additional advantage is that you might live in one side and rent the other side until you accumulate enough money to make a down payment on your own home. As you can imagine, however, living next door to your tenant has both advantages and disadvantages.

> Even mobile homes can be attractive. You can buy smaller ones and target lower Continues on page 35

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Continued from page 34

# **Real Estate Investing** for All Ages

By Jeff Riddell

income persons as tenants. Weekly rent collections are suggested for these, though.

Stand alone single tenant industrial buildings may also be within their reach. "Industrial" is a wide array of rental properties that are not residential, retail or office; such properties are plentiful in many areas. Some were built by business owners who wanted to own their shops instead of renting but time moves on and such buildings are purchased by investors who turn them into rental properties. Unfortunately, some industrial property owners suffer business reversals that cause them to sell to free up cash - they become tenants once again.

Not very many BWBs have the money to buy office buildings, shopping centers or apartment buildings when they start out. Don't bite off more than you can chew - especially if real estate investing will be your part time job. John Schaub's book has a chapter called "Eight Steps to Quitting Your Day Job" but let's not go too fast; houses are just a great way to start. The point is: Get started early; the longer you are a real estate investor, the better you will be at it. Wealth building takes time.

Next article: Middle Age.



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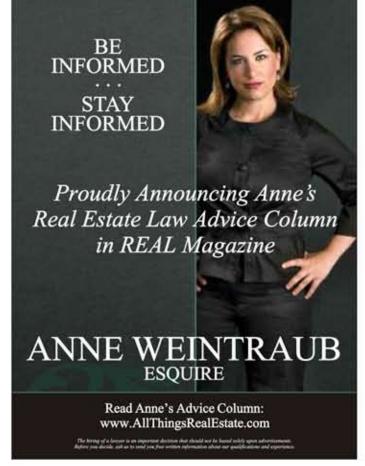
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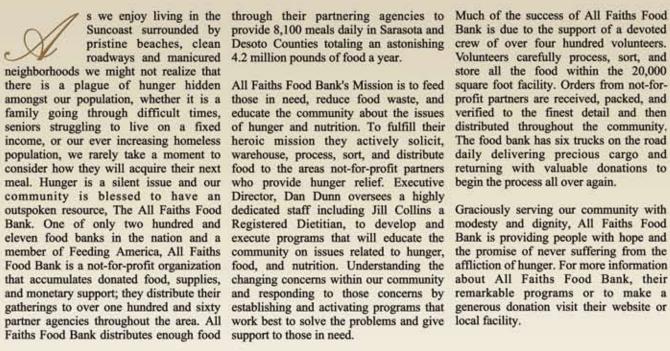












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### Go Global – Panama. Is It For You?

By Patricia Tan

Patricia Tan was born in England and moved to Sarasota in 1997. Her career has afforded her the opportunity to live and work in many countries including: Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands and the U.K. She spent five years as a Director of an American real estate franchise in England in the 1990s. Patricia has served as Chairperson of the Sarasota Association of REALTORS International Council, and serves on the Florida Association of REALTORS\* International Operations Committee. She currently works as the International Sales Director for Prudential Palms Realty. Patricia may be reached at 941-504-9232 or pat@patriciatan.com.

We often hear stories about attractively and administered by the U.S. until Decem- United States, and it has quickly estabpriced properties in Central America. ber 31 1999 when its control was given Regular readers may remember my back to the Panamanian government. articles on Costa Rica, Belize and Mexico. Well now it's the turn of Panama to come Today, Panama is one of the most politiunder the magnifying glass.

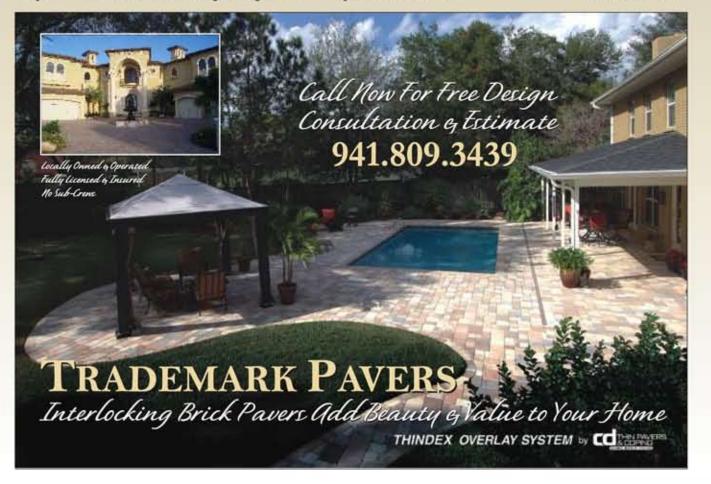
granted the U.S. rights to a "zone" in economy a further boost. which the U.S. would build a canal. The

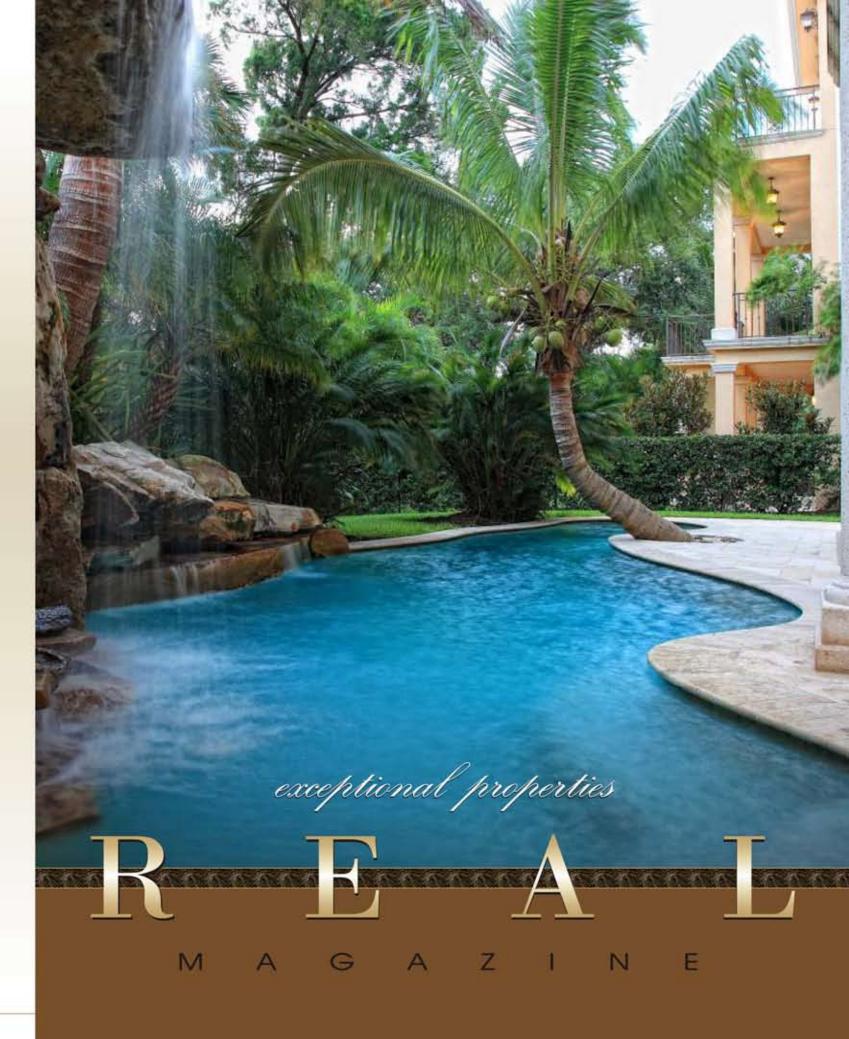
cally stable countries in the region. Its economy is based on the U.S. Dollar, and Panama lies between Colombia and Costa is primarily service-based. 75% of GDP Rica in Central America, forming a natural comes from operation of the Panama isthmian bridge between the Caribbean Canal, banking, an extensive free trade Sea to the north and the Pacific Ocean to zone in Colon, insurance, container ports, the south. Settled by the Spanish in 1500s, flagship registry, tourism and real estate ment options, and all of this underpinned and separated from Spain in 1821, Panama development. The country has recently became a department of Columbia. With embarked upon a major project to widen the support of the United States, Panama the Panama Canal, and this has sparked proclaimed its independence in 1903 and investor interest as well as giving the local

world famous Panama Canal was Panama is very accessible, with direct amanian real estate. completed in 1914 and it was managed flights from Europe, Canada and the

lished itself as a popular tourist and retirement destination. It is regularly featured in international retirement living magazines and indices as one of the most attractive retirement destinations, offering a modern infrastructure, relatively low cost of living, safety and stability, high standards of health care, varied climate (without hurricanes or earthquakes!), attractive real estate prices, many cultural and entertainby a government developed and sponsored retiree benefit package. For example, foreign residents and retirees can have overseas-sourced money remitted tax-free to Panama. There are also tax incentives to encourage international investment in Pan-

Continues on page 45





























#### SOLYMAR ON SIESTAKEY

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#### TOSCANA ON THE BAY

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40 REAL MAGAZINE ALL THINGS REAL ESTATE 41













42 REAL MAGAZINE

#### VILLA DI FIORI ON CASEY KEY

As its name implies, Villa di Fiori is a bucolic Tuscan villa set deep in a lush tropical garden overlooking beautiful Sarasota Bay. You approach this estate through a secluded gated entrance, then meander down a 200 foot stone motor court past fountains and cascading plants. Stately double mahogany doors open to this fabulous villa that embodies Old World elegance and quiet sophistication. Throughout the home are crown moldings, travertine flooring, plantation window treatments, and walls enhanced with delicate faux painting. Entering the gourmet kitchen and family room, the focal point is the Old Turkish pine central work station with wrought iron chandelier and bar seating. With walls of glass, the Rosette framed windows showcase panoramic bay views and the pool and entertainment area below. Additional features include an office, game room, a 3-bay garage work shop, fitness room and private dock with 13,000 pound lift. The beautiful gardens and unique Tuscan residence make Villa di Fiori one of the undiscovered, secluded waterfront jewels of southwest Florida. Offered at \$3,200,000.

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Peter Laughlin has built a stellar reputation providing one-of-a-kind opportunities in Sarasota's luxury home market for many years as Sarasota's top luxury real estate broker, and now as a developer of these magnificent homes. Peter was involved in the development and marketing of single-family and resort properties. He also ran an international consulting business in Miami, handling major companies and investors who needed representation in South America, the Caribbean and the USA. Peter attributes his success to commitment, planning, a high-performing team of professionals, and an abundance of satisfied customers.



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Beneath Deborah Beacham's easy smile and southern charm is an energy committed to creating an environment of trust and goodwill with her customers. This focus is backed by 25 years of experience in buying and developing, along with the past six years of selling exceptional properties from a historical Beaux Arts mansion in Washington, DC, to waterfront estates here on Casey Key. Deborah has listed or sold some of the most exquisite properties on the barrier islands, and her reputation for being a perfectionist is undisputed. Deborah has the record for the highest sale in 2009 for Sarasota County as of May 6, 2009.

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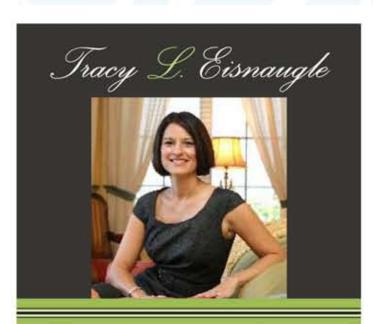




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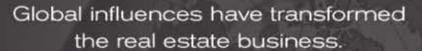
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Featured Country of the Month: Costa Rica

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Continued from page 38

# Go Global - Panama. Is It For You?

By Patricia Tan

Real estate choices are many and varied.

Visitors, retires and investors can choose from cool mountainous areas or beautiful and fascinating nature in the rain forest. Beach lovers may prefer the calm turquoise waters of the Caribbean or the dramatic waves of the Pacific within just an hour's drive of each other. Those wishing to completely get away from everything and everyone might consider purchasing a private island.

Panama City is a popular investment option for overseas investors with options to purchase residential, commercial or historical properties. Modern high rise developments are prevalent due to the high land value in the City itself.

Raw land and small development opportunities also exist, but investors should beware of properties that are far away from major towns and resorts, and lack nearby infrastructure.

In short, Panama offers potential for real estate investment, and is a mix of U.S. and Latin American cultures, where you can enjoy a fun, laid-back lifestyle with all the modern creature comforts you might associate with the U.S.A. and Europe.





# Ready, Set, Market - Part I

By Tracy Eisnaugle

Tracy L. Eisnaugle has practiced interior design in Sarasota since 1997 and is currently self employed providing design consultation services in the area. She is a graduate from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design and continues her education by attending annual conferences. Her past experience includes, Design Center Manager for Lee Wetherington Homes, high-end residential design and model merchandising. Tracy may be reached at 941-232-3358 or by e-mail at tleisnaugle@msn.com.

Over time as we live in our homes we tend to accumulate clutter, adding the latest trends, attaining things we just have to have or gifts we didn't necessarily ask for. Somehow we find the space and incorporate more and more into our homes. One of my professional duties is to provide design consultation services to real estate agents. Some people use the term staging, but I do not offer furniture or design services to my agents' clients, eliminating any sales pressure for the homeowner. My goal is to assist the agent by guiding the seller through their home providing an outside professional opinion of what needs to be completed to achieve mass market appeal, relieving the agent from the dreadful task of giving constructive criticism to their clients whom they will be maintaining a long term relationship with.

Each agent has their own preference for market style and after a brief discussion of each other's range we find a happy medium that works in the best interest of our clients and for the marketing of the home. The general rule is to de-personalize and declutter, but in today's market each property has its own specific needs and financial limitations. Here is a list of pointers to assist those of you who are selling your current home or working with clients to sell theirs.

Curb appeal, maintain a fresh layer of mulch and make sure that the yard stays manicured including picking up any dropped fruit etc. Keep all the palm trees trimmed and clean. Keep up with fresh annuals they add a pop of color for photography and a warm welcome.

Nothing is worse than a house with an odor. Odors continue to live in fabrics and soft fibers, therefore we need to locate the source and eliminate it.

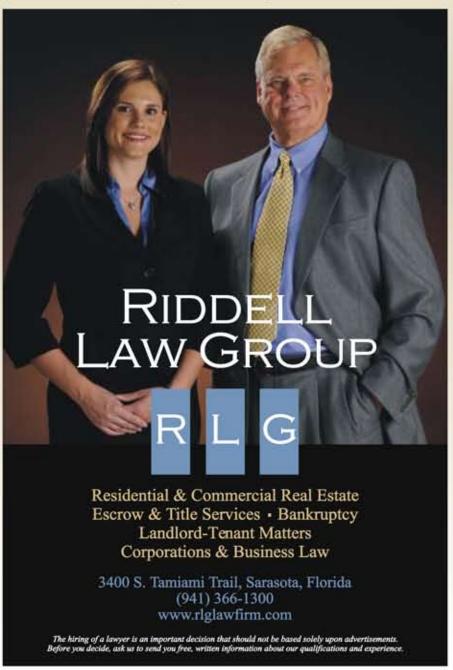
If a property has been vacated we might find an abundance of nails and picture hangers. Remove all nails, repair the texture on the walls and touch up the paint.

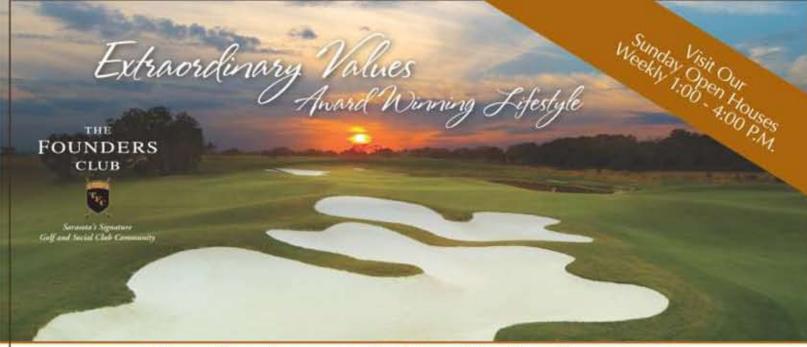
If you have a house of many colors aka a "Skittle House" there are two options; if the home is vacant and the budget allows then paint the entire interior a soft neutral wall tone and a simple white for the trim/molding. The ceilings can either be

painted the wall color or a flat version of the trim/molding color. If the home is not vacant then we need to understand that the current owners are still living in their home and the best solution is to get two or three bids for paint the home a neutral color throughout.

painted the wall color or a flat version of the trim/molding color. If the home is not vacant dirty house.

Stay tuned for the continuation of Ready Set Market - Part II with additional tips and techniques in next month's edition.





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