



The ceiling in the great room is quite unusual. It is made to look like grass cloth but is actually a veneer plaster. Twenty foot sliders lead to the lanai.

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# PRIVACY IN THE CITY

The Chelston model capitalizes on landscaping and design features to make a home in town feel like a private getaway.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Interior designer Melissa Allen says the dining room table is her favorite piece. While the tabletop is a simple round piece of glass, it is the base that is so unusual. It is made of two thick slabs of glass shaped like the letter C and pushed together. The table gives a hint of contemporary in a house that is more of a British Isles style. • The Chelston is close to downtown Naples, but with the greenery surrounding the home it is quiet and secluded. • Upstairs one of the guest rooms is designed with an alligator pillow and splashes of orange. This is quite different from the second guest suite that is more subdued in color. • The beach theme is seen throughout the home in the artwork that includes prints of beach scenes and driftwood sculptures.



**T**he two-story house sits in the heart of Naples. It's not far from the bustle of Fifth Avenue and the beaches. It's also surrounded by other houses. Yet as you sit on the lanai, you see nothing but greenery and hear nothing but birds.

The Chelston model was designed to look and feel like a home that's far from the city, while actually being very close.

The linear lanai is surrounded by Areca palms that block the view of the houses just beyond. Elephant ear plants add more greenery and depth.



“You have to set the house aside at first and see how quiet it is,” says Toby Cloutier, sales executive with London Bay Homes. “You go and enjoy Fifth Avenue and the beach, and then you come here and it is so private. The privacy of the backyard is very rare.”

It's so private that the master bathroom has floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors that lead to a second shower outside just beyond the glass. That shower is surrounded by walls and plants in a private courtyard. Over the master bath's double sinks, mirrors are suspended in front of a large picture window that looks out to the private courtyard.

“The master bathroom is a show-piece,” says Melissa Allen, senior interior designer with Romanza Interior Design. “The glass, the shower, it all opens it up. I love how open it all is. What is nice about these homes is they are not large rooms, but the way the master bathroom is designed to include the outside, it almost doubles the space. It is bringing the outdoors in.”

The indoors and outdoors meld

again in the great room where 20 feet of sliders lead to the lanai. Motorized screens by the sitting areas can easily be drawn down to ward off bugs, sun and heat. There's a long lap pool, a fire pit, sitting area and outdoor kitchen. Sliding glass doors lead from the kitchen in the house to the outdoor grill, refrigerator and sink.

The master suite also leads to the lanai with French doors that overlook the waterfall. A canopy bed of dark wood matches the dresser and floor in the master bedroom. The dresser's wavy front gives it a coastal look.

Melissa says the most interesting piece of furniture in the house — and her favorite — is the dining room table. A glass top sits on two large pieces of blue glass shaped like two C's pushed together.

“The house has that clean British Isles look, but the table has that more contemporary look,” Melissa says. “It is that unexpected piece.”

Melissa also points to the kitchen cabinets as another favorite. ▶▶



“I really love the two-tone kitchen cabinets in there,” she says. “They are white framed with the door frame around the glass with the darker frame.”

The interior designer also works hard to add unusual touches, as with the ceiling fans. The fan in the den has only two blades, somewhat like an airplane propeller.

“I am particular about fans,” she says. “I never put a normal fan in a room. Fans are a practical feature, but they stand out in a room. I don’t want to it be just a general fan. They become almost accessories in a room.”

For her biggest achievement in the Chelston, Melissa points to the ceiling.

Originally, she put a grass cloth on the ceiling of the great room and the dining room, but when light hit it, the seams showed. So Melissa came up with her own creation to make it look like grass cloth.

“I was pushing (London Bay) into the unknown,” Melissa says. “We came up with this grass-look veneer plaster. They named the finish after me.”

For 10 days, workers lay on scaffolding to complete the ceiling.

“They were literally on their backs, and they were patient,” she says. “They are artists.”

The first floor of the Chelston also features a study with white shiplap boards on the wall and a light décor. The view from the desk is of a water feature near the home’s front door. London Bay Homes paid close attention to placement, such as the pantry near the garage to make it easy to get in the house and put groceries away. There is also a little desk between the laundry room and kitchen to add another nook for paperwork or arts and



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** The two-story Chelston features lots of light even on the stairs. Prints of beach scenes adorn the walls along the staircase. That theme continues in the loft upstairs. • The linear shaped lanai is surrounded by Areca palms that offer lots of privacy. The pool and fire pit are both created in a long rectangular shape. • The interior designer says the two tone kitchen cabinets were some of her favorite creations in the Chelston. While there is a dining room the model home also offers lots of seating in the kitchen.

crafts.

Heading up the stairs, large beach scene prints cover the wall. The theme continues in the loft, where a table that looks like silver driftwood is nestled behind the couch. On the coffee table are large balls made of oyster shells. The two upstairs bedrooms are decorated for adult children and young grandchildren guests. One room is white with splashes of green and orange. A long thin pillow has prints of alligators. The other bedroom is more sedate in white and gray.

Toby says the way the home is laid out makes it perfect for a retired couple who have children and grandchildren or other guests who visit.

“You can live on the first floor,” Toby says. “There is 3,000 square feet on the first level, and when they have

guests come, upstairs they have their own space.”

The three-bedroom-plus-study, three-and-a-half bathroom home spans 4,227 square feet under air and 5,255 square feet of total living space. The award-winning home has been on the market for more than a year, and the price is now reduced from \$4.375 million to \$4.275 million.

The Chelston won multistate Aurora Awards, including the Golden Aurora Awards Best in Show and the Grand Aurora Award, from the Southeast Building Conference in the Best Single Family Detached Home category. It also won Best Bath in a home over \$2 million and Best Interior Merchandising of a Home. Romanza Interior Design won a Sand Dollar Award for the interior design of the Chelston. **G**