

A Work of Art on *Sunset Beach*

By Elizabeth McCann



Displaying an art collection at home has its challenges, especially if you don't want your furniture and décor to upstage it. The owners of this property on Sunset Beach, one of whom is an artist herself, built this three-bedroom home in 1994 to solve that problem.

They turned to architect Daniel Thayer Dawson to design a contemporary beach house that would be “a work of art for their works of art,” says Realtor Carole Merritt, who is listing the property.

Neutral whites and grays, maple wood, and sleek, understated furniture keep the main living spaces simple enough for the art display to stand out. All-wood built-ins throughout the home are also white, a color that makes the rooms feel even bigger. Bright blue accessories accent the interior as well as the sky and the water outdoors. Boldly painted bedroom walls feel cheerful and casual.

Big windows and glass blocks, on two facades, climb to the high ceilings, bathing the interior in natural light and showing off the true colors of paintings, prints, and sculptures. Windows in nearly every room, including the laundry room, and an open floor plan give the home an uplifting expansiveness, yet the glazing and landscaping are cleverly placed for privacy where it's needed. At night, the illuminated glass blocks, set in a pattern, add visual interest to the home's entrance.

This being a beach house, those big waterfront windows don't let you forget it; the white beach, the sky, dunes, and gulf waters feel like part of the home. Balconies and verandahs further the connection to the outdoors as well as extend the entertaining areas. As you can imagine, sunsets on Sunset Beach



are where art pales in comparison to nature.

And with any work of art, execution is as important as design and Tom Pici, a high-end residential builder, constructed the home just before he died. Its simple, elegant architectural design, though, is a stand-out on the beach.

"I remember when I designed it [the home.] I thought the Sunset Beach residents would come with torches to burn it

down [because it's contemporary], but quite the opposite happened. It was well received," says Dawson. "People say it's their favorite home on Sunset Beach. I still have a drawing of it hanging on my wall. I'm very fond of it."

This property is offered at \$1,800,000 and is listed by Carole Merritt of Coldwell Banker, 727-442-7000 or cwmerritt@aol.com. 

