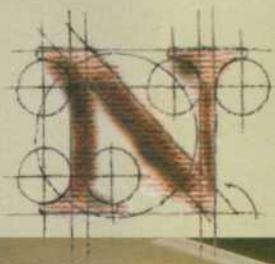


# Winter Park home

ISSUE 3 2007

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# Niemann Interiors



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Winning home in the  
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*The story of*  
**AN AWARD WINNING HOME**  
*& an old barn in rural New York*



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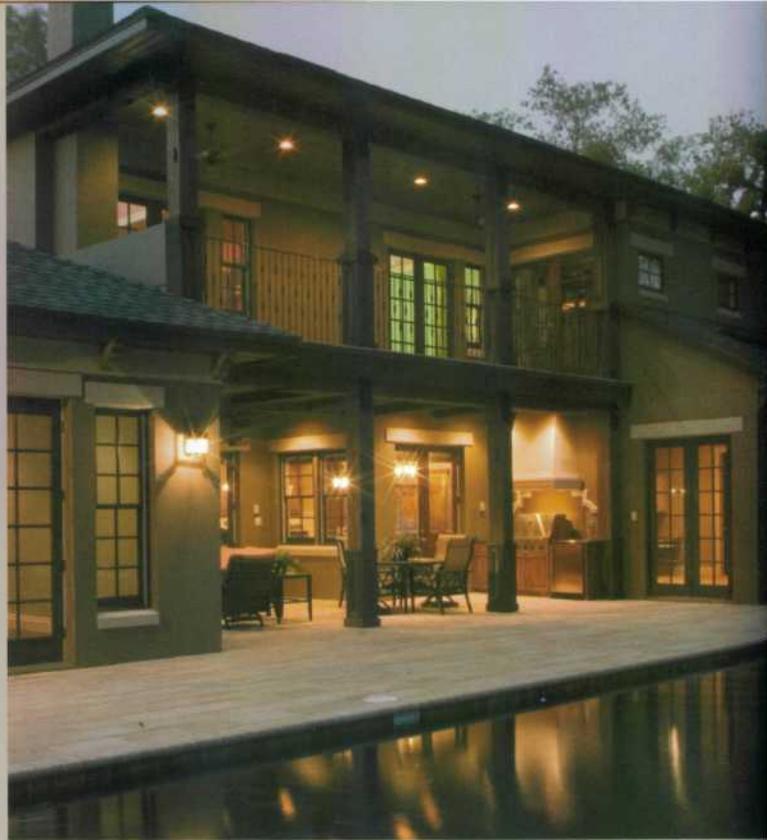
Stone & Tile  
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Photography  
BURG PHOTOGRAPHIX

Something old...something new...bring them together in an imaginative way to create something great. That's what builder-renovator Paul Gidus did, when he set out to build a new home for his family. The judges for the 2007 Parade of Homes thought so too and gave his house the Grand Award for Custom Homes.

A partner in PSG Construction, Gidus and his wife have family ties in western New York. Over the years, he had dismantled several barns in the rural farming community and built a reputation for doing excellent work. On a recent visit, Gidus was asked if he would be willing to take down another old barn.

This one held a special interest for Gidus. His father-in-law had worked in the barn as a teenager, handling tasks like milking the cows. Once Gidus got a look at the



huge hickory beams and supports that held the 100-year old barn together, the Orlando builder knew what he wanted to do with them. They would become an integral part of the new house he was planning to build 1,000 miles to the south.

The resulting 7,800-square-foot home near Leu Gardens incorporates those barn beams throughout the structure. Some still have the weathered rough-cut appearance that attests to their former usage. Others have been



reshaped into stair treads, a fireplace mantle, and an array of other architectural elements. PSG carpenters even transformed a couple of beams into a large country-style kitchen table.

In terms of architectural influences, the home can best be described as a good example of a "craftsman" style home, which is a subset of the Arts & Crafts style that first became popular in the early years of the 20th century.

Interior designer, Pam Niemann of Niemann Interiors worked with the Giduses almost from the very beginning of the planning and construction process. According to Niemann, "It was a wonderful collaboration. We wanted to create a house that would fit in with the older, well established neighborhood where it is located; yet, provide a living environment that works for this very active family."

The architectural drawings gave Niemann plenty of leeway in



configuring the interior, selecting finishes and fixtures, and specifying most of the architectural elements. "The Giduses are a typical Florida couple who enjoy casual entertaining and need a home where teenagers can comfortably bring their friends. We opted to go with a great room style instead of a more formal separation of living room, dining room, and family room. It



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## Award Winning Home

*(continued)*

creates a wide open feeling that is ideal for their lifestyle," says Niemann.

Situated on a corner lot that encompasses almost a half-acre, the four-bedroom, 4.5-bath, two-story home features a unique two level library and a 700-square-foot guest suite, with its own outside entrance. There's also a wine room, located in a partial basement.

Completely paneled in maple and birch, the library offers a wonderful environment to enjoy a good book or catch up on paperwork. A custom-made spiral stairway leads to a loft lined with book-shelves. There is even a hidden door that leads from an upstairs bedroom onto the loft level of the library.

A few steps down the hall from a second floor closet that also forms the upper portion of a potential future elevator shaft is the door to a roughed-in, unfinished guest suite. The 700-square-foot area encompasses the layout and preliminary framing for a one-bedroom apartment.

There is a separate entrance to the outside and a door that opens onto a second floor lanai, overlooking the pool. It's also built to be handicapped accessible. Power and A/C lines are installed and ready for completion, whenever the need arises.

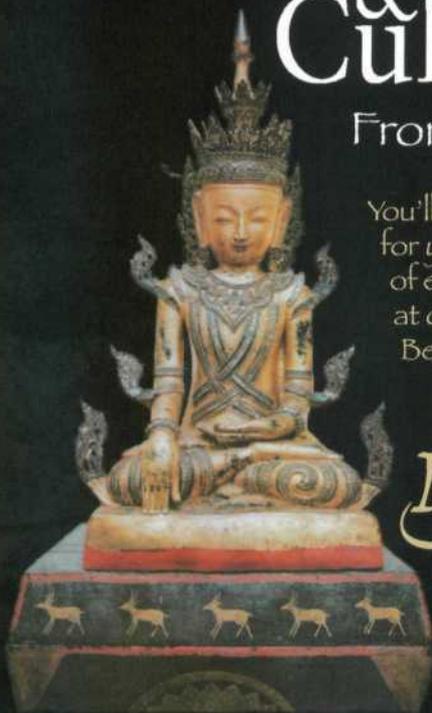
A cultured flagstone wall borders the stairway down to the basement, where a heavy, hand-made hickory door opens into the climate-controlled room.

The beamed, rough-sawn plank ceiling gives the room just the right "look" for an old fashioned wine cellar. In a prominent place on the wall opposite the door is a framed photo of the old barn that is now woven into this new and very livable home. ▲

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