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**The House
that Charlie Built**

Ultra-contemporary
design with a local twist

Inside: Growing up with the family
business, LEED-ing the way, Sculpture
springs forth from man-made materials

contemporary design



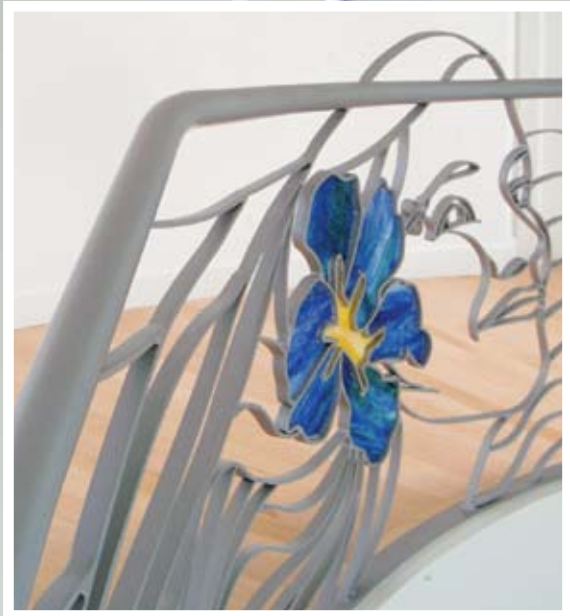
THE HOUSE THAT Charlie built

Ultra-contemporary design with a local twist

Story by **Maria Sonnenberg** • Photography by **Rob Downey**



If any one element can possibly define builder Charlie Boyd's magnificent new house, it is the flowing stairway that sinuously floats down from the home's second floor landing, where a custom-incised niche houses an oversized watercolor by local painter Zoe Mac.



Fred Garbotz of Rockledge Design Studios handcrafted the stair's unique railing, which blends the profiles of the Boyd's three daughters into one female form, her long hair sensuously surging down. "My wife spent hours with Fred to get the face right," says Boyd.

"It took almost as long to build the staircase as it did the whole house," laughs Boyd's wife, Cynthia.

Stained glass front door sidelights from Melbourne's Preston Studios play on the double floating stairway's stunning railing design, as well as on the giant crystal chandelier that cascades down from the 22-foot-high ceilings.

"The electrician and his assistant and I worked for about eight hours to install the chandelier," says Cynthia.

"Every strand has a certain place. It was like a puzzle."

Fred Garbotz of Rockledge Design Studios handcrafted the stair's unique railing, which blends the profiles of the Boyd's three daughters into one female form, her long hair sensuously surging down.

"My wife spent hours and hours with Fred to get the face right," says Boyd.

"The rail is the hair flowing down. She's looking out to the water."

Preston Studios' glass panels also reflect the blues and whites that dominate the house, for this is a house born of the river.

"There is a water view in every room," says Boyd.

"The whole house flows. You see curves everywhere to take advantage of the view."

And the view is, indeed, glorious, a juxtaposition of the wild nature of the river and the manmade elements that constantly try to tame the Space Coast's natural environment. Dolphins routinely cavort a few waves away from the Boyd's 50-foot infinity lap pool, while in the distance; cruise ships ply their way to sea.

"It took almost as long to build the staircase as it did the whole house," laughs Boyd's wife, Cynthia.



From the cover, a view from the top of the stairway overlooking the living room. The Cocoa Beach home's ultra-contemporary design is white and crisp like a sailor's dress uniform. Photo by Rob Downey.

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Right: The first floor family room includes large artwork niches to hold two giant amethyst geodes the Boyds picked up at the Dinosaur Store in Cocoa Beach. A custom sofa by Nancy Jones Wartell flows along the curved wall.

“As you lay in bed at night, you feel like you’re on a ship,” says Cynthia. “You don’t feel like you’re on land.”

Intercoastal Pools framed the pool with iridescent blue tiles that complement the home’s unusual Polynesian-inspired roof, crowned with sparkling royal blue. The roof pitch honors the style of Cynthia’s grandmother’s house, which stood on the site until damage from the 2004 hurricanes nudged the Boyds into building.

“The roof, like the whole house, is a piece of art,” says Charlie.

Boyd’s awe-striking private residence, the most spectacular house in this year’s Parade of Homes, distills his decades of experience creating top-of-the-line homes. This is Boyd’s dream house, a fantasy-come-true that incorporates the best features of the more than 1,000 custom houses he has built...plus a few more to boot.

Perched on an enviable promontory within swimming distance from The Thousand Islands, the Cocoa Beach home’s ultra-contemporary design is white and crisp like a sailor’s dress uniform.

4,267 square feet of waterfront villa follows the neighboring Banana River with graceful ease because of the creativity and hard work of some of Brevard’s best artisans.

In fact, Boyd entered the house in the Parade to showcase the craftsmanship of his subcontractors.





Above: "There is a water view in every room," says Boyd. "The whole house flows. You see curves everywhere to take advantage of the view."



"So many local people helped make the house what it is," he says.

Although well-versed in contemporary design, Boyd admits his new home sets a new standard for him.

"I've done a lot of contemporaries, but never to this extent," says Boyd.

"Most of what you see in Brevard is what I call Old World, with dark cabinets and drab granite. This house is very, very contemporary. It's a very unusually-shaped house."

The home's seemingly endless floor-to-ceiling windows should rightfully render it vulnerable to stormy weather, but the Boyd residence is actually surprisingly resilient to the elements, thanks to Andersen impact



glass windows that protect against up to 150-mile-an-hour winds.

Like the river outside, the floating maple floors, perfectly executed by Classic Wood Floors, caress the home's countless curves.

Cynthia Boyd can thank Linda Tamasy Designs in Melbourne for getting her back into the kitchen. Tamasy is responsible for the design of the main kitchen's lacquered periwinkle cabinets with white quartz countertops. Cabinet Designs of Rockledge brought Tamasy's plan to life.

"After my daughters left home, I didn't cook much, but Linda did such a wonderful job," says Cynthia.

The first floor family room, with its sculptured free-form ceiling inlaid with periwinkle rope lighting,

Above: Linda Tamasy is responsible for the design of the kitchen's lacquered periwinkle cabinets with white quartz countertops. Cabinet Designs of Rockledge brought Tamasy's plan to life.



Above: And the view is indeed, glorious. Dolphins routinely cavort a few waves away from the Boyd's 50-foot infinity lap pool, while in the distance; cruise ships ply their way to sea.

includes large artwork niches to hold treasures such as two giant amethyst geodes the Boyd's picked up at the Dinosaur Store in Cocoa Beach. A custom sofa by Nancy Jones Wartell of Indian Harbour Beach flows along the curved wall.

Also in the first floor is the master suite, where the Boyds enjoy sumptuous his and hers bathrooms. Cynthia's spa-like refuge features a walk-in steam shower, while the focal point in Charlie's is the carved shower door with its sea life motif. For countertops in these private retreats, the Boyds opted for the exquisite

color gradations found in volcanic marble.

"Volcanic marble has the beauty of marble and the hardness of granite," explains Charlie.

A generous laundry room, together with a morning kitchen in the master suite, makes chores more bearable.

"I love having the laundry room right here," says Cynthia.

"In our old place, it was on the other side of the house."

A game room provides to-die-for views, as well as



Innovative
in Design

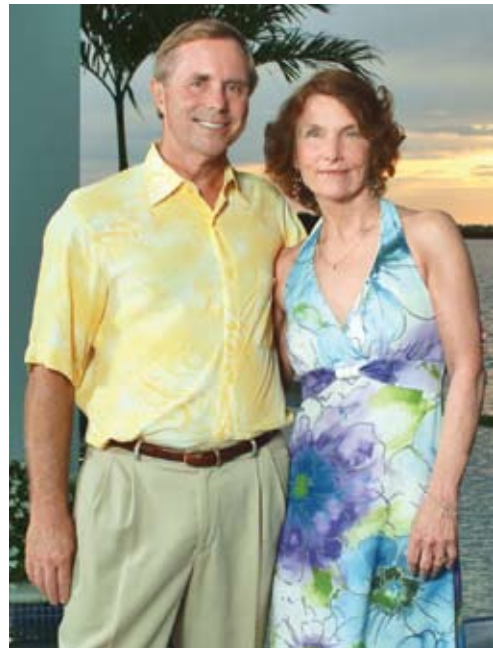


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Above top and left: Intercoastal Pools framed the pool with iridescent blue tiles that complement the home's unusual Polynesian-inspired roof, crowned with sparkling royal blue. The roof pitch honors the style of Cynthia's grandmother's house, which stood on the site until damage from the 2004 hurricanes nudged the Boyd's into building. **Above:** Charlie and Cynthia Boyd against the backdrop of sunset on the Banana River.



Above top and above: "As you lay in bed at night, you feel like you're on a ship," says Cynthia. "You don't feel like you're on land." Right: The powder room on the first floor is designed using the same gentle curves that flow into the adjacent family room.





Far left: The giant crystal chandelier cascades down from the 22-foot-high ceiling. **Left:** The stained glass artwork the Boyds purchased at the Cocoa Beach art show mimics the chandelier and piano that it hangs next to. **Above:** The second floor game room provides more to-die-for views and access to a generous porch where guests can enjoy the sea breezes.

a dollop of whimsy for guests fortunate enough to stay in the Boyds' upstairs guest suite.

At one of the many International Builders' Shows the Boyds have attended, the couple fell in love with cute-as-a-button retro appliances from a Canadian manufacturer. When designing the game room, the couple added the little chirpy yellow refrigerator and dishwasher, with a microwave tossed in for good measure. Volcanic marble countertops complete the setting.

Off the game room, a generous porch invites guests to enjoy the sea breezes. Glass railings offer protection without restraining.

"They really enhance the view," says Charlie.

Visiting the house during the Parade of Homes, Jean Menard was so impressed she felt compelled to write.

"When I was talking to Mrs. Boyd and she was telling me some of the story of your home, it became not only a work of art, but your home came alive with a soul," emailed Menard.

The Boyds' daughter, Alyssa, loves the home's unique personality.

"It's a peaceful and incredibly optimistic house," she says.

"It just makes you feel good." ■