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## *Dolphin Taint*

Blurring boundaries  
between land and water

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2009

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at home with

# Dolphin Taint

Enviably homesite blurs boundaries  
between land and water

Story by **Anne Straub** • Photography by **Dave Potter**



Photo courtesy of Glenda Beard



When Glenda and E.B. Beard decided to relocate from Fort Lauderdale, they had very specific requirements for their next home. They wanted to stay on the East Coast of Florida and enjoy a panoramic water view and a southeasterly exposure. They searched from Fort Lauderdale to Fernandina Beach and found only one property that fit.

The home for sale sat on a small peninsula jutting into the Indian River in Rockledge. The couple left their car on the long drive and explored the grounds of the vacant home. They

hadn't seen inside yet, but no matter. "We already were sold," Glenda Beard said.

They'd hoped to design and build the home, and they certainly had the qualifications. E.B. Beard worked as a commercial architect, and his wife held a degree in interior design and owned a real estate brokerage in Fort Lauderdale. They compromised on their desire to build after finding what they considered the perfect site. "We thought this was paradise," she said of the home, which is almost surrounded by the river. "It's like you're floating on the water."

Dubbed Dolphin Point by granddaughter Claire, the home lives up to the name.



**Above top and above:** In addition to dolphins, the daily nature show includes manatees, pelicans and the ever-changing river. The 475 feet of riverfront curve more than 180 degrees to create arresting views in all directions. **Above left:** Glenda adopted the bird of paradise as a house flower, and she regularly brings blooms inside to enjoy.



Living in the home for the past 12 years has done nothing to diminish that early euphoria. Dubbed Dolphin Point by granddaughter Claire, the home lives up to the name. In addition to dolphins, the daily nature show includes manatees, pelicans and the ever-changing river. One recent houseguest, an avid birdwatcher, signed the guestbook and named the species she'd spotted during her short visit. Great blue heron, anhinga, snowy egret, American kestrel, mallard, great white heron – the list included 30 entries.

The Beards have done extensive remodeling – the home had been designed with art deco pinks, greens and chrome when they bought it – but one thing they never need touch is the view. It steals every scene in each room, owing to the shape of the home site. The 1.5-acre lot gets more than its share of waterfront, with the 475 feet on the river curving more than 180 degrees to create arresting views in all directions.

On the second story catwalk, for example, one can see the river in three directions. Glenda's favorite window

*“...When I see the crab traps and the dolphins, Poking their fins out of the dark, choppy water, I think of you.*

*When I am on a boat or on the beach, I think of you. And when I watch space launches on our dock on the lawn chairs, I think of you...”*

*– Jack Arnold, grandson at age 10.*



Above: A recent houseguest signed the guestbook naming 30 bird species she'd seen during her short visit.

is a narrow but soaring pane that frames the shoreline to the north along the Indian River and makes her smile every time she goes down the stairs. "It looks just like a picture," she said.

In addition to offering a window to the outdoors, each room also boasts access to the outside. Upstairs, wraparound balconies provide plenty of room for taking in the sun and breeze, along with the view. Downstairs, living areas open up to the pool and patio. That allows for all the senses to enjoy the home's prime location in the winter, when the weather is cool enough for Glenda to open the doors. "You can hear the water lapping against the shore. That's just so relaxing," she said. She had the curtains in the master bedroom, named The King and I Suite, made so that they could open to the right or to the left, depending on the best view



## Make it personal



**Adopt a house flower.** Glenda Beard chose bird of paradise to be the home's floral theme, based on a white bird of paradise that blooms by the pool. The couple added more of the flower to their landscape, and regularly brings blooms inside to enjoy. When Glenda saw a china pattern that featured the flower, she knew the set would be perfect.



**Continue an animal theme.** A granddaughter of the Beards named the home Dolphin Point, and the couple installed a plaque at the drive proclaiming the moniker. A decorative item as popular and easily available as a dolphin would be easy to overdo. Instead, the Beards keep the touches elegant, with a bronze dolphin displayed

at the entry, a crystal version resting on the guestbook and a subtle dolphin motif on the entry columns.



**Use a favorite item in unexpected places.** Seashells are a favorite of Glenda, who calls them "nature's work of art." But instead of hanging a seashell wreath on the wall, she uses it to encircle a centerpiece vase in the eat-in kitchen. On the formal dining table, shells accent the napkin rings and serve as bread dishes.



**Remember nature makes the ultimate eco-friendly material.** Young palmetto leaves make ideally sized placemats, and banana leaves have a long tradition as wrapping paper in the Beard household.



Left and above: When Glenda and E.B. decided to relocate from Fort Lauderdale they searched the east coast of Florida for a panoramic water view and a southeasterly exposure. Dolphin Point sits on a small peninsula that juts out into the Indian River.



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**Above:** Inside Dolphin Point, much of the décor has been collected on the couple's worldwide travels, with an emphasis on the Far East. **Above right:** In the dining room Glenda proudly displays the house flower in her china pattern and in fresh blooms on the table. Nature provides palmetto leaves as placemats and Glenda incorporates seashells into her centerpiece. **Far right:** The master bedroom was named *The King and I Suite*, and boasts a gold-detailed headboard hand-painted with a flower and bird design.

at the moment. The room is dominated by a gold-detailed headboard hand-painted in a design of flowers and birds.

The atmosphere of a private retreat is accented by the 450-foot driveway, which ensures that no roads are visible from the property. The drive is lined with queen palms and a jacaranda tree that Glenda planted in her mother's honor after her passing in 2001. A large hanging basket of staghorn fern, a result of E.B.'s gardening skill, creates another focal point.

Inside, much of the décor has been collected on the couple's worldwide travels, with an emphasis on the Far East. A Thai Buddha stands on the ledge of the upper windows in the living room, which is open to the second floor, offering a blessing of peace and generosity on the home. There's driftwood found in Alaska, and a jug purchased in Africa. Bronze crab pots Glenda bought in a shop in California have been reworked into lamps. Cloisonné vases from Asia sit on corbels on either side of a front window.

Some pieces might not be from a trip, but they still tell a





*After 53 years of marriage, Glenda and E.B. are surrounded with family and a lifetime of treasures in their pristine sanctuary at Dolphin Point.*



*Above:* Glenda's primary criterion for selecting furnishings includes personal opinions and quality. "Taste is a matter of opinion, but quality is a matter of fact," she said. *Left:* from the cover, photo by Dave Potter.

story. Glenda used an old mink stole, for example, to cover a chair. Other pieces were purchased at estate sales, and were often painted or refurbished. Glenda's primary criteria for selecting furnishings includes personal opinions and quality.

"Decorating should be personal," she said.

"It only has to please you. You're not decorating for somebody else. Taste is a matter of opinion, but quality is a matter of fact," she said. The couple has visited every state, taking with them their love for homes and design: Interesting architecture is often on the itinerary during their travels.

Their home is always open to their children and grandchildren. "We thought this would act like a resort for the children," Glenda said. The couple's daughters, Shellie and Ginger, and their families are frequent guests. Glenda treasures a poem her grandson wrote when he was 10, clearly recalling time spent with her by the river at Dolphin Point.

After 53 years of marriage, Glenda and E.B. are surrounded with family and a lifetime of treasures in their pristine sanctuary at Dolphin Point. "It's a real joy to have things around you that bring back so many memories," Glenda said of their décor. And yet, there clearly are memories still being created. ■



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