

PORTICO

www.porticomag.com

JUNE 2006

\$4.50

Swimsuit Style
Motorcycle Rebels
Organic Foods

WATERFRONT LIVING

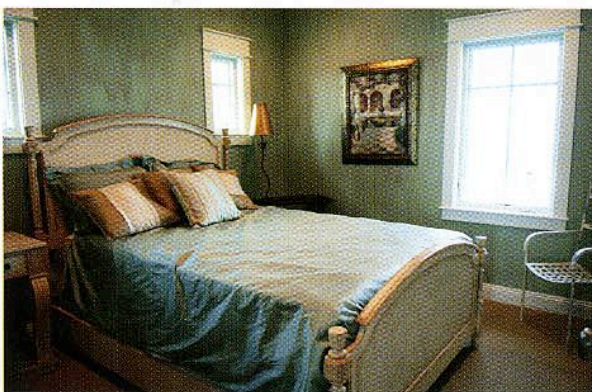




[TOP] The Beach Club Cottages are situated around a freshwater lake.
 [ABOVE] Homes feature space-saving plunge pools on private patios.
 [RIGHT] The living spaces boast high ceilings and plenty of windows.



[THIS PAGE] To achieve an authentic cottage feel, architect Mac Walcott used traditional cottage design elements like hipped roofs and bead-board in the cottage's light-filled interiors and pergolas and trellises outside.



Classic Cottages

The Beach Club in Gulf Shores adds single-family homes to its destination resort.

BY BARRY WISE SMITH

PHOTOS BY KARIM SHAMSI-BASHA

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK ABOUT BEACH RESORTS, the first image that comes to mind is that of ubiquitous condominium towers casting long shadows on the beach. And certainly, at The Beach Club, Gulf Shores, the condos are there. But in an effort to achieve the true village feeling that they desired, the Beach Club developers began construction on the first phase of single-family homes in Spring 2003.

Now, with the first phase of construction due to be complete in July, the 27 Cottages at The Beach Club are causing a stir. "They have been very well received," says Amy Stehmeyer, the Beach Club's Director of Real Estate Sales. Architect Mac Walcott, of Walcott, Adams, Verneville Architects in Fairhope who designed the cottages, understands the interest. "We wanted to achieve uniqueness in a planned community that was built at the same time," he says. "We tried to replicate the design elements we include in our custom homes."

Situated around a freshwater lake on the Beach Club's 86 acres, the 27 cottage homes are within walking distance of the

beach. Designed with a pleasing blend of Craftsman and beach cottage styles, the cottages range from two bedrooms up to five bedrooms with prices from \$655,000 to \$1.1 million.

To stay true to the cottage aesthetic, Walcott included exposed beams and bead-board wainscoting in the interior spaces, and entrance pergolas, parking trellises, and, of course, white picket fences outside. Plunge pools on private patios, outdoor kitchens, and hot tubs are also available. All this, and access to The Beach Club's many amenities. "We wanted to create the sense of a true village," Stehmeyer says. "The cottages tie the village center to the towers."

With the success of the first phase of cottages, The Beach Club now plans to complete a second phase of construction, which will include 35 more cottages and more design freedom for prospective buyers. ☉