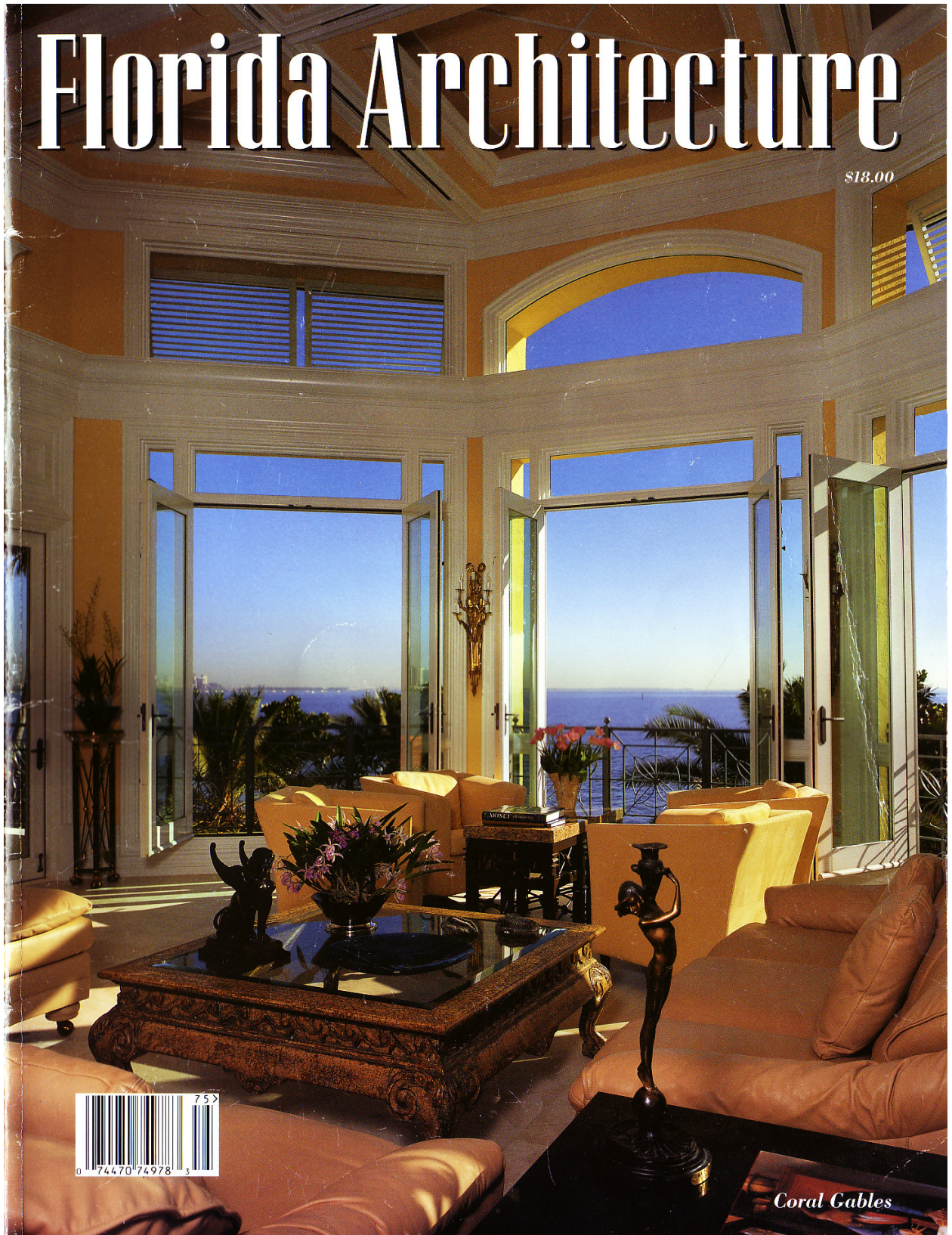


# Florida Architecture

\$18.00



*Coral Gables*



# A TYPICALLY ENGLISH MANOR

## *in a Naples Environ*

Written by **Roberta Klein**

Photography by **Carlos Domenech**



**David Rogers, Newbury North Associates, BUILDER**

Designing and building a home can be a Herculean task, but most of the time the end justifies the means. No way can a home sing the praises of its owner better than through its custom design.

Nonie and Richard Cole's home is a case in point. Situated on a lake on the golf course at Quail West in Naples, it is the couple's interpretation of an English Manor. Outside, the home is set among 1 1/2 acres flanked with tall pines and a variety of native trees. Inside, it is resplendent with 23-foot ceilings, five fireplaces, and intricate hand-crafted millwork and cabinetry. Almost all of the fine millwork was done on

premises by builder David Rogers and his team of craftsmen. The Coles provided conceptual drawings to Rogers of a home they had originally planned to build in Chicago. When they moved to Naples in 1991, they had put the drawings aside in favor of building a "Florida style home in stucco with a red roof." But the native Chicagoans couldn't shed their love of traditional. Thus they decided to go forth and build their English manor house.

First, however, they traded off a waterfront lot in Port Royal for a golfside lot in Quail West. "Neither Richard nor I are boating or water people," says Nonie Cole, who worked





The entry foyer, comprised of the 47-foot-high dome and two sets of balustrades made by Superior Mouldings of Florida, introduces the first of five fireplaces. This limestone version, from Mantles 'n Stones, was carved to the owner's specifications, while the chandelier was one of the many antiques purchased by Nonie Cole.





**The parlor, naturally illuminated by floor-to-ceiling leaded glass, holds Nonie's desk, a former piano from one of the Wrigley family residences in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.**

hand-in-hand with Rogers during the entire building process. "Richard is an avid golfer and wanted to be on the golf course.

"The floor plans were just sitting and collecting dust in the corner," she adds. "We made changes to adapt them to Florida - more verandahs, bigger windows. Basically, the idea was a brick house that looked old, and we've accomplished that." The drawings, which had been done by Illinois architectural designer Tom Weiss, laid the framework for the Florida house with basic floor plans and elevations. But there was minimal architectural detailing to them. It took Rogers, with the input of Nonie, to bring character to the house through old world elements.

"Mrs. Cole had a binder full of magazine articles and photographs from Europe and wanted many of the details to be integrated into the house," says Rogers, whose company Newbury North Associates is known for old world craftsmanship. "She would tell us what she was looking for and we would tie the right level of details in with the architecture in the right scale. She was very specific about what she wanted and where."

As a result of this collaborative effort, the house utilizes several different types of stone, including one type of slate on the verandahs, one at the entry, and a rocky mountain quartzite in a field-stone cut around the pool. Corinthian columns with a Doric feel were made with smooth, non-





All of the millwork in this 23-foot-high library was crafted on premises, including the turned wood, one of builder Rogers' favorite procedures. French doors with Palladian-type transoms from Pella Windows & Doors reach a spectacular 19 feet.









textured, precast keystone, recapitulating the stone while giving a desired streaked finish. "The mix sort of patinaed out as it aged," says Rogers.

Stone appears in columns of the front door, on the rotunda and on all of the radiuses around the exterior, as well. Thirty pilasters also appear around the house, revisiting the stone, along with stone effects on the fascia and frieze and soffit work. Also reflective of the English manor style is the custom cement tile roof that mimics slate. At the same time, two different kinds of old Carolina brick with raked and exposed joints give the appearance of age and wear.

Unorthodox though it may seem, most of the detailing was decided upon and created as the house was being built. To give due credit, the distinguishing rotunda was already in existence. Seen on the exterior, it is almost cathedral-like. Inside, it is a warm reception area and an art exhibit. An exquisite interpretation of







**The kitchen is entirely of maple with granite countertops and tumbled marble flooring. Custom cabinets were stained by Fabian, of Fine Finishes by Fabian, who created the stains throughout the house.**

Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" from the Sistine Chapel was painted in the 47-foot high dome by Italian-born artist Rosetta Turco Artlett - and it evokes anything but hushed tones. On the contrary, the total space is so exhilarating that it makes one want to shout with joy.

"The Coles wanted the rotunda as a source of light, and the light pours down all the way through," says Rogers. "When you step in the front door, you see all the millwork of the balconies with the natural light cascading down through each level." As the introduction to the home's spectacular millwork, the spiraled balustrades wrap down into a semblance of a teardrop. Counterpointing it below is the Mexican limestone fireplace, carved to the Cole's specifications and crowned by other elaborate millwork.

Unlike the slate flooring on the outdoor living spaces, the slate flooring in the foyer is elegant with its diamond pattern. The pattern continues

into the adjoining library, where ceilings skyrocket to a height of 23 feet. Adding to the punch are the combined height of French doors with the Palladian-type transoms, a spectacular 19 feet.

"This area was set up with an axis that looks out through the porch arch and runs through the whole porch," says Rogers. "The ceiling inside is made of curved wood beams with acanthus leaf corbels that hold up the arched beams. We like to turn the millwork and project it off certain elements, such as the way it pumps out and returns around the pilasters of much of the casework and book shelves."

The warm light of the room washes the woodwork with a soft glow, emphasizing the detailing of the fireplace. Part of the fireplace design existed with the original plan, but the majority was done by Rogers and his team on the job. "In many cases we have molding knives made for our clients, which we did for the Coles for much of the





millwork,” says Rogers. The knives, which serve as the die or template for the wood, utilized patterns drawn by Rogers and his craftsmen.

While the house is the Cole’s unique interpretation of an English manor, it still respects its subtropical surroundings. Richard Cole says, “There is more influence of the old world, but the pool area is like something out of the Great Gatsby. We still have the sense of outdoor living with the huge verandahs, and we can accommodate parties of 50 or 60 people outdoors.” ▲

## RESOURCES

### Windows

*The Pella Window Store*  
3611 Tamiami Trail  
Naples, FL 34103  
(941)263-3668

### StoneMantle

*Mantles'n Stones*  
DCOTA A-262  
1855 Griffin Rd.  
Dania, FL 33004  
(954)929-7568

### Custom-turned Stair Parts Artist

*Superior Mouldings of FL*  
11935 A Tamiami Trail N.  
Naples, FL 34110  
(941)514-8270

*Rosetta Turco-Artlett*  
803 96th Ave. N.  
Naples Park, FL 34108  
(941)566-9745



There are two verandahs designated as “summer” and “winter” spaces. Pictured is the sitting area of the south verandah, which wraps to the west and has a full dining table (not shown.)





**Designed to complement the architecture, the gazebo has stone columns, heavy millwork, and a pagoda-type copper roof. To satisfy the European look, Rogers raised the pool coping to six inches tall and eighteen inches wide.**