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HOMEARAMA

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Open the door to luxury

Three lavish, multi-million-dollar homes are the focus of this year's HomeArama.

By Nancy Stancill
Home and Garden Editor
Posted: Friday, Oct. 03, 2008

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The Persis-Nova home, at 10,500 square feet, is the largest of the three on the tour and blends Spanish and Mediterranean architecture. DIEDRA LAIRD - dlaird@charlotteo

More Information

- [Full Slideshow](#)
- [See what's old and new on Elizabeth Home Tour](#)
- [HomeArama Details](#)

When: Oct. 4-26.

Where: The Ranch at The Palisades is on the south side of N.C. 49 approaching the Buster Boyd Bridge.

Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. every day except Mondays.

Tickets: \$13 at Harris Teeter stores. \$15 at the showcase.

Some special events: Girls' Night Out, Oct. 15; Chef's Day, Oct. 22; Furnishings sale, Oct. 27.

Directions: From Uptown Charlotte: Take 77 S. to I-485 West. Take Exit 1 South (N.C. 49/South Tryon). Travel 6.9 miles, make left on Grand Palisades Parkway, go two miles to Information Center.

Further info: Palisades Realty at 704-583-1111. Home Builders Association: www.hbacharlotte.com

HomeArama, Charlotte's popular luxury home showcase, opens today at The Ranch, a new section of The Palisades, a large south Mecklenburg County development near Lake Wylie.

The 24th annual show, organized by the Home Builders Association of Charlotte, is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors during its three-week run, Oct. 4-26. Last year's show at Springfield, in Fort Mill, S.C., drew 30,000.

This year, HomeArama features three rather than the customary five to seven furnished homes on tour, echoing difficult times in the home building industry.

But the three houses are among the largest and most lavishly appointed of those featured in the Charlotte showcase, organizers say. Proceeds support the association's operations and charities, including the Levine Children's Hospital.

The showcase has a strong equestrian theme. The three houses are located close to The Ranch's stable, riding ring and galloping track. The multi-million dollar properties feature large lots, dramatic rooms, and elaborate outdoor entertainment areas. They are all for sale.

Here's a first look at the three homes on display.

Home 1: Persis-Nova Builders

The 10,500-square-foot home, the largest on the tour, blends Spanish and Mediterranean architecture. Its 20 rooms offer large curving spaces, rustic wood beams and groined vault ceilings. It's priced at \$3.2 million.

Designer Michelle Buchheit describes the interior spaces as "Spanish eclectic" and said she used mostly autumnal hues throughout: browns, golds, tans and rusts. The builder didn't set a specific budget, she said, and she spent \$110,000 on elaborate lighting fixtures alone and close to \$900,000 on all furnishings. The price tag doesn't include furnishings.

“I love not having a budget,” she said.

The main floor features a two-story living area graced by a painting of a mysterious woman over the fireplace. Buchheit calls her “Anna Maria Rosa” and says her smile sets the warm tone for the room and the home. An upstairs highlight is a boy's blue-and-brown room decorated as a dude ranch with a “horse barn” play area.

The lower level features spacious entertainment areas, a “man-cave” with a wine cellar, a billiard room and a media room with leather movie seating. But the centerpiece is what Buchheit calls “the grotto,” a covered area with a pool that flows seamlessly into the back yard landscape. The outdoor entertainment area features an infinity-edge pool with a swim-up bar, fire pits and a whirlpool.

Home 2: Jordan James Properties

The Hamptons-inspired property offers a main house with 7,000 square feet and a carriage house with 2,000 square feet flanking a large pool area in the back. Constructed with cedar shake siding, 6-inch stone walls and a decorative cupola, the house is priced at \$2.5 million.

“It's a house that could be formal or informal,” says builder Chris Jasinski. “It's a very wide house with a big, open floor plan.”

Inside, it has a Nantucket feel, underscored by a soft palette of pale blues, greens, beiges and off-whites, says designer Andrea Robinson.

A large foyer opens up to a front dining room, spacious living room and large kitchen, all suffused with light from banks of windows. The kitchen with its airy, buttermilk-colored cabinets features an island lighted by two large pendants, reminiscent of lighthouse lanterns, Robinson says.

Furnishings feature light woods and simple, clean lines. “It's new traditional – traditional jazzed up a bit,” says Robinson.

Out back, the two-story carriage house doubles as an entertainment area adjoining the pool. The first floor, designed as a pub, has a bar. The exposed insulation adds to an industrial ambience. The second level is the guest area, two bedrooms connected by a bath.

Home 3: Anderson Homes

The stone and cedar shake home with five bedrooms and eight baths has curved columns in the Craftsman style. The 8,700-square-foot home features spacious rooms on three levels and a back yard with a pool, hot tub and personal putting green. It is priced at \$3.1 million.

Designer J'aime Kent supervised about 50 students from the Art Institute of Charlotte working on the interior. It's the first time design students have assisted with a HomeArama house and it worked out great, she reports.

“A lot of love went into our home,” says Kent.

The décor has a ranch feel, with distressed plank flooring, cedar beams and rich colors, such

as maroon and gold. The first-floor centerpiece is the “Wyoming room,” which has 25-foot ceilings and a towering stone fireplace with an unusual waterfall feature.

The kitchen with its cappuccino-colored cabinets and bright glass-and-stone mosaic backsplash plays on the rustic-yet-elegant theme.

The downstairs master features a step-down sitting area connected by a double-sided stone fireplace. A covered porch offers a sweeping view of the pool and entertainment area. The master bath features an elaborate walk-through shower and an adjoining room-sized closet. The suite is designed so that there is privacy and quiet without doors, says Kent.



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LMArmstrong wrote on 10/07/2008 10:01:19 AM:

Oh, look. Here's TheBrain again, strutting his money, but there's one truth even s/he can't deny: suburban sprawl = bad planning, although telecommuting and satellite locations for medical services and such is easing that somewhat.

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kenldavis wrote on 10/04/2008 05:39:00 PM:

rickydavisfan21 - I believe you are wrong. The suburbs will continue to grow while the city dies. The reason is simple - telecommuting. I work for one of the banks and used to travel into the city everyday along with my colleagues. Now I work form home almost everyday and couldn't be happier. There's no reason for 75% of the workers in the city to work from there. Bank of America has set up satellite work areas in many of the suburbs and Wachovia has over 10,000 workers at its CIC location outside of the city. These are the future, not more high priced condos