



All about Architecture

Picture-perfect neighborhoods: Families want a return to Mayberry

With our increasingly hectic lifestyles, it is no wonder we sit and wonder, "What happened to the good old days?" Every day, many of us face gridlock traffic, rising gas prices and other stresses that we just seem to accept as a fact of life.

Looking back, though, some know nothing else. Many of us are used to driving 20 or 30 minutes to get anywhere. Many have grown accustomed to not going places alone or after dark. Maybe you never thought about letting your children ride their bikes outside the house without you, or letting them go to the park with their friends. Maybe you cannot believe that kids once walked to school (uphill both ways, in several feet of snow) or that neighbors could feel a "connectedness."

Others, however, might look at what has become of that sense of community and shake their heads. They remember a time when people would stroll down the sidewalk or sit on their porch and watch the world go by.

They recall an era when kids would run down the street to buy a quart of milk, movies were played on the side of a building in the center of town, and neighbors looked out for one another.

What does all of this have to do with architecture? Trends in architecture are frequently linked to the demands of society. Now, it seems, we are coming full circle: People want more convenience and safety but without losing amenities and modernity.

They are looking for "community" again and coming to realize that those neighborhoods and families depicted in earlier TV shows and movies were, in fact, highly desirable.

Dictionary.com defines a "community" as "an assemblage of interacting populations occupying a given area." But a community is far more than that. The process of building a true community can be facilitated by how a neighborhood is designed.

For example, picture a populace that lives within walking distance of schools and a supermarket, and where residents have access to parks, cafés,

a post office and a theater — all without burning a gallon or two of gas.

Call it Main Street USA, if you will. Architects are designing these communities so the homes envelop and embellish the shared areas. The homes are within a comfortable walking distance of amenities and services, making travel to them as convenient as possible.

This trend began nearly 30 years ago in Florida's Panhandle in a neighborhood called Seaside. More than 100 versions of this community have been started or completed since then throughout the United States. Currently, similar communities are in various developmental stages in Florida.

We will see many communities such as these in years to come. These neighborhoods are not only more convenient and efficient — in terms of saving time and money — but they can bring peace of mind to residents who feel united by this old-yet-new lifestyle. They will, in effect, have returned to Mayberry, that idyllic town from the 1960s TV series *The Andy Griffith Show*.

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Celebration, a community near Orlando, features mixed-use options with retail, residential and commercial properties.



Reminiscent of a small Southern town, Celebration is a community where residents can live, work and play.



Designed by Affiniti Architects, this home is in the community of Celebration.

REAL ESTATE GET UP & GO



The American Red Cross Designers' Show House is in a 9,180-square-foot Tower Suite residence on the eighth floor of Tower A at 2700 North Ocean. It is the first time the Show House has been in a condominium.

Designers' Show House at 2700 North Ocean extended through March 9

Due to continued interest in the 2008 American Red Cross Designers' Show House, developer Dan Catalfumo will keep the doors to the Show House open to the public through March 9.

The Show House is within the new 2700 North Ocean condominium resort on Singer Island.

This year's event was scheduled to run from Jan. 17 through Feb. 16.

The Show House is a 9,180-square-foot Tower Suite on the eighth floor of Tower A at 2700 North Ocean, a two-tower project that Catalfumo Construction and Development recently completed.

This is the first time the Show House has been in a condominium.

"We felt that holding the Show House over for an encore would bring additional revenue to the Red Cross," Catalfumo said.

Thousands of supporters of the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter of the Red Cross already have toured the Show House, where 16 designers interpreted the theme — "Palm Beach style" — room by room.

The four-bedroom, 6½-bath residence features a private elevator entry; ocean, Intracoastal and city views; a library; and a separate catering kitchen.

The Show House is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$30 per person; special pricing is available to groups of 10 or more.

Visit the Web site at www.redcrossshowhouse.org or call (561) 833-7711 for information.

For information on 2700 North Ocean, visit www.2700northocean.com or call (561) 259-2700.

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