



The arc-shaped design guides views away from the street and neighbors, directing them instead towards the water.

**Robert Barnes, A.I.A., Architect**

Coastal Construction Co., General Contractor  
Smith Hammock Landscape, Landscape Architecture  
Oscar Thompson, Photography

**Casa Entenmann**

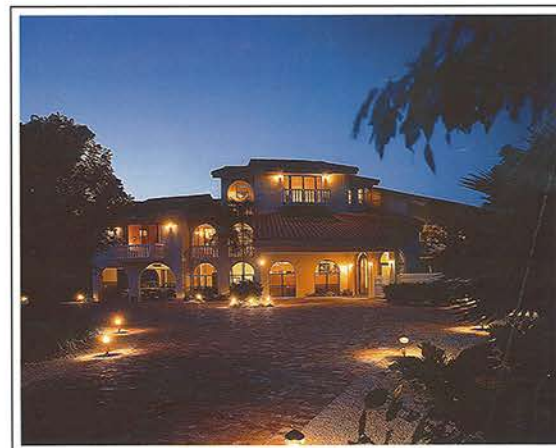
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Entenmann spent many years in charge of the baked goods enterprise which still bears the family name. Now retired from the bakery business, they are enjoying the flavor of a new creation: their custom-designed, waterfront home in south Florida. What makes this home uniquely interesting is that it is curved. There are no straight sides on the house and, viewed from above, it resembles a croissant. This crescent shape is the masterful conception of architect Robert Barnes, A.I.A. Robert worked closely with the Entenmanns who conveyed that they were very fond of arches and preferred a Southwestern-style residence. They desired an energy-efficient design which would guide views away from the street and neighbors toward the water, maximize the natural ventilation, and provide ample living space for themselves and their visiting family members and guests. But the lot is pie shaped, and the property is narrower on the water side than on the street side. After examining the owners' needs and the constraints of the site, Robert concluded that an arc-shaped design would best accommodate all of the necessary requirements. The plan actually is a

simple one but by curving it, the house takes on a dimension of grandeur. While this curvature creates a striking visual statement and became the design solution for the project, it also created an enormous challenge for the general contractor. The entire house – every room and wall, the arches, the beams – consists of curves and angles. Even on the roof, each and every piece of barrel tile had to be cut into a pie shape to fit the peak of the curve. This enormous undertaking required extraordinary competence, and it was triumphantly accomplished by general contractor Coastal Construction Company. The insistence upon unsurpassed standards of quality defines the belief by which Coastal Construction operates. This commitment combined with years of experience enabled the company to successfully achieve the demands of this project. A circular driveway of light, old Chicago-style brick leads to the house where adobe arches and balconies rhythmically follow the curvature of the design. Overhead, the roof is constructed with handmade, clay tiles. Southwestern in theme, the home blends timeless old-world with south Florida vernacular. Flood regulations in this area require first-



A circular brick driveway leads to the Southwestern-style house where adobe arches and balconies rhythmically follow the flowing design.

level living spaces to be elevated. Sometimes this is achieved by building the home on stilts or gradually terracing the front approach. In this case, the architect designed an elegant winding stairway ascending from the foyer to the living room. It was quite a structural undertaking because it was formed in exposed concrete and required custom, curving forms. Underneath, the bottom was constructed in staircase form, presenting an inverted reflection of the top steps. This treatment is perhaps more visibly appreciated on the underside of a separate, curving stairway which leads to the upper level but can be seen here. Both stairways were finished with travertine steps and curving, cast stone railings. This entrance is elegant and visually exciting with an energetic interplay of curves and angles and forms. The first level of living space consists of an elongated, free-flowing, subtly curved expanse in which there are no walls separating the living and dining rooms and kitchen. Sliding glass doorways on all sides immediately establish a relationship with the outdoors. Views are directly led, though, through the sliding glass doorways which open to the outdoor pool-patio area and ocean. The cedar wood beams of the 15-foot-high ceiling in the living room are intersected by a curving stucco beam.



Nighttime lighting dramatically highlights the timeless beauty of the residence.

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A winding stairway with travertine steps and curving, cast stone railings sets a tone of graceful elegance.

The mix of the wood with the stucco lends a Mexican look and creates interest even at the ceiling level. The flooring is a beautiful, Mediterranean-style travertine. Very similar in style to travertine marble, this stone is non-directional without the linear look of travertine. It is rare when space alone, independent of decor, creates interest but in this living area, the lines and curves and archways interact to create kinetic space, full of dynamic movement. Interior coordinators Margaret Ann Parris and Susan Buschmann assisted in assembling a decor to complement rather than distract from this setting. It was difficult to decorate this residence because of the curving walls and spaciousness, but they succeeded in creating the comfortable informality desired by the clients. Many selections were influenced by the Mexican flavor of the house while some pieces were brought from the owners' previous residence. Separate seating groups were arranged be-

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An interplay of curves and forms creates exciting visual interest.



Bowed, stucco ceiling beam reveals the subtle curvature of the living expanse. Wood beams mixed with the stucco give a Mexican flavor.

Looking down from the second level, angles and lines and archways create a scene of striking beauty.



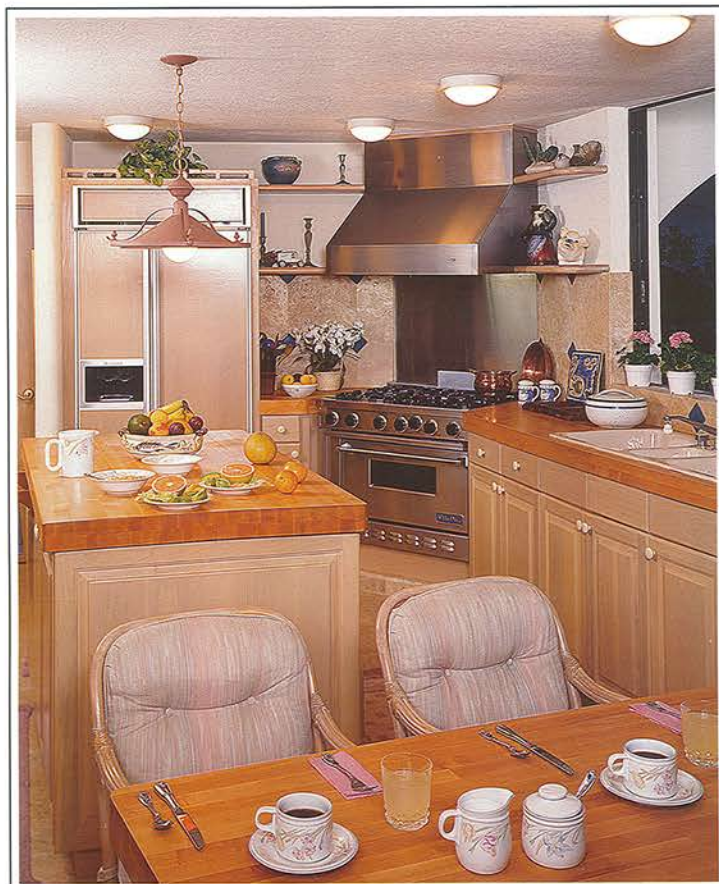
Rough lodgepole pine, Southwestern-style fabric and heavy stone tables add to the warm, Mexican feel.

cause of the spaciousness. One grouping is situated next to a balcony which overlooks the front outdoors. Wood screens on each side of the sliding glass doors were made in Mexico. Rough lodgepole pine seating with pink and blue Southwestern-style fabric and heavy stone tables add a warmth borrowed from the Mexican motif. Overlooking the pool-patio area, the second grouping carries a more traditional feel with comfortable, fully upholstered furniture. Throw pillows and a hand-dyed Tibetan Oriental carpet carry the pinks and blues and greens found in the Southwestern-style

fabric of the first grouping. Accessories include heavy stone, large urns, and wrought iron to complement the Mexican feel. The living area flows into the dining area which, in turn, conveniently flows into the kitchen. The open kitchen is cheerful with views of the outdoors. Cabinetry was custom-built to accommodate the curve of the house, and features ash cabinets with butcher block surfaces. The arc of the house continues by way of a hallway to the guest bedrooms and balconies. The second winding stairway leads from the living room to the upper level. Located here are the library

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The kitchen also is arced, so cabinetry along the walls was custom built to accommodate the curve.

with an adjoining balcony, and the master bedroom suite. From its elevated vantage point, the upper level is enveloped by the marvelous outdoor vista. A panorama of ocean views unfolds through sliding glass doors in the large master bedroom. An outside balcony extends from the room, providing an exquisite setting for enjoying the ever-present gifts of the natural environment. The center of attraction, though, is the pool-patio area – the radius point from which all rooms of the house are oriented. A concentration of energy is focused here but the combination of elements works together to create a magnificently relaxing environment. A covered patio extends from and follows the curva-

ture of the main residence, providing a comfortable expanse shaded from direct sunlight. Archways divide it from the adjoining swimming pool and spa, giving a sense of separation from the brighter outdoor area while remaining an integral part of it. A series of archways surrounds the entire area, connected to the main house by a high, mansard screen enclosure. The dramatic enclosure was artistically designed and engineered to complement the architecture and enhance existing views while providing the desired screening protection. Travertine marble provides a rich surface for this outdoor living space. The design of the swimming pool and spa is consistent with the curving,

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flowing ambiance of the residence. Wrought iron sconces and natural terra-cotta pots and urns imported from Mexico maintain the Southwestern flavor. Of unusual interest in the construction of this home is a hidden water cistern with a capacity of 13,000 gallons. The collected rainwater provides nearly all of the requirements for both indoor and outdoor use. From drinking and showering to swimming and outdoor watering, the water collected in the cistern provides an independent, year-round supply. Landscaping techniques also addressed water conservation. Xeriscaping was employed, using 90% native plant material to eliminate the need for fertilizing, spraying or trimming. Very little water is ever required. In addition to accomplishing the goals of extremely low maintenance and water conservation, the landscaping adds color to the property and beautifully complements the lines of the house. By designing something other than a traditional, square-cornered home, the architect created an exciting but intimate and comfortable residence for the Entenmanns. The complexities of the design and construction could have been overwhelming had it not been for the talented and dedicated teamwork of architect Robert Barnes, general contractor Coastal Construction Company and interior coordinators Margaret Ann Paris and Susan Buschmann. They deservedly felt a sense of accomplishment after completing this project and exemplify the importance of assembling a good team. Casa Entenmann is a casa magnifica.



Archways divide a covered patio from the screened swimming pool and spa area.

