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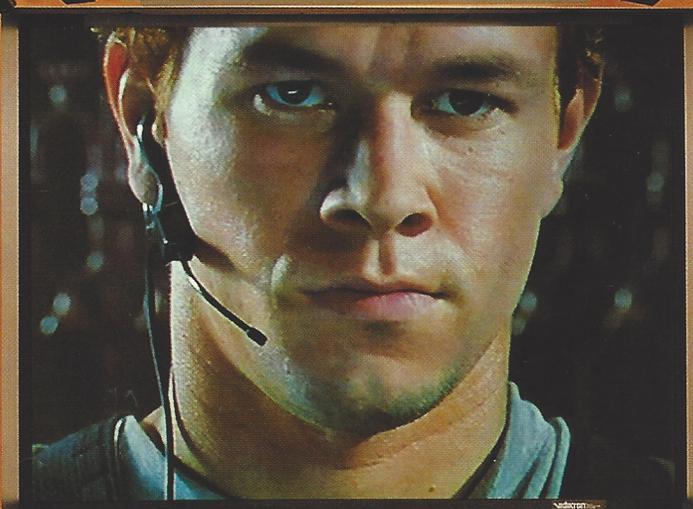
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# Seaside Har

With seven channels of Yamaha surround sound and B&W



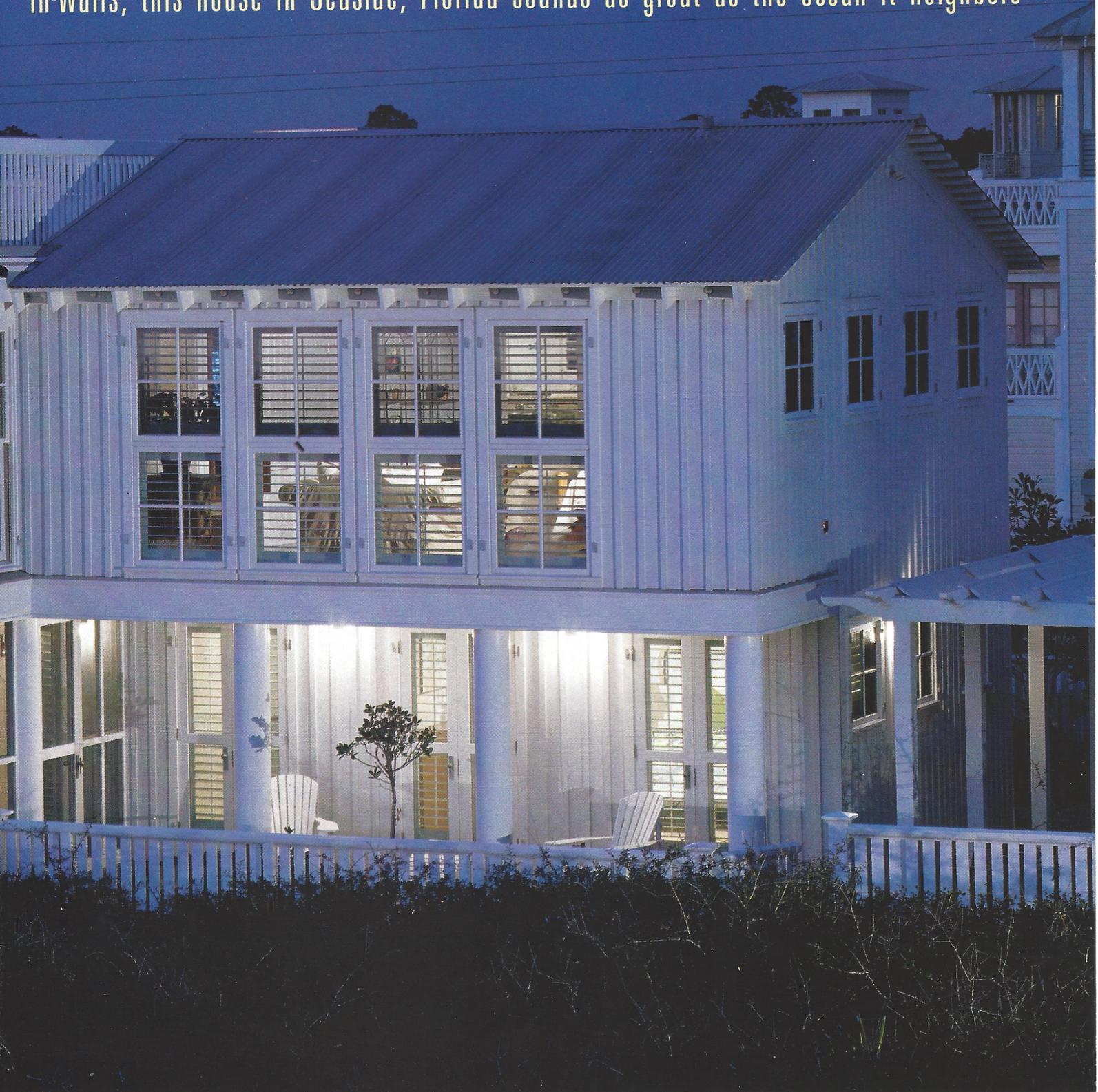
STORY BY  
BARBARA DINERMAN

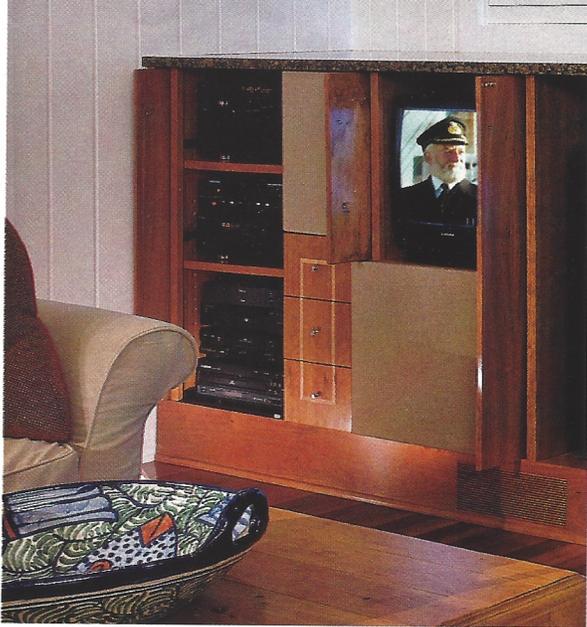
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
KEITH DOUGLAS

INSTALLATION BY  
JIM GRAY DESIGNS

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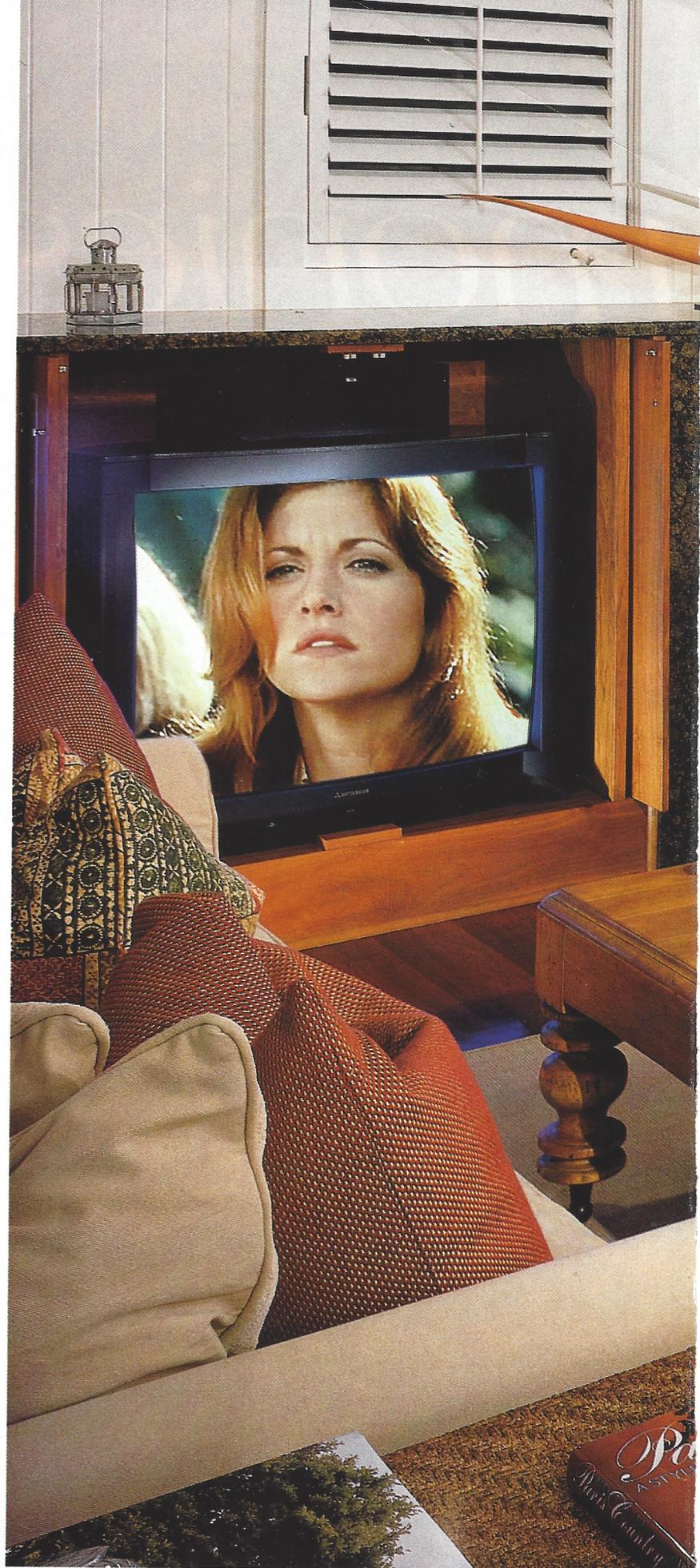
in-walls, this house in Seaside, Florida sounds as great as the ocean it neighbors

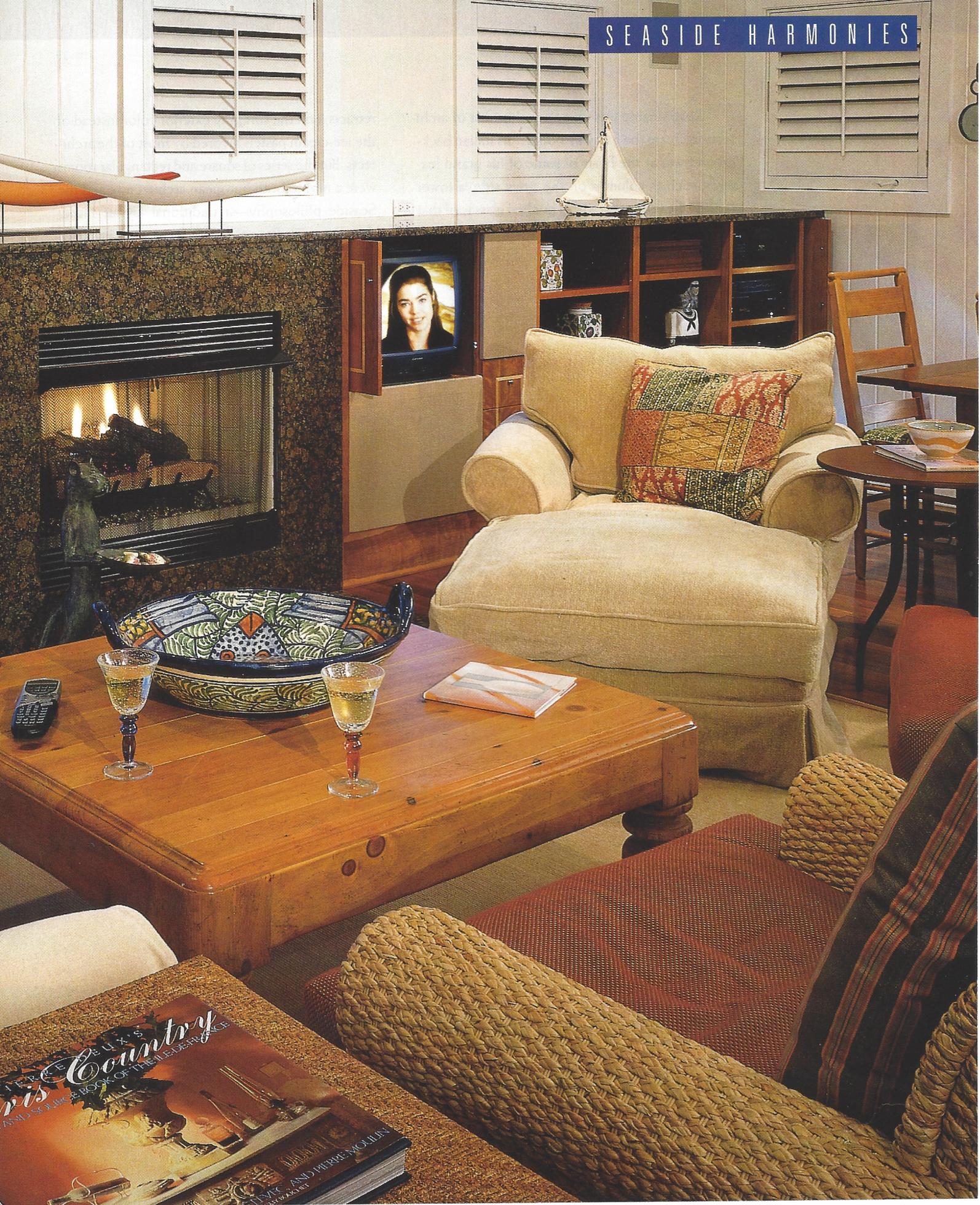




As one of the last houses completed by the late architect Aldo Rossi, this Italianate version of a Florida beachfront cottage was named Variance, in humorous reference to all the variances applied for during the design phase. After all, the architectural review board at this charming and highly acclaimed community of Seaside, Florida, had its mandates to consider. Planned by the widely recognized husband-and-wife team of Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Seaside requires its residences to feature shiplap siding, pitched roofs, vertically proportioned windows and even white picket fences along the side streets. But this “gateway” house, the first house at the western edge of the town, promised a certain privacy as well, so the homeowners purchased the lot situated between their house and the Gulf shore. The peaceful view of the dunes would be accented only by Seaside’s whimsical benches and pavilions.

*A custom entertainment center in the family room houses stacks of audio and source equipment, including a Mitsubishi 40-inch direct-view TV, a Yamaha 7-channel DSP processor and a Sony 200-disc CD jukebox. For audio, two B&W bookshelf speakers are tucked neatly behind fabric grilles as are two B&W powered subwoofers.*





Rossi's name was on a very short list of architects to create the gateway house. His Italian background was at the heart of some of his grand features, such as columns on the street side, a tower (one of the variances) with a pitched glass roof that

retracts, and the soft gray exterior color instead of the ice-cream pastels favored by most of the architects. But the series of square and rectangular rooms were a nod to both European architecture and the Seaside philosophy—a traditional layout rather than the open flow of space that defines contemporary subtropical design.

For homeowners Don and Sarah Reinhard, a neutral-toned interior would honor Rossi's Tuscan roots and also underscore their own relaxed lifestyle. The couple lives in Tallahassee, just a 2-hour drive from this weekend getaway. The family room would double as the theater, the "dining" room would mean the breakfast bar in the adjoining kitchen area. And, with the mandated small windows at a certain height, the media cabinet would respect the aesthetics of the space.

"Rossi liked symmetry and balance," says Sarah. "He wanted everything clean-lined, so he designed the cabinet to fill the width of the front wall, flanking a central fireplace of Baltic brown marble. He



#### Theater

Mitsubishi CS-40707 40-inch rear-projection TV  
 Mitsubishi CS-20203 20-inch monitors (2)  
 Mitsubishi HS-U770 S-VHS Hi-Fi VCR  
 Mitsubishi MV-6027 AC-3-compatible laserdisc player  
 Mitsubishi DD-1000 DVD player  
 Yamaha DSP-A3090 digital soundfield processor  
 Yamaha MX-2 power amplifiers (4)  
 Yamaha TX-950 AM/FM tuner  
 Yamaha RX-770 AM/FM receiver  
 Yamaha CDC-845 5-disc CD changer  
 Sony CDP-CX 200-disc CD jukebox  
 AudioControl Rialto Home Theater equalizer  
 AudioControl Architect equalizer  
 B&W CWM-6i/CWM-8i in-wall speakers (2)  
 B&W DM601 bookshelf speakers (2)  
 B&W AS-6 powered subwoofers (2)  
 B&W CC-6 center-channel speaker  
 Niles Audio RSL-6 speaker distribution system  
 Niles Audio IRP-6, IRC-1 remote control system  
 Niles Audio IRC-1 remote control sensors (3)  
 Home Producer 8 universal remote control

Installation and entertainment-center design by Jim Gray Designs, 3304 Wildwood Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 657-9473. Architecture by Aldo Rossi Studio di Architettura, 45 E. 20th St., New York, NY 10003; (212) 982-4700. Interior design by Christ & Associates, 35 Clayton Lane, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459; (850) 231-5538; and Gary "Coop" Cooper, 74 N. Lake Drive, Seagrave Beach, FL 32459; (850) 231-9122.

liked the smooth look of cherry floors meeting the cherry cabinetry, which has a simple, Neoclassical inlay of pale walnut. When Rossi died suddenly in a car accident, we had just arrived for our first weekend and were planning a housewarming, which we canceled. His partner, Morris Adjmi, helped us complete the architectural elements.”

Meanwhile, Jim Gray, who had already done three installations at Seaside, was working on the audio/video system and faced some unusual challenges. First, the main theater system would be housed in a room of approximately 18 x 18 feet. “A square room is your worst enemy in terms of acoustics,” says Gray, who selected the AudioControl Rialto home theater equalizer and used some tricky techniques of speaker placement.

“The AudioControl piece helped us greatly. Without it, the sound in this family room/home theater would have been pretty ordinary. We had to respect the aesthetics of this unusually wide, open room. With all the windows and hardwood

floors, we had a lot of reflective surfaces to contend with, but the vaulted ceiling gave us an interesting sound.”

To give greater depth to the audio at the front of the room, Gray installed a 7-channel DSP system,



- Panamax Max 2 surge protection (3)
- Panamax Max 6 surge protection (2)
- Yamaha/Mitsubishi additional remote controls (2)
- Esoteric Audio interconnect cables

#### Master Bedroom

- Mitsubishi CS-35505 35-inch TV
- Mitsubishi HS-U560 Hi-Fi VCR
- Yamaha RX-V690 AM/FM surround receiver
- Yamaha CDC-755 5-disc CD player
- B&W CWM-6i in-wall speakers (4)
- B&W HTM center-channel speaker
- Velodyne VA-810II powered subwoofer
- Panamax Max 2 surge protection
- Esoteric Audio interconnect cables

#### Master Bath

- Polk Audio AB-610 ceiling speakers (2)
- Niles Audio VCS-2DIM volume control
- Niles Audio IRR-4D remote eye

#### Guest Bedrooms

- Polk Audio AB-610 ceiling speakers (2)
- Niles Audio VCS-2DIM volume control
- Niles Audio IRR-4D remote eye
- Niles Audio RSL-6 remote control
- Polk Audio AB-610 ceiling speakers
- Niles Audio VCS-2DIM volume control
- Niles Audio IRR-4D remote eye
- Niles Audio RSL-6 remote control

#### Sunroom/Breakfast Area

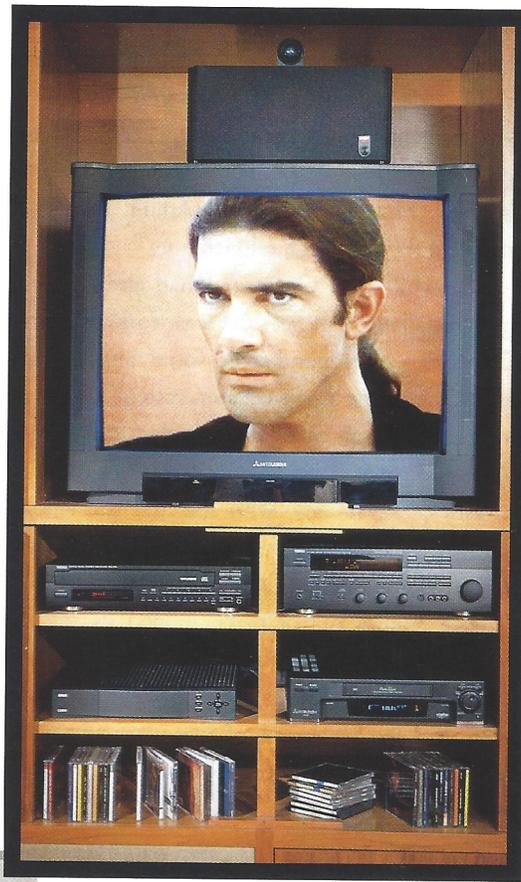
- Polk Audio AB-610 ceiling speakers (2)
- Niles Audio VCS-2DIM volume control
- Niles Audio IRR-4D remote eye

which is unique to Yamaha. The two additional front-effect speakers make a tremendous difference over the typical 5- and 5.1-channel surround system. "The speakers are up high, away from the main speakers and directly across from the B&W in-wall rear speakers," notes Gray.

*The master bedroom features surround sound with a Yamaha Dolby Pro Logic receiver distributing sound through B&W in-walls, a center-channel speaker and a powered subwoofer. A 35-inch Mitsubishi TV and VCR are housed in a cherry cabinet similar to the design of the family room cabinetry.*

Fine-tuning the cabinet design for the entertainment system presented other challenges. Because of the windows cut into the beaded-board paneling on the front and side walls, the cabinet height was limited to about 50 inches. "We had a lot of width and not much height to incorporate the equipment around the fireplace and entertainment center," he adds. Two B&W bookshelf speakers were tucked behind fabric grilles, as were two B&W powered subwoofers. "We opted for a second subwoofer to even out the room modes in the bass."

Behind solid pocket doors are tidy stacks of audio and source equipment, from four Yamaha power amps to a Yamaha receiver, Yamaha 5-disc CD changer, Sony 200-disc CD jukebox, and Mitsubishi laserdisc and DVD players.



A Mitsubishi 40-inch direct-view TV is accompanied by two smaller 20-inch Mitsubishi monitors. Notes Gray, "Don wanted more than just one TV. He wanted a certain look, and the smaller TVs allow the homeowners to monitor the camera locations at the front door and around the barbecue/hot tub area while watching their favorite program on the big screen." Controlling the equipment is a hand-held Home Producer 8 universal remote control, with wall-mounted remote sensors throughout the house.

"Don and Sarah wanted good quality equipment without the bells and whistles of a dedicated theater and whole-house automation," says Gray. "Since this is a vacation home, they also wanted a system that was easy to operate. They weren't going to deal with it every day, so it had to be pretty straightforward."

Handheld remotes by Niles Audio operate the audio choices in the other rooms, including the guest bedrooms on the ground

floor, as well as the sunroom/breakfast area on the upper floor. (The public spaces and the master bedroom are situated on the upper floor to maximize the views over the dunes.) Audio is delivered through Polk Audio ceiling speakers in most of the secondary rooms. "Polk Audio builds speakers exclusively and makes excellent product," Gray asserts. "We've used them in the ceilings throughout this and nearly every project."

A dedicated audio system runs through the two guest rooms that flank the main entry on the ground level. With volume and remote capability, guests can select a radio station or a CD, for example, using an in-wall remote sensor. Cable and satellite TV are also distributed throughout the home. An AudioControl Architect equalizer enhances the performance in the secondary rooms, which also include the sunroom, guest rooms, covered porch and widow's-walk deck.

In the master bedroom, a second theater environment features surround sound with a Yamaha Pro Logic receiver distributing audio through B&W in-walls, a center-channel speaker and a powered subwoofer. A 35-inch Mitsubishi TV and VCR are housed in the cherry cabinet that repeats the design of the family room cabinetry. With the speakers placed at window height, the Reinhards can listen to their favorite jazz pieces from the comfy seating area as well as from the bed. "B&W also builds a wonderful product," says Gray. "We used them in areas where we were looking for a different type of sound, primarily in the two theaters."

The home's interior design, by Christ & Associates and Gary "Coop" Cooper, focused on casual and practical materials. "We tried to create a neutral canvas that would let the outdoors show up," says Jamie Christ, who custom-upholstered the living-room seating and slip-covered the "chair-and-a-half" seating in the bedroom and sunroom. Christ's firm was also involved in the space planning and tile design.

Cooper completed the purchasing of the furniture, such as the theater's hard-wearing pine table and other pieces from Milling Road. The woven sea-



grass armchairs were selected by Sarah Reinhard, who stayed closely involved in creating this casual environment with a lot of texture appropriate to the setting, as well as to Rossi's rustic heritage.

Cooper also specified the furnishings for the tower deck, which manages to combine the traditional widow's-walk enclosure with a space-age glass roof that "opens like the cockpit of an airplane." For Gray, the challenge was trying to protect the outdoor speakers and volume control from the unpredictable behavior of Florida's Gulf Coast.

"The Niles OSIO speakers have held up beautifully," he reports. Using two in the front and two in back, Gray was trying to be considerate of the neighbors. "You don't have to run them too loud when you have four of them."

Likewise on the covered deck downstairs, with its hot tub and barbecue area, the Reinhards love listening to all kinds of music. This glassed-in area, which required a variance

from the mandated screened-in enclosures, features two pairs of Polk Audio all-weather ceiling speakers.

With high quality throughout, rather than excessive quantity in this home of unmansion-like proportions, the Reinhards have an affordable system for their welcoming weekend retreat. ♦

