

Zonta PEEK House Article

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Zonta's PEEK at the Unique to feature exhilarating Captiva home

The spectacular home of Rene and Margarethe Miville on Captiva will be the fourth home on Zonta's "PEEK at the Unique" house tour on Saturday, March 1. This annual fundraising event conducted by women of the Sanibel-Captiva Zonta Club offers "PEEKers" an opportunity to view four of the islands most unusual homes and at the same time to help improve the lives of women. Monies raised by the "PEEK" are granted to local and international organizations to advance the status of women and girls. The sponsors for this home are John and Mary Jo Boler.

Arriving in the driveway of the Miville property on Captiva Drive, one cannot imagine the boldly conceived, amazingly constructed house you are to enter. The story of how the Mivilles were attracted to Captiva and to one another is not only serendipity, but also romantic, historical, and a reflection of who they are as individuals as well as a team.

Thanks to the insight of his mother, Ella, Rene came to Captiva more than twenty years ago. Having spent time in Boston, New York and Italy, his mother and grandmother fell in love with the islands and purchased a home Captiva in 1986. Rene met Margarethe as she walked on the beach during a vacation on Captiva, not far from their current home. Meeting the Mivilles, one is struck not only by their dynamic personalities and sophisticated tastes, but also by their sensitive, literate and expressive souls.

Rene gave their architect, Mark Foster, AIA, of the internationally known architectural firm Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, carte blanche in the design of the home, but not until he provided Foster with a 12x4 foot photo of the view to be seen from the house. The view spans Pine Island Sound, Roosevelt Channel, and the Gulf of Mexico. The Mivilles also emphasized the fact that their home should embrace all of the things that are fun in life for them: entertaining family and friends, a welcoming all-embracing atmosphere, room for music, creativity, culinary pursuits, and reflection. Rene comments that they gave a great deal of input, but did not provide the details.

"If you direct an artist," he states, "you'll have a disaster."

Having been a well-known fashion photographer, Rene knew the import of that statement.

Mark Foster was alerted by a Sanibel builder that the islands have one of the most corrosive microclimates in the United States, hence the choice of concrete and glass, rather than wood and stucco, as principal building materials. Rene sees their home as a penthouse that allows those who visit to embrace the glorious evening skies as well as the spectacular water views that the daylight hours afford. Contemporary furnishings are perfectly juxtaposed with farm furniture that has been in Margarethe's family in north Germany for four centuries! The Miville's choice of cabinetry, hardware, and metal work engages the lucky visitors to their home, which is filled with more delightful surprises. Elegant staircases, both interior and exterior, will encourage the "PEEKers" to linger a bit longer

Although the Mivilles have only lived in the house for three months, it is clear that it already has provided great moments of joy for the entire family. Their daughter has had fun living in the "cardboard box" she calls home, and it is clear that all three children, their parents, and the extended family will be deeply impacted by the excellence of this architectural gem.

The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professional women working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy and funds to strengthen women's lives on the islands, in Lee County, and around the world through Zonta International. Tickets for "A PEEK at the Unique" are available by calling 395-4637.



Photo Caption: The Miville home on Captiva offers spectacular views from inside and outside!



Photo caption: Zonta's PEEK at the Unique includes a Captiva home with spectacular interior décor and exterior views.



Photo Caption: Zonta "PEEKers" will tour four of the islands' most unique homes, including the Miville home on Captiva.



Photo Caption: An incredibly artistic element in the Miville home includes this floor.