

Zonta Home Tour to feature “Zen” home on Captiva

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Arriving at the Captiva home of Don and Joan Sherman, one’s first indication that this will be a unique adventure is the red lacquered Torii roadside sign. From that point, guests of Zonta’s A Peek at the Unique home tour, set for Saturday, March 13, will be charmed throughout their visit to a home that combines traditional Japanese and contemporary Western elements with style and warmth.

At the entry, dark river stones contrast with creamy travertine steps to the front door. Inside, visitors find their gaze going immediately to the expansive view of the Gulf – the goal, Joan Sherman says, when she and her husband embarked on a major remodeling project: “We wanted to ensure that no interior elements interfered with that marvelous view – the design concept was to focus on the view, and to create an interior that brought the outside in.”

Working with interior decorator Kym Nader, Joan Sherman has succeeded throughout this light-filled home. Touches of red and black enliven a sea of creamy custom colors and natural materials, reflective of the Japanese culture that influenced the couple during many visits to that country. A lamp over the breakfast table depicts the Japanese tea ceremony. The calm, uncluttered rooms, with a mix of antiques and contemporary furniture, and the classic lines of cherry wood cabinets, all combine to create a feeling of spaciousness and peace. Works of art – paintings, ceramics, wood and other media – reflect the Asian theme and the couple’s love for Japan. Upstairs, the Gulf view is again the main feature, including a glorious vista of sky and sea from the master bathroom. The master suite with its relaxing, pale decor is luxurious yet comfortable, with a fireplace that adds visual, if not actual, warmth year-round.

Outside, a curving path leads from the pool past a Japanese sand garden to a beachfront, paved patio. The eco-friendly outdoor shower of bamboo and ipe wood, built by contractor Dan Budd as a birthday gift to Don from Joan – is reminiscent of a Japanese pagoda.

Always a sell-out, the home tour is popular with many island residents and visitors; seats are limited, and tickets are going fast. For reservations at \$60 each, call **1-877-750-3849** (a new number this year) and leave a message, which will be promptly returned.

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. For information, e-mail to ZontaPeek@comcast.net or visit www.zontasancap.com.



The Gulf view is the main focus in every room.



The outdoor shower adds whimsical charm



Oriental accents are found throughout the home