



## **AURORA CUSTOM HOMES WINS 2011 AURORA AWARD FOR CUSTOM HOME ONE-OF-A-KIND OVER \$3 MILLION**

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (July 26, 2011) – Aurora Custom Homes proudly announces it has received a 2011 AURORA AWARD in the “Custom Home One-of-a-Kind” division for a home over \$3 million. The AURORA AWARDS is a design competition of the Southeast Building Conference (SEBC) recognizing excellence in residential construction for multi-family and single family projects in a number of categories across the 12 Southeastern states and the Caribbean.

The award went to Aurora Custom Homes for a 13,500-square-foot custom home it completed in May 2011. The home, named “Serendipity,” is located in Ponte Vedra Beach and was designed to utilize the latest energy efficient technologies and green building features while incorporating historical architectural design elements. Inspired by Italian Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio, the classically designed home pays homage to the basic principles of proportion, axuality and symmetry to create order, harmony and balance in an elegant and comfortable setting.

“Serendipity is a phenomenal home in several different aspects, from its use of green technology and features to its rich architectural detail and design,” said Michael Lenahen, president of Aurora Custom Homes and Certified Green Professional. “We worked in partnership with the owners, Robert and Sallie Ann Hart, to create a home that embodies their desire for energy conservation and efficiency, as well as their love for history, architecture and travel. The result of our combined efforts is an inviting European country-style home that lends itself to hosting both large-scale gatherings and long-term family guests.”

Serendipity’s spectacular design includes a main house, with flanking north and south guest houses, each with their own double garages. The balance of the property is enhanced by lagoon-to-golf views and is highlighted by lush landscaping, a brick paved herb garden and a palm tree-lined private retreat with intimate seating around an outdoor fireplace and European fountain. Tuscan-inspired gardens and dining pavilions, surrounded by cast stone columns, flank a disappearing edge swimming pool and waterfall that empties to a manicured lower lawn. Adjacent to the lawn is a serpentine boardwalk, fishing pier and canoe launch.

In addition to its design excellence, Serendipity is built to the standards and suggestions set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council and Green Built Homes of

Florida. Aurora Custom Homes and its green consultants installed roof-integrated photovoltaic cells to transform sunlight into clean and renewable electricity saving the Harts thousands in energy bills over the lifespan of the home. Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) blocks were used on the exterior walls of the home to provide superior strength and insulation while reducing the demand for forested wood products. ICFs are energy efficient, environmentally friendly and resistant to high wind speeds.

Serendipity also includes a variety of additional green features including: a power distribution system capable of charging electric powered cars; geo-thermal water-to-air heat pumps; dual-speed air handlers, energy recovery ventilators (ERV); heat recovery units; a closed-loop plumbing system; dual-flush toilets; Low-E windows; Energy Star appliances; and a home automation system to program and control air conditioning, stereo, security, lighting and the home's equipment. The landscaping and irrigation are also designed to be environmentally friendly and include native Florida plantings, shade trees, an underground cistern to collect rain water to supply the drip irrigation system, bioswales and permeable surfaces to reduce the amount of water run-off into the storm drains and waterways.

Serendipity is located on three-quarters of an acre in prestigious Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and backs up to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Ocean Course golf resort. Ponte Vedra Beach is home to luxurious resorts, fine golf and headquarters for several national sporting organizations, including the PGA Tour, the ATP Tour and THE PLAYERS Championship.