

# Beaches Real Estate Spotlight

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE OF SHORELINES

## Aurora Custom Homes reports latest trends for outdoor living

Special to Shorelines

From elaborate summer kitchens to streaming waterfalls and from outdoor pool tables to oversized flat-screen televisions, the team at Aurora Custom Homes has witnessed a tremendous increase and interest in outdoor living spaces.

"With the economy forcing many people to stay closer to home, families are seeking newer ways to enhance their living environment," said Michael Lenahen, president of Ponte Vedra Beach-based Aurora Custom Homes. "Homeowners are rediscovering the outdoors and they are doing so in their own backyard."

Some of the new and more popular outdoor living trends Lenahen is creating for his custom home clients include:

- Summer kitchens equipped with the latest cooking features such as duel fuel barbecue grills, smokers, deep fryers, small refrigerators, beverage stations, beer meisters and ice machines.

- Lanai and patio spaces large enough to accommodate various outdoor leisure and entertaining activities, such as an area for TV watching, ping pong or pool tables, lounging, dining for large groups and secluded reading and relaxation areas surrounded by various types of sensory enhancements.

- Separate dedicated patios with outdoor seating focused around a wood burning fireplace, a fire pit or fire ring.

- Water features of every variety, from store-bought fountains to elaborate waterfalls. The cool, refreshing sights and sounds are enhanced by linear streams and babbling brooks adjacent to lounging areas, along walkways or under stepping stones from one patio area to another, and multiple terraced mini pools that drop sheets of water from one level to another.

- Pergolas constructed of wooden posts supporting timber beams and open rafters that help define an outdoor space. When designed correctly, pergolas provide indirect sunlight and periods of shade to balconies, patios and adjacent rooms of the home during hours of intense sunlight. Some pergolas are enhanced with remote controlled canvas-type shades or have the cool sensation of planted vines growing atop them for shade and fragrance.

When designing an outdoor living area, Lenahen reminds custom buyers to think about how they will use the space and what function it will serve to both their family and their guests. For every custom home the company builds, Aurora offers design assistance, which includes a pre-design conference to determine the specific ways each room will be utilized as well as a discussion about the client's special needs, lifestyle and budget.

Aurora Custom Homes' design assistance service also helps buyers select the right products for their home according to the owner's budget and preferences. Such selections may include energy efficient products, low-maintenance materials, cost-effective installations, furniture placement awareness and a coordinated lighting plan among the many others.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a living environment where homeowners can truly take pleasure in their home and take advantage of the home's features, especially the outdoor liv-



**Poolside Living:** One of the more popular outdoor living trends Aurora Custom Homes has noticed is lanai and patio spaces large enough to accommodate various activities, such as dining for large groups and secluded reading and relaxation areas surrounded by various types of sensory enhancements.



**Summer Kitchens:** Another trendy outdoor living feature includes summer kitchens equipped with the latest cooking features such as duel fuel barbecue grills, smokers, deep fryers, small refrigerators, beverage stations, beer meisters and ice machines.

ing area that many people enjoy in Florida," Lenahen said. "Every home we build should reflect the lifestyle and needs of those who live in it. If we have done this, then we have succeeded at creating an authentic custom home."

Aurora Custom Homes was founded in 1997 by Michael Lenahen with a mission to build custom homes with uncompromised elegance. Working with passion and purpose, Aurora Custom Homes creates impeccably crafted homes with unsurpassed quality. Over the past decade, three characteristics have set the company apart: a low-volume approach to custom homebuilding; a geographically centered location within the market it serves; and utilization of Lenahen's degree and expertise in architecture.

Since its inception, Aurora Custom Homes has constructed an average of three to four luxurious



**Leisure Spaces:** Aurora Custom Homes can create beautiful outdoor living spaces to accommodate entertaining activities, such as an area for TV watching, ping pong or pool tables.

homes annually, ranging in size from 4,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet, and ranging in price from \$650,000 to more than \$2.5 million. The company builds homes in some of Northeast Florida's finest locales, including Ponte Vedra Beach, Jacksonville Beach, along the St. Johns

River and Intracoastal Waterway, and in prestigious gated communities such as Marsh Landing, The Plantation of Ponte Vedra, Sawgrass Country Club and Queen's Harbour.

In addition to Aurora Custom Homes, Lenahen also owns Aurora Custom Remodeling. Founded in

2001, the company maintains the same attention to detail and uncompromised elegance to recreate custom homes to suit the lifestyle of each client it serves.

More information about Aurora Custom Homes and Aurora Custom Remodeling can be found online at [www.AuroraBuilders.com](http://www.AuroraBuilders.com) or by calling (904) 246-5400.