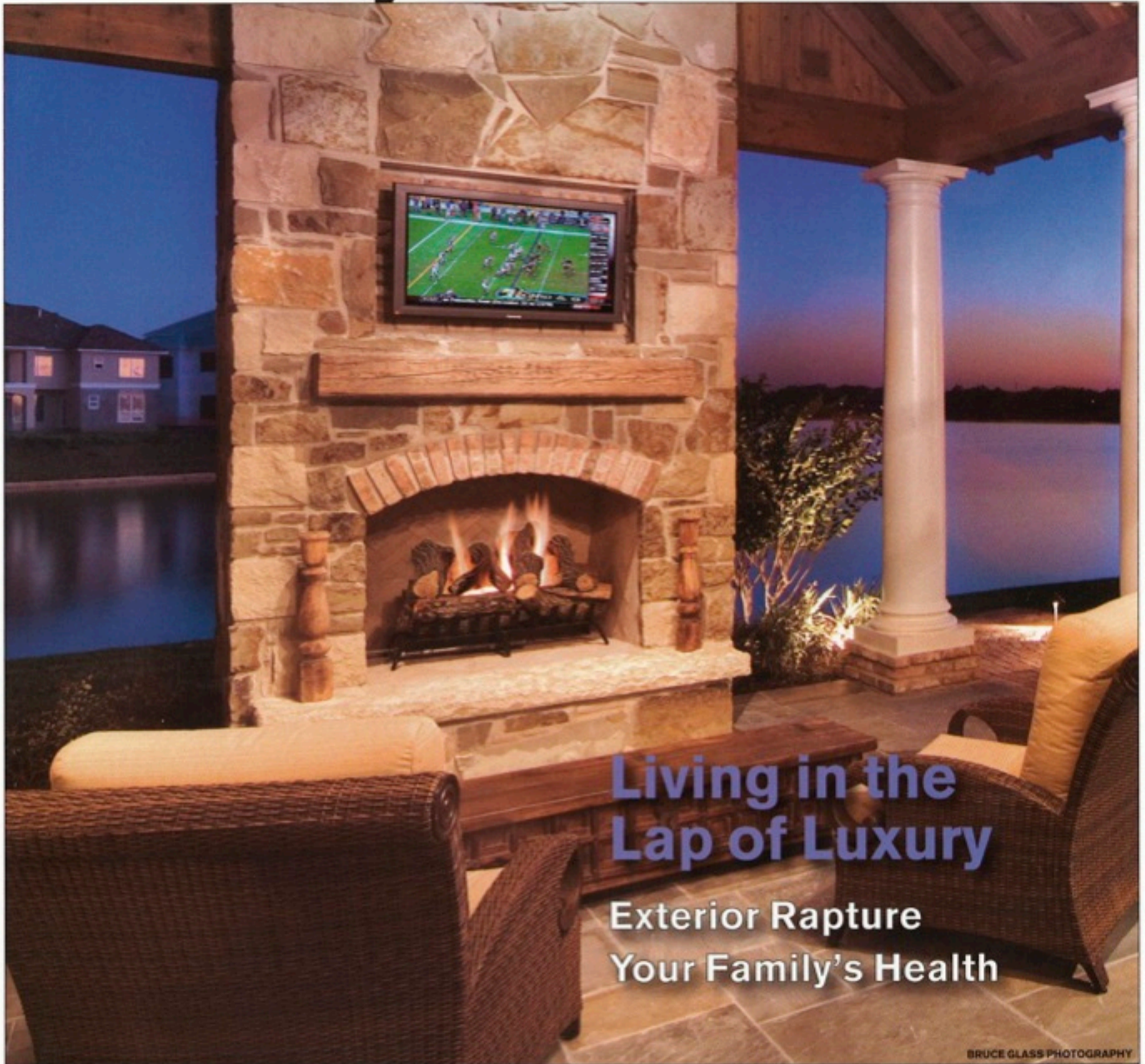


# Fort Bend

## Lifestyles & Homes

April 2009



**Living in the  
Lap of Luxury**

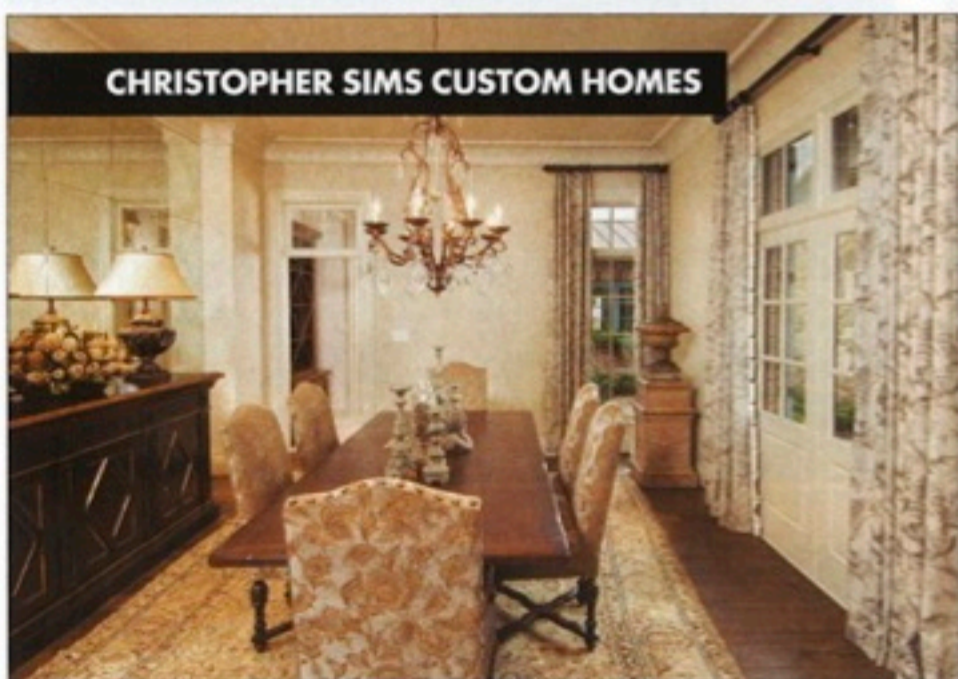
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**CHRISTOPHER SIMS CUSTOM HOMES**

Comfort is the name of the game in this gameroom by Christopher Sims Custom Homes. The house, at 24 Miramar Heights Circle in Riverstone's Crescent View Estates, is crafted in a three-story Acadian style, embracing the finest elements of Louisiana's rich architectural history. Ceiling beams and earth-colored cabinetry give the space a casual air. ♦ Creamy rich upholstery make for a light and bright dining room in this home at 24 Miramar Heights Circle in Riverstone's Crescent View Estates. Home by Christopher Sims Custom Homes. ♦ An earthy, yet refined kitchen defines this home by Christopher Sims Custom Homes at 24 Miramar Heights Circle ♦ Paradise abounds in the backyard of this home by Christopher Sims Custom Homes. Here, unobstructed views of Lake Riverstone. ♦ Rich cabinetry, ornate molding and calm colors make for a serene study in this Christopher Sims Custom home.

the family room and kitchen that has two islands for additional workspace and seating. A private library offers the warmth of a fireplace, while the butler's pantry provides convenient access between the formal dining room and kitchen.

Walls of windows overlook an extensive outdoor living area with a sun terrace surrounding the pool and spa. A covered porch wraps around to an expansive loggia with fireplace, summer kitchen and serving bar. Double doors provide a grand entry to the downstairs master suite, complete with outdoor access, separate closets and a garden tub surrounded by glass.

The upstairs harbors three bedrooms and three full baths. A private staircase from the first floor leads to flexible space—the perfect quarters, guest suite or, as featured in the showcase, an artist's studio. The third floor offers a room with versatile uses to meet a growing family's changing needs.

Peterson Homebuilders' 7,000-square-foot gem at 22 Sunset Park Lane combines luxurious finishes, soaring ceilings and expansive vistas in Riverstone's Hartford Landing. The home is an entertainment wonder, with formal living and dining rooms setting a lavish party scene straight out of classic movies.

"When you walk in the front door, you have a wow factor and when you turn the corner, the wow factor just continues," says builder D.C. Peterson. "One of the things that really grabs the eye in this house are the ceiling treatments—groin vault, arched domes, barrel vaults."

Window walls in both rooms visually extend the space beyond



the veranda, outfitted with a fireplace and outdoor kitchen. A wet bar and sunken wine grotto serve as artfully finessed transitions between the formal and informal living areas.

A large master bedroom and two-story master bath offer blissful solitude, featuring a soaking tub framed by stately columns. A multi-functional game room keeps the party going with a game table, built-in audio-visual center and wet bar. Movie buffs can relax in style and enjoy the newest releases in a private media room.

Bayou Bend Homes offers a distinctive 7,033-square-foot custom home at 28 Miramar Heights Circle in Crescent View Estates. Extensive detail and extravagant amenities combine to create authentic Old World Gothic elegance. A variety of the finest materials and architectural embellishments blend to establish a spectacular welcome—a stucco-and-stone elevation, tile roof, three travertine-tiled roof domes, arched windows, intricate wrought-iron balconies and massive Gothic Revival double front doors designed by Keron Weathered of Designer Showcase and crafted with wood reclaimed from a downtown Chicago landmark. The boards used in the doors were originally the floor joists of the circa 1880 edifice and were found at a Gonzales, Texas, emporium, Discovery Architectural Antiques. Brad Kittel, the emporium's owner, was recently featured during a This Old House series on green building.

Weathered and her assistant, designer Julie Meers, traveled to Gonzales in search of ornate architectural items for the home. While visiting Discovery Architectural Antiques, they found an unusual slab of mesquite for the family room fireplace mantel.

Inside the showcase home, a grand staircase is crowned with an ornate domed ceiling. The stair is embellished with custom-designed Gothic wrought-iron balusters and decorative newel posts found in Wimberley, Texas. A two-story entry gallery with hand-carved limestone columns opens to adjoining formals overlooking a covered rear porch with stucco columns. Flooring throughout most of the downstairs is a gray-gold Jerusalem limestone naturally created on the ocean floor billions of years ago and now found in desert lands. Its





broken edges give the tile a rustic, Old World appearance. The tile is set in a Roman pattern, using different sizes of stone to create textural variation.

Large windows in the family room offer majestic views of Lake Riverstone and overlook the infinity-edge pool and spa, and a loggia with a beaded wood ceiling, a fireplace and a summer kitchen including a refrigerator, sink, grill and television.

The kitchen is designed for entertaining and includes a contemporary prep sink within the rectangular stained oak island, which features metal-strap hardware cabinet doors. Cabinetry, including a breakfast area hutch and a built-in storage cabinet in a nearby hallway, were distressed and faux-finished by Imago Dei to resemble Old World furniture.

The luxurious 9,274-square-foot Westport home at 26 Miramar Heights Circle in Riverstone's Crescent View Estates features a stone-and-stucco elevation with three chimneys, a porte-cochere with a five-bay garage and car lift for a sixth car, a double-stacked tile roof with varied roof pitches, a covered porch and a grand double-door entry overlooking a sparkling fountain.

Guests are greeted with a two-story entry foyer accented by a spiraling staircase, a two-story dining room and a two-story living room offset by soaring columns and a 10-foot water wall. Both formal spaces overlook a wide covered veranda with a summer kitchen and outdoor fireplace. Beyond the veranda is a negative-edge pool. A chef's dream, the kitchen includes an eating bar and a large island with both workspace and seating. A commercial-style cooktop, two sinks, two dishwashers and separate freezer storage accommodate a multitude of visitors. The utility room includes a second kitchen—perfect for catering staff.

Among the plethora of downstairs highlights are a library, a 12-foot by 14-foot sunken wine grotto with

Things couldn't be cozier outside at this custom home by Christopher Sims Custom Homes at 24 Miramar Heights Circle. A cozy fire, flat-screen television and comfy chairs make for the ultimate relaxation package. An antler chandelier adds a bit of whimsy to this warm scene.

❖ Soaring ceilings and expansive vistas of Lake Riverstone make this home special by Peterson Homebuilders.

Located at 22 Sunset Park Lane in Hartford Landing, the house is an entertainment wonder. Here, the living room provides views of the pool and, beyond, the lake. Special faux techniques by Susan Wislinski Peterson of Signature Walls. Furniture and accessories by Metals, Pedals & More in Spring. ❖ Stunning, unobstructed views of the pool and Lake Riverstone add to the charm of this home at 22 Sunset Park Lane by Peterson Homebuilders.

❖ A charming stone and stucco exterior and porte-cochere create an elegant setting for this home by Peterson Homebuilders in Riverstone's Hartford Landing.