

# FORT BEND Lifestyle

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PHOTO BY STEVEN LEONARD

Lifestyle Magazine's  
*Showcase of*  
**HOMES**  
Benefiting Child Advocates of Fort Bend County

Homes from the \$700's to the \$900's  
**First Colony's  
Sweetwater Seven  
in Sugar Land**

**The Showcase  
Custom Builders**  
*"Commitment and Class  
With Styles All Their Own"*

by Sue Cruver

**T**hey build because they love their work. They are craftsmen and artists in their own right, with years of experience and expertise, creating custom homes for their clients that are among the very best to be found anywhere. In the upcoming *Lifestyle Magazine's Showcase of HOMES* five area custom builders will be opening the doors to their latest creations for all to see—showcasing their elegant, signature homes that will feature fabulous interiors and the very latest in imaginative design, interior decorating and home technology.

**CHRISTOPHER SIMS**

**Christopher Sims Custom Homes**

Chris Sims began building custom homes in the Houston area in 1989—in the Memorial Villages, Tanglewood, River Oaks, and in the past couple of years, First Colony's Sweetwater. He comes from a background in commercial real estate (1979-1988) and has always had a strong interest in high end construction. "The downturn (in Houston's economy in the '80s) afforded me the opportunity to pursue custom home building and make the transition," says Sims.

That transition has resulted in a company that today builds 10 to 15 luxury homes a year ranging in size from 5,000 to sometimes over 10,000 square feet, in price from \$500,000 to several million dollars. While most of his work is still primarily being done in the inner city, Sims believes that some of his nicest homes are in Fort Bend County. In 1996 he was invited to build the first home in Sweetwater Estates, for which he won the 1996 Elite Street "Best of Show" award when voted upon by the general public. In both 1997 and 1998 he also won the prestigious PRISM award from the Greater Houston Builders Association for homes over \$750,000.

This year the Christopher Sims showcase home will feature a Tuscan villa architectural design. It will be stucco with a clay tile roof and rooms that feature large volumes of space—a two story living room, grand foyer, and a large library with 16-foot ceiling and oak paneling. The home will also have a home office, wine room, a master suite with an extraordinary bathroom, and a total of four bedrooms, three full and two half baths. It also has a large loge overlooking a formal swimming pool in the wooded back yard.

The 5,857-square-foot home features limestone and hardwood floors, marbles, granites, French hardware, extraordinary finishes and a sound system throughout.

Sims says that his homes are known for their attention to detail and the use of the finest materials. "Our work speaks for itself," he says. "We are a niche player not trying to be all things to all people. We get the discriminating clientele, often building their third or fourth home, who understand, want and appreciate quality and are willing to pay for it."



**Christopher  
Sims**

