

Galveston

MONTHLY

MAY 2012

Complimentary



EXPLORING YOUR ISLAND PARADISE

GHF's 2012 Homes Tour kicks off at Beachtown

By Katherine Adams

This year, Galveston Historical Foundation's Homes Tour kicks off at Beachtown. It is interesting that a development as new as Beachtown would be the site of GHF's kick-off party. Traditionally, Galveston's history enthusiasts look forward to touring homes that often date back more than a hundred years and the launch party starts at one of the historic homes.

Beachtown, an upscale coastal community on the Island's East End, is the new kid on the block with homes at only three to four years of age. The question is, how did Beachtown's homes find themselves among magnificent homes that in some cases date back to the Civil War?

"In the architectural community, Galveston Historic District is the only place in Texas which can boast having its own architecture. Our commitment to honor the historic architecture of Galveston and seamlessly connect Beachtown to Galveston's Historic District has captured the attention of many visitors from all over the country," said Beachtown developer Tofigh Shirazi.

"Architecture is the reason we have the honor of hosting the kick-off party. Our architects have won many design awards for these homes which are all about preserving the elements of Galveston's architecture. If you look at them, you'll notice that these homes have used modern construction materials and

techniques in a very historically correct architecture."

Shirazi said that there are five Beachtown properties that will be open at the kick-off party. "For us, it's a pleasure and honor to be part of this event and support the preservation of this Texas gem."

Dwayne Jones, Executive Director of Galveston Historical Foundation, said that from the beginning, Beachtown has identified the character-defining elements of historic Galveston's architecture and put them skillfully into a modern format. "We work so hard to preserve those character-defining qualities in Galveston, and he has managed to capture that at Beachtown," said Jones. "Other newer developments in Galveston are contemporary but do not have an eye toward the past, but Tofigh Shirazi used Galveston's past as the direction for designing Beachtown."

Jones said that Beachtown is a reflection of a great deal of thoughtful development in designing homes that would fit into Galveston's architectural tradition. "The homes at Beachtown invite you to enjoy the architecture feel it, touch it," he said. "It shows there was a well thought out process to incorporate the traditional elements of our architecture to build homes that are modern, yet fit with Galveston."

The five Beachtown homes on GHF's kick-off party tour are all unique in their own regard. The so-



Lagoon Home designed by Moser Design Group, Beaufort, SC



Fisherman Shack designed by Michael G. Imber Architects



called *Esther House*, with its incredible interior coastal woodwork, enjoys breathtaking view of the lagoons, the nature preserve, and Galveston Bay. The *Fisherman Shack*, located in Beachtown's

East Village, is a masterpiece inspired by homes in fishing villages. The spectacular view of the Gulf and wide beaches of Beachtown are best captured by the abundance of porches.



Corner House designed by TND Architects

one of Galveston's tradition of porch living. The *Lagoon House*, also located along the lagoons of the first village, offers a tower room which provides an amazing vantage point from which to view neighborhood activity and the Gulf beyond.

The *Corner House* in the community's first village, known for its wrap-around porches, reminds

The exterior of the *Positano Townhome* is designed as a mix of coastal vernacular and new vernacular, while its interior is beautifully decorated with relaxing coastal furniture. The large porches on both the east and west side of the townhome are a perfect location to enjoy the splendid sunrise and sunset views as well as the



Lagoon Home designed by Brown Design Studio, Beaufort, SC

surrounding nature preserve.

The *Loft* unit in the Town Center building is a must-see. Located on Beachtown Square, Shirazi considers these lofts as urban living in a coastal environment.

He agreed that although it seemed odd that this community should be part of a tour focusing on the historic homes in Galveston, Beachtown has a definite place on this year's Historic Homes Tour. "Even though Beachtown is new, it's designed to reflect the spirit of a historic neighborhood," he said.



Townhomes designed by Brown Design Studio, Beaufort, SC

For more information about Beachtown, visit their website at www.beachtown.com. For more information about the 2012 GHF Historic Homes Tour, visit www.galvestonhistory.org.



Town Center Lofts designed by MCA Architects, Austin, TX