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ompared to its neighbors, the residence of Doug and Patricia Carpenter borders on the diminutive. Nonetheless, their Old Naples home is simply grand. ♦ “It’s not a large house,” Patricia says of their 3,200-sq.-ft. home. “But for our lifestyle, it is very spacious and comfortable.” ♦ Such an understatement reflects the unique characteristics of the Carpenters’ home, whose design is as practical as it is elegant. There are few window treatments, opulent furnishings or exotic finishes, because this home’s essence is more ethereal than material. While its open-air architectural design and proximity to the water yield soothing sights, gentle sounds and tranquil breezes, lush native foliage and a perimeter wall ensure total privacy. The home’s Mediterranean influences are enhanced by the tropical environment. ♦ In lieu of massive walls, an abundance of glass and screen sliding doors contain — rather than enclose — the large, open first floor. When the doors are open, they retract into wall pockets, blending the main living space with the screened wraparound lanai and tiered terraces beyond. ♦ “We built it with the idea of enjoying Naples inside and out,” Doug says. “It’s not your traditional Florida look. I’d say it has more of an international appeal.” ♦ Doug would know, as he travels the world as a professional coffee cupper/importer/roaster. He conducts business from offices in Naples and Santa Fe, N.M. In addition to a well-equipped second-floor office, he maintains a sample roaster for testing and tasting (called “cupping” in the industry). ♦ Patricia, his wife of nearly 40 years, also has traveled extensively, particularly during her career as a writer, editor and producer for more than two dozen magazines, including *House Beautiful*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Good Housekeeping*.

Situated in a gated enclave of nine estate homes, the Carpenters reside a shell’s throw from the Gulf of Mexico where

Gulf Breezes Beckon

by Elizabeth W. Pearce ♦ photography by Gregory Ross

Artwork courtesy of Hayes Modern Inc., Naples



Walls are a subtle shade of vanilla rather than stark white. Depending on the time and time of day, the walls reflect a variety of subdued, sun-kissed tones. Colorful antique Kilim rugs are used liberally but tastefully to complement the underlying surface, while fresh flowers supply additional contrast.