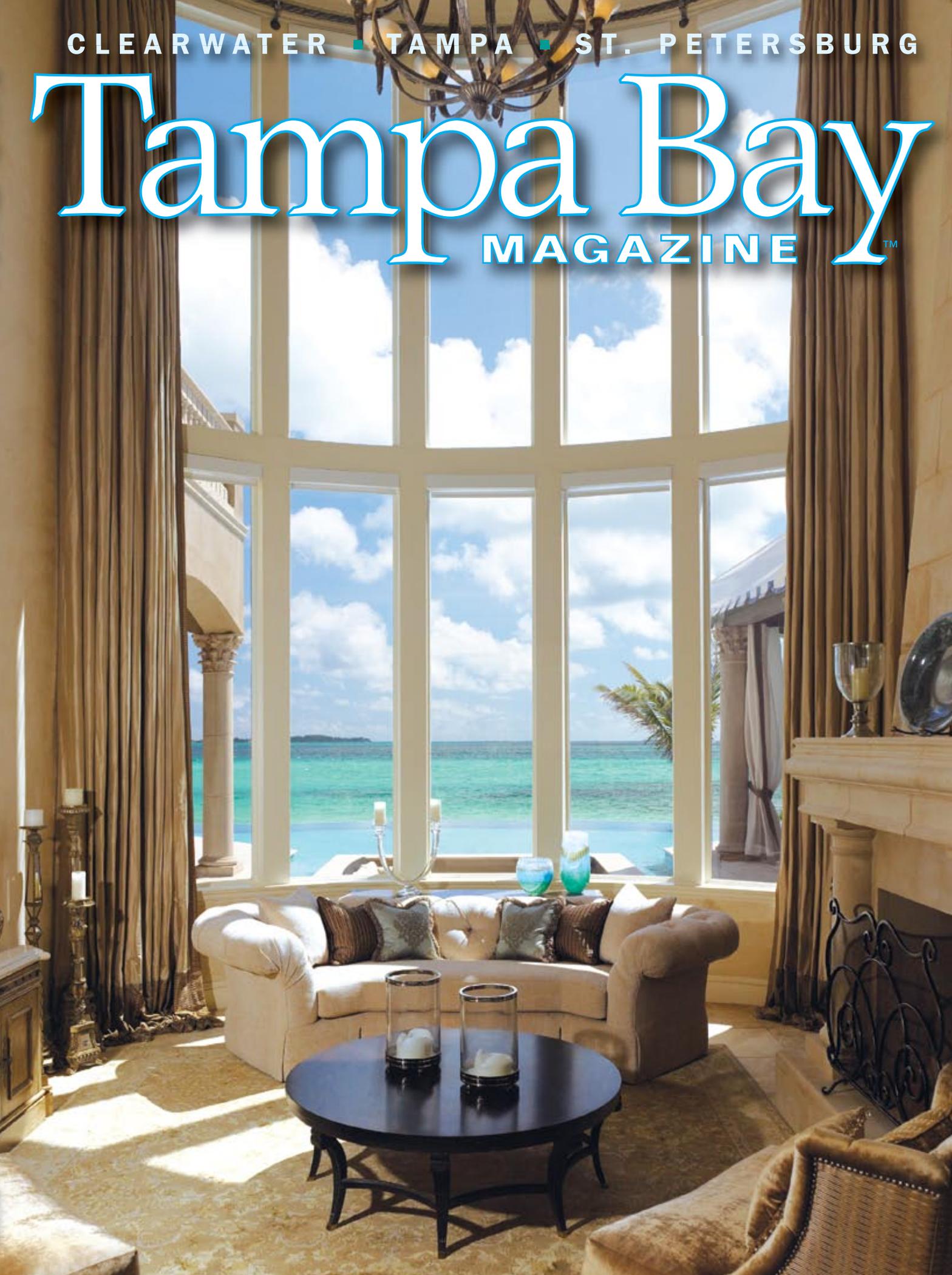


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An All-Star Residence

Casa DeLeon by Windstar Homes

Photography by Timothy Dunford

Windstar Homes built this luxurious vacation home at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas for Detroit Tigers' outfielder Gary Sheffield and his wife DeLeon.

In the summer of 2003, Major League Baseball All-Star outfielder Gary Sheffield and his wife DeLeon were considering what type of vacation home they wanted to build on their property in the Bahamas. Later, while reading an issue of Tampa Bay Magazine, they saw photographs of a home that astounded them that had been built by Windstar Homes for another baseball great and former teammate.



◀ *The large open floor plan is ideal for family living or entertaining.*



◀ *Gary and DeLeon's family and friends enjoy their unique, warm and functional "dine-in" kitchen.*



The graceful columns, arches and sweeping wrought-iron railed staircase in Casa DeLeon are luxurious touches for which Windstar Homes is known.



This intimate sunken living room is surrounded by the home's vanishing edge swimming pool.

The Sheffields contacted Bobby Gross and David Lesser, the owners of Windstar Homes, and formed a relationship that led to the building of *Casa DeLeon* at the Ocean Club Estates at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. The building of the estate presented a variety of unique challenges, not the least of which was the bureaucracy that was involved in having a Florida homebuilding company work in the Bahamas.

The project began with the Sheffields explaining to Bobby and David what they wanted and needed in this dream vacation home. Within three weeks, the design was approved. Then, Windstar began interviewing and selecting suppliers, contractors and subcontractors in the Bahamas. After hiring the best talent available on the island, they merged those professionals with the Tampa Bay talent they knew they would need for special portions of the project. This world-class, one-of-a-kind residence was then built in just 24 months, from start to finish. When Windstar was done, all that Gary and DeLeon had to do was to bring their toothbrushes and bathing suits. The team that Windstar assembled furnished the home, treated the windows and stocked the refrigerator and pantry. During the final phase, the Sheffields were shown how to operate their sophisticated new technology that ran the automated systems that had been installed throughout the house.

The centerpiece of this island paradise is a breathtaking infinity-edge pool that seems to flow directly into the Caribbean. It can be seen from almost every room on the first floor and has been placed to enhance the desired indoor/outdoor experience that the Sheffields wanted. Next to the pool area is a Benihana dining pavilion with a teppanyaki grill, while a sunken seating area sits majestically in the center of the pool with access by travertine stepping stones.

Since their chef travels with them, both the outdoor and indoor kitchens were designed for ease of function, as well as good looks. A unique circular island in the kitchen serves as both a display and serving area, as well as for informal dining.

Casa DeLeon's café dining area and living room both open up to the kitchen. A spacious high-tech media room includes six televisions and one 120-inch movie screen, so Gary can enjoy a variety of sporting events at one time. There is also a billiards room with its own ale bar for active entertainment. ▶



Casa DeLeon is a masterpiece of construction and creativity.

A grand, winding staircase leads to the second floor, where there are three family or guest bedrooms, each with its own bath. The incredible master suite has separate bathrooms, with a shared shower and adjoining custom wardrobe rooms for both Gary and DeLeon. An enormous deck, located adjacent to the master suite, overlooks the Caribbean and the home's pool area below.

But, not all is blue around *Casa DeLeon*. An interesting system was developed to recycle rain water for irrigation. Paying homage to green construction, the water is channeled from the roof through pipes built inside the walls into a cistern located beneath the house.

Building a home of this quality required Windstar to devote constant time and attention to the project and a belief by the Sheffields that their dream would be realized. The result is a masterpiece of creativity, practicality and comfort. Gary and DeLeon are enjoying their dream fulfilled. ■■■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Windstar Homes can be contacted at (888) 582-HOME (4663) or (813) 349-2755.