

HOTLIST 2006

SRQ's writers and editors have scoured the city for the hippest fashions, steamiest issues and coolest treats. From post-Labor Day sandals to Mexican groceries, Justin Mosely to "new old" bungalows, we've uncovered true Sarasota style and delivered it right into your hot little hands. By Britta Alexander, Kevin J. Allen, Mischa Viera-Kirby and Amy Costantino. Photography by Gene Pollux, Barry Klipp and Daleann Clancy. Art Direction by Lisl Liang. Fashion by Landon McMahon. Models by Alexa: Maria Juani and Daniel Burleson. Hair by Caroline Thomas of Scott Thomas Salon. Make-up by Sonja Sevin of Marmalade Salon.



Olde is Good

"Amazing renovation job." Devin Rutkowski, Laurel Park Ventures owner and design-builder, hears this over and over again, and when he does a proud smile appears. It's an especially gratifying compliment seeing that his homes aren't renovations at all, but brand spanking new. From two-story coastal cottages to classic American bungalows, Rutkowski's casitas feature generous porches with wood columns, exposed wood rafters and soffits and pitched galvanized metal roofs. Inside, wood details like whitewashed cypress on the ceilings and wainscoting on the walls look miraculously restored, and even the door and cabinet hardware reflects the early 20th

century. "I started building them as a test," he says. "I wondered, 'Would people buy new homes with character?'" Turns out, not only would people buy them, they'd pay seven figures, too. How does Rutkowski manage to infuse so much character into brand new homes? "I started out renovating old homes," he says. "I learned what old houses are made of." Rutkowski's plans for the future include a mixed-use project in Gillespie, and building affordable homes with character. "I don't understand why affordable homes can't be affordable and look good, too." We've been wondering the same thing. —BA

Laurel Park Ventures, Inc., 941-955-0550

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