

# Haven Custom Homes Press Release

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## **TUCKER BAYOU, *SOUTHERN LIVING* IDEA HOUSE, WINS HOME OF THE YEAR AWARD AT BEST IN AMERICAN LIVING AWARDS CEREMONY**

ORLANDO, Florida –Tucker Bayou, a 2007 *Southern Living* Idea House, was awarded the prestigious Home of the Year during the Best In American Living Awards (BALA) ceremony in Orlando. The innovative home was a result of strategic partnerships among Looney Ricks Kiss Architects, The St. Joe Company (NYSE: JOE), Haven Custom Homes and *Southern Living* magazine. Founding Principal J. Carson Looney, FAIA, of Memphis, Tenn.-based Looney Ricks Kiss Architects accepted the award.

“Tucker Bayou is an example of how strong partnerships can work together to create innovative concepts in new home design and produce a home that is widely acclaimed by the marketplace,” Looney said. “A collaboration such as the one we have created with Haven Custom Homes, The St. Joe Company and *Southern Living* will

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change the way people look at design and modular construction and will ultimately improve the future of neighborhood developments.”

Tucker Bayou was chosen as Home of the Year based on its architectural design by Looney Ricks Kiss Architects, site and landscaping by JOE, quality craftsmanship and architectural detail by Haven Custom Homes and interior design by Looney Ricks Kiss Interiors Group.

Located in The St. Joe Company’s WaterSound community in South Walton County in Northwest Florida, the home is a 3,544 square-foot, shingle-sided, tin-roofed Southern cottage that combines the comfort of an empty nester vacation home with features that suit the versatile lifestyles – both social and private – of today’s families. Haven Custom Homes utilized modular construction for Tucker Bayou, resulting in a home that was substantially complete upon arrival to the site and assembled in a matter of days. Site and landscaping details were then completed by St. Joe and the home’s interior design was created by Ann Parker with Looney Ricks Kiss Interiors group, working with the *Southern Living* design team.

“Every partner contributed their expertise, from the initial design to the interior details, to create Tucker Bayou,” said John Ragland, executive vice president, Land Acquisitions and Marketing for Haven Custom Homes. “We were privileged to work with such esteemed partners on this project and look forward to creating more innovative, award-winning homes in the future.”

“With this project, we have advanced the art and science of homebuilding in Northwest Florida,” said Jerry M. Ray, The St. Joe Company’s Senior Vice President for

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Strategic Alliances. “Ultimately, this award demonstrates that a group of best-in-class strategic partners can effectively deliver an extraordinary product for homeowners. We look forward to this award-winning approach to homebuilding in all of JOE’s Florida markets.”

The St. Joe Company, one of Florida’s largest real estate development companies, and Haven Custom Homes, one of the nation’s leaders in the construction of modular homes, formed a strategic alliance in 2007 to bring state-of-the-art building techniques to JOE’s communities in Northwest Florida and JOE’s RiverTown near Jacksonville, Fla. Haven Custom Homes also has a strategic partnership with Looney Ricks Kiss Architects to create modular homes rich in architectural detail and design.

For more than 30 years, Haven Custom Homes has provided a unique approach to off-site construction. Partnering with local builders, Haven Custom Homes has delivered more than 350 quality homes each year to discerning buyers with homes prices ranging from \$300,000 to \$2.5 million. Haven Custom Homes was acquired by Wind River Holdings in late 2005, a private holding company out of King of Prussia, PA, and is poised to make significant expansion in the homebuilding business. Haven Custom Homes currently operates environmentally protected home building centers in Pennsylvania and South Carolina, with future expansion into other regions to meet the growing demand of its quality homes. For more information about Haven Custom Homes, visit [www.HavenHomes.com](http://www.HavenHomes.com) or call (410) 694-0098.

Founded in 1983, Looney Ricks Kiss is an architecture, planning and interiors firm with offices in Memphis, Celebration, Rosemary Beach, Jacksonville, Nashville,

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Dallas, Baton Rouge, La., Boulder, CO and Princeton, N.J. The firm has been commended by developers across the nation for its success in the planning and implementation of mixed-use developments, urban infill projects, downtown revitalization and traditional neighborhood developments. To date, the firm has received more than 450 awards of recognition for design at local, state, regional and national levels. For more information about Looney Ricks Kiss, visit the company website at [www.lrk.com](http://www.lrk.com).

The St. Joe Company, a publicly held company based in Jacksonville, is one of Florida's largest real estate developing companies. The company is primarily engaged in real estate development and sales, with significant interests in timber. Its mission is to create places that inspire people and make JOE's Florida a better play to live, work and play. More information can be found at its website, [www.JOE.com](http://www.JOE.com).

Sponsored by *Professional Builder* magazine and the National Association of Home Builders, the BALA program showcases homes that illustrate design quality, succeed in the marketplace and exemplify the "Best in American Living." To qualify, homes must have been completed or communities opened between May 1, 2005, and July 12, 2006. A total of 106 award winners in 41 categories were chosen from more than 559 entries. The 2006 BALA competition's panel of 12 judges was composed of builders, marketing experts, architects, land planners, developers, design professionals, interior designers and *Professional Builder* editor.

### **Photography:**

1.) Tucker Bayou – © 2007 Photography courtesy of *Southern Living, Inc* Magazine

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