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FRENCH COUNTRY ESTATE

Location: Wellington, Florida

Architect: In-Site Design Group, Hollywood, Florida

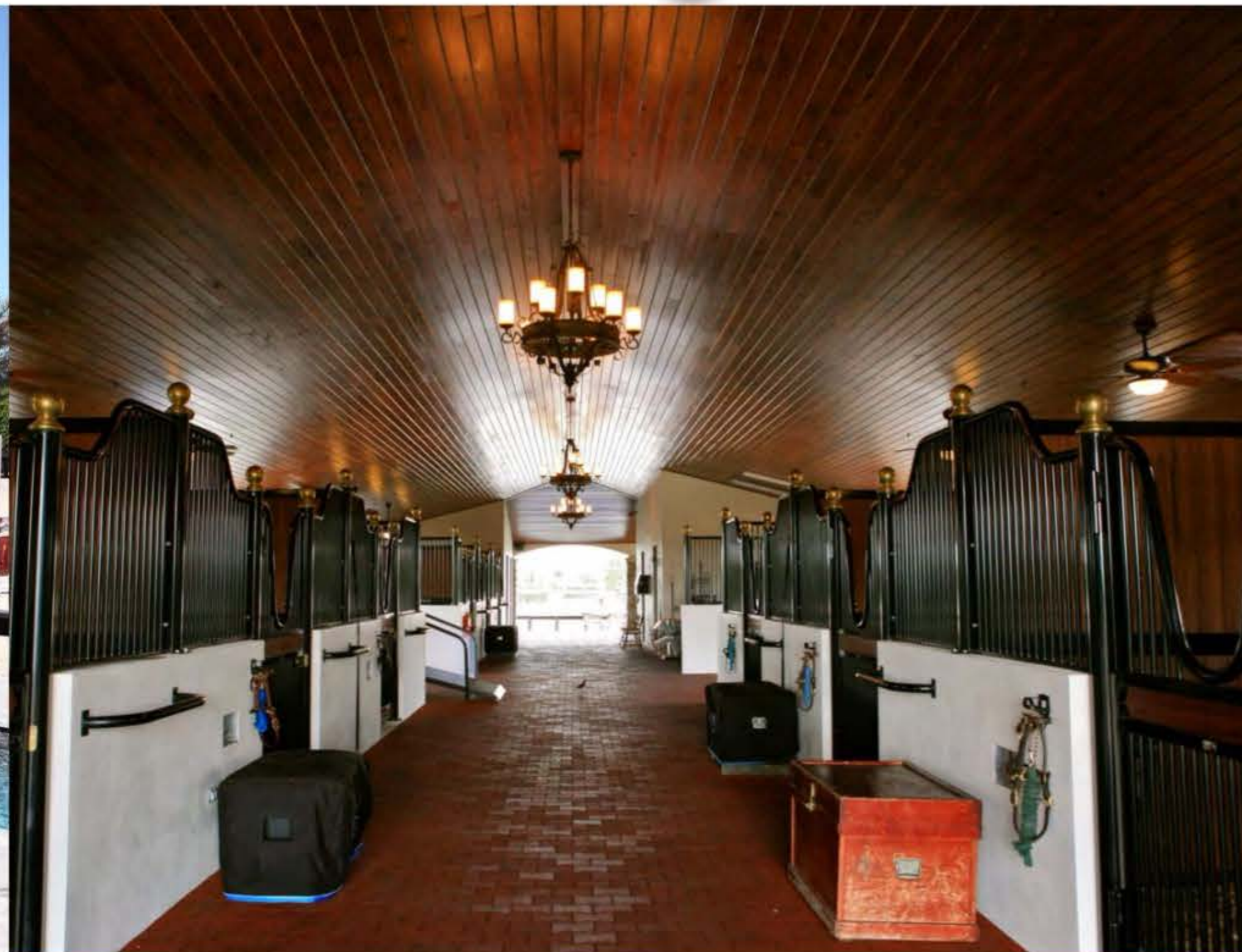
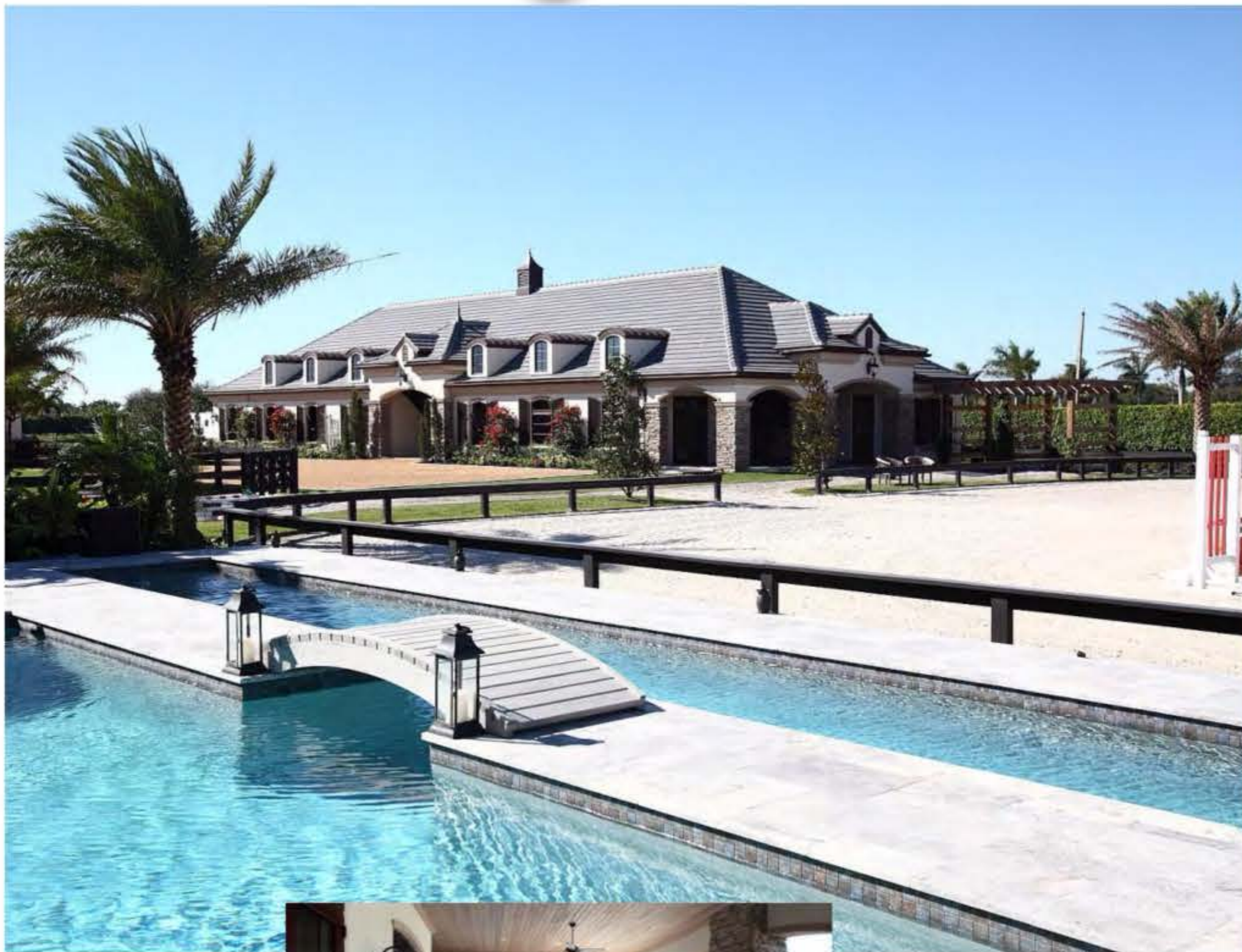
A conversation with owner **MARIE STUDD** and architect **ANNIE CARRUTHERS** of In-Site Design Group.

Tell us about the project. How was the design developed?

ANNIE CARRUTHERS: It's a four-acre, French-Country-inspired estate in the gated community of Southfields in Wellington, Florida.

The grounds, which include a 12-stall barn, paddocks, and riding arena, are defined by water features, tropical plantings and a trainer's apartment. Since the owner is from England and often





travels to Europe, we developed the design by having many meetings, both online and in real time.

Wellington has a humid, wet climate. How did climate affect the design?

AC: Basically, the priority is good ventilation in the barn, lower windows with higher rails. The orientation of the barn is critical to face prevailing winds and allow for minimum direct sunlight. We use high R-value insulation on the air-conditioned spaces and a radiant barrier on the roof. This helps with the heat gain. The barn has shutters and impact windows

that allow the building to be closed when not in use during the off season. This is important because of the impact of hurricanes, which can occur when the owner is out of town.

How should an owner work with an architect/builder to get the best result?

MARIE STUDD: I'd say, listen to suggestions, have both the architect and builder in on discussions together. Some concepts don't

always work in reality. But in the end, remember whose house it is, and who will be living there.

AC: It is absolutely important to listen to your client, because they have ideas on how day-to-day the barn functions best. I offer suggestions, including the latest technology, systems, and considerations for equipment and other elements. I also spend time with barn managers to understand the daily workings and schedule of the staff, grooms, and owner. I want to understand how the horses circulate, exercise, and are groomed.

