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HOME BUILDER / THOMAS LAUDANI AND PATRICK WHYTE, SEASIDE BUILDERS
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SEASIDE CHIC

A NEW HOUSE ON THE WATER DEPARTS FROM THE USUAL BEACH AESTHETIC WITH A SARTORIAL FLAIR THAT BEFITS ITS STYLISH OWNER.

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER SERGENT / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY





Waterfront homes typically demand a more casual look that pays homage to their coastal surroundings, but when one of the owners is a fashion executive, high style also has to come into play. The design challenge lies in balancing the two. That's why a Delray Beach couple called on designer Terri Pakravan, who had already worked with them on a previous house and knew their tastes when they were ready to build a new one. "The overall concept was 'elegant beach,'" Pakravan says, "not too casual but a little bit glam, because she is definitely glamorous—high heels every day."

But first, the couple had to find the right property for their family with two young children. They put letters in dozens of mailboxes, asking coastal homeowners if they might be willing to sell. One of just two replies they got back happened to be for the perfect location on the Intracoastal.

Once the previous ranch house came down, the couple approached architect Richard Jones and builders Thomas Laudani and Patrick Whyte to design and construct a house in the Bermuda style, which channels the island's mix of a tropical vibe and British formality. "The design concept was based on the home's proximity

to the waterfront," Jones says of the layout. "We created an L-shaped plan to maximize views to the water." The main living spaces open onto a covered loggia and pool terrace, effectively creating an outdoor room and entertaining area as an extension of the home. Pakravan specified details such as blue-and-white accent tiles on the loggia's steps. "It makes a big impression that they're a bit more custom," she says.

The custom elements abound inside, as well, starting with a vibrant Moroccan bowl Pakravan found in a West Palm Beach tile shop. She had it made into a sink over a Moroccan-inspired vanity she designed to go with it in the powder room. The exotic feel continues throughout the house, with dramatic splashes of blue and intricately patterned fabrics, furniture and lighting. "I love print and pattern," the owner says. "They really define and give a lot of personality both to your outfit and to your home."

But Pakravan made sure the glam part of the equation didn't take over. Beachy elements such as grass-cloth wallcovering and sea fan art by Karen Robertson temper the exuberance of the crystal chandelier, velvet sofa and the coffee table's pearl inlay in the living and dining spaces. In the kitchen and family area, a slipcovered sectional

Above: The house presents its formal side to the street, with brick pavers, a mahogany garage and a front door from Distinctive Doors & Architectural Products. Towering palms, installed by Floridian Landscape, form a canopy over the entrance. The cement-tiled roof by Gulfstream Roofing is heat- and wind-resistant.

Opposite: The foyer sets the home's beachy-chic tone, mixing an antiqued-mirror-and-silver-leaf table from ABC Carpet & Home with more laid-back accents such as Robert Allen's casual ikat drapery fabric on bamboo rods by Antique Drapery Rod Co. The glass lantern is from Churchill Galleries; the temple jars are by Bungalow 5. Wood flooring is from Designer Floors.

The living room is a study in blue: a sofa from Jayson Home in Chicago wearing Romo velvet, Lee Industries chairs in a Raoul Textiles tie-dye from John Rosselli & Associates, ottomans from Circa Who in Annie Selke fabric, and matching Roberto Cavalli pillows. A mother-of-pearl cocktail table from ABC Carpet & Home speaks to the shell-adorned Oly sconces flanking a Venetian mirror. Additional pillows from Excentricities lend a shot of pink.





Above: Designer Terri Pakravan had barstools custom-made in France, through TK Collections, to complement the palette of blue and turquoise throughout the kitchen and family area. Moroccan-style pendants by Currey & Company add spice to the Calacatta Gold marble countertops, fabricated by United Stone Crafters. Viking and Sub-Zero appliances are from Ferguson; the backsplash is from Casa Ceramica.

Right: The side entry and stairwell were painted in three coats of Benjamin Moore's Coral Reef to achieve the deep saturation the owners desired; an inlaid mother-of-pearl chest and a mirror from ABC Carpet & Home punctuate that dramatic hue.

and unfussy wood tables provide grounding for the bold patterns across the draperies, rug and lounge chairs. Nearby, the home office enjoys the same juxtaposition, where a checkered grass cloth subtly echoes the trim on the dark blue built-ins and the Greek-key trim around the rug.

Fashion gets the final say in the master bedroom, with a plush, fur-like rug, a gold-studded table reminiscent of the wife's Valentino shoes, and a giant Chanel No. 5 artwork framed in acrylic. The seashore makes a cameo appearance, though, in the form of a natural-fiber headboard that conjures sandy beaches.

Architecturally speaking, the architect and builders achieved a similar balance on the home's exterior. "The entire house, including the roof, is white," Jones says. "It's against a white surface that one best appreciates the play of light and shadow." The dark mahogany on the front door and arched garage doors, then, seem to leap from the surface, along with deep blue powder-coated shutters and trim. Even better, Laudani points out, is that the exterior



The owners kept their existing dining room furnishings from their previous home, which Pakravan also designed for them. This time, she dressed up the space with an elaborate, custom blue-studded chandelier from Reward Lighting. The wallcovering is by Schumacher.

Pakravan combined bold patterns in a spectrum of blues to give the family room energy, including Odette chairs by Jayson Home in Mark Alexander's Tashkent Indigo Home in Mark Alexander's Tashkent Indigo fabric from Romo, an Indigo Lupe cotton dhurrie by Madeline Weinrib, and ikat-kilim drapery fabric by Duralee. Orange-trimmed pillows from Excentricities join a custom blue-and-white print by Christopher Farr Cloth on a sofa from ABC Carpet & Home.



applications stand up well to the climate. "The house is not only resistant to the significant humidity we get in Florida, but also to the high winds," he says. The hipped rooflines may be attractive, he explains, but the sloped design will also minimize wind shear during a hurricane.

With the home's design and construction in place, landscape architect Dave Bodker stepped in with trees, plant materials and hardscaping that complement the architecture. Palms along the pool extend the shade afforded by the covered loggias, and two huge date palms in front act as sentinels at the entrance. "You walk underneath their canopies, so it's like an outdoor foyer," he says. The L-shaped pool even mimics the home's design while providing a larger-than-usual shallow area. "It's fun for the younger kids, but it's also a nice place to set down your lounge chair," Bodker says. The paving, too, is a natural extension of the house, with Chicago brick on the driveway enhancing the home's grand sense of arrival, and the travertine in back playing to its casual side.

Now that the residence is finally complete, the owners are thrilled with the seamless flow from inside out, where every space speaks to nature, with just the right amount of glamour on top. "It's nice to live in a house," the wife says, "where every corner has been touched to make it just what you wanted." ■



Restoration Hardware outdoor furniture fits subtly into the lush pool terrace, which is studded with palms that provide welcome shade. The wide foyer opens to the terrace through three sets of French doors, while the kitchen and family room extend into the covered dining loggia. The pool was built by Pugh's Pools and Spas.



Above: The home's design started with the powder room sink—a Moroccan bowl that Pakravan found at Casa Ceramica and had repurposed. Handmade Moroccan tiles on the custom vanity and floor are also from Casa Ceramica. The Katara Paisley wallpaper in Delft is by Schumacher, purchased through Decor Dose in Bethesda, Maryland.

Left: The fashion-minded master bedroom sports a gold studded table by Emporium Home, silk-taffeta draperies and a print of Andy Warhol's *Chanel No. 5*, framed in acrylic via Delray Art & Framing. Agate accessories by Roost on the Redford House chest continue the glam factor, as does John Robshaw's gold brushstroke pillow on the Oly bed. Lee Industries chairs rest on a Surya rug.