

COASTAL CHARM

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN MEETS GULF COAST
STYLE IN ONE COUPLE'S ART-FILLED HOME
IN PORT ROYAL PUNCTUATED WITH
SERENE VIEWS OF NAPLES BAY

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Although the breathtaking Naples Bay set the stage for this couple's dream home with a guesthouse in Port Royal, their main design objective was a serene backdrop to showcase their contemporary art collection. But the existing 3,987-square-foot main house was a modest Florida set of bones with a cottage look. "The house was enclosed and claustrophobic," Naples-based architect Matthew Kragh says. "While the owners wanted to retain some of the Florida cottage look, they had dreams of a warm yet modern and eclectic home to display their art and host family dinner parties."

Architecturally and design savvy, the homeowners were very involved in all phases of the project right from the start with the commission of Kragh and, in turn, builder Mike Assaad and his project manager Steve Selfridge, along with interior designer Renee Gaddis. A remodel is always difficult especially with the specific design goal for this project. "The husband and wife were very hands on and let me know that they have extensive contemporary art and vintage poster collections, and we needed to design around them," Gaddis says. "So we chose soft white walls and custom, white-painted parquet flooring across most of the first level. Since we had to work with low ceilings, we maximized the lighting by using new LEDS with minimal depth."

RIGHT: Accenting the home's Hamptons-style gray exterior, the white tongue-and-groove rafters double as a catwalk. The entry captures attention with a sculptural stairway that pulls the eye in and through the open living space to Naples Bay beyond.

AS SEEN IN
NAPLES EDITION
FLORIDA DESIGN





AN OVERSIZED SECTIONAL JOINS A PAIR OF PLUSH, ANIMAL-PRINT SWIVEL CHAIRS TO FORM A SOCIAL GROUPING IN THE LIVING AREA. NEARBY, GLASS DOORS SLIDE OPEN TO A FOUR SEASON ROOM FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS YEAR-ROUND.

An artful, blue-shuttered mahogany front door opens to a spectacular curved stairway with its glass railing that comes alive through the dramatic use of lighting. The biggest challenge in designing this coastal, two-story seasonal space was transforming the old stairway that marred the view into a floating masterpiece that now opens the house to the bay. "It was difficult, but so worth the effort," Kragh says. Off to the side, a spacious living area merges color and design with the couple's splashy art collection. The clever use of blue



THE KITCHEN ISLAND FROM HUNTER CABINETRY FEATURES A BACKLIT, BLUE CALCITE COUNTERTOP AND A HIGH-GLOSS BASE FINISHED IN LIGHT AUTOMOTIVE PAINT. HEAT LAMPS IN THE RANGE HOOD PROVIDE A PLACE TO KEEP FOOD WARM DURING LENGTHY COOKING SESSIONS.



and green hues taken from both large and small contemporary canvases picks up colors in the scattered accent pillows atop the soft chenille-clad sectional. “The blue-and-green canvases work together to give the illusion of height,” Gaddis says. “While the room was designed around the art, it was also very important for the lounging areas to be comfortable for when the couple’s adult children come to visit.”

In the dining area, a polished nickel light fixture twists and turns in sculptural complement to a large abstract canvas offering an exciting pop of green. The artsy pair becomes showstoppers against the floor-to-ceiling wall of glass that reveals stunning water views. The live-edge wood dining table with its acrylic base centers cobalt-blue

velvet chairs to complete the space. “We selected bright and fun colors that were different,” Gaddis says. “We wanted a casual yet formal open space, where the living, dining and kitchen areas flow together with natural light.”

The commercially inspired chef’s kitchen is a favorite for both the husband and wife who love to cook. Although the area is slight, the cabinetry housing Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances, and the sleek prep island are strategically laid out for convenience while the LED lights shimmer above the streamlined culinary space.

ABOVE LEFT: The open dining area is filled with contemporary furnishings from Hudson Furniture in New York. “The way the dining space flows into the kitchen and living area is one of the best features of the house,” architect Matthew Kragh says.

“MANY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE THANKED US FOR PRESERVING THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL PROFILE OF THE HOME AND ENHANCING THE OLD NAPLES COTTAGE CHARM,” THE HOMEOWNER SAYS.

Taking on a feel all its own, the master bedroom radiates in the warmth of tropical wood. The custom bed, back and bedside chests are all one piece of fine teak flanked by hanging metal lamps. “We floated the bed in the center of the room to face the magnificent view of the swimming pool and the bay beyond,” Gaddis says. Stark’s light-beige wool carpet resting atop teak slab flooring pulls the idyllic scene together. “Teak is a unique look and pairs well with the Tabby Shell stucco finish with seashells embedded on the shower wall,” says the designer in reference to the master bath set with a slatted-teak bench to complete the chic island vibe.

The couple was steadfast in their desire to keep the low profile of the house so they could walk outside and admire the bay with ease. “This was an unusual and detail-oriented project with owners who are seasoned and used to working with architects and designers,” Kragh says. “Between the art and the gorgeous views along the axis down the waterway, the end result is spectacular.” **N**



ABOVE: The owners stayed at a St. Barths hotel which featured cement sinks with dark oak in the guest baths. The couple loved them so much that they copied the look in their own master bath, where teak slab flooring begins in the shower and continues throughout the spa-like space complete with a romantic view of Naples Bay.



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ABOVE: In the master bedroom, the oversized black-and-white photograph of the Everglades gives a nod to the owners’ love of nature. Nearby, the beautiful orange-red poppy art by the Florida Highwaymen, a group of 26 African-American landscape artists, adds a subtle pop of color while teak shutters open to the pool beyond.