

Family and Light Fill Chic Naples Vacation Villa

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March 11, 2020

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One couple's vacation villa is built around a light-filled great room that opens to expand indoor fun to the outdoors

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The family room's social grouping is inviting with a beige sectional sofa from Thayer Coggin; a deep-seated lounge chair; a wood, metal and glass cocktail table; and a Lucite occasional table, all by Vanguard. The "Tik-Tak" stacked pendant light by Sonneman creates a nested feel.



The sitting area, which overlooks the living wall in the tranquil courtyard, serves as the home's headquarters. Thayer Coggin's taupe-leather armchairs shape an intimate gathering space around the upholstered cocktail ottoman from Vanguard.



Separating the kitchen from the family room, low-profile counter stools tuck neatly beneath a large, 11.5-foot-long waterfall-edge island shaped of sparkling Pompeii quartz. “The windows dictated the symmetry of the space, and we worked with the contractor to make sure that we scaled the island appropriately,” interior designer Laurie Walter says.



Furnished with an American Leather sleeper sofa and nesting cocktail tables with flip trays that provide storage for bedding, the den doubles as a guest room. Here, Silver Strands by artist Lupita Denogeán provides an artistic focal point, while the “Exos” double shade pendant from Hubbardton Forge casts circles of light around the space.



Adding a touch of drama, the master bedroom is lighted by the “Andromeda” starburst pendant from Wilson Lighting. An acrylic and polished-chrome Bernhardt bench covered in faux linen rests at the foot of Vanguard’s upholstered bed.



The courtyard cabana, with French doors that open to the pool area, is designed as another flex space that can work as a guest suite or sitting area. A custom, geometric wall treatment crafted by Inspired Woodworking provides the perfect backdrop for an intimate social grouping that takes advantage of both indoors and out.

During the renovation of their Grand Isle, Pelican Marsh vacation villa in Naples, Colleen and Kevin Mooney of Charleston may have discovered a secret to a current-day dilemma: how to get texting teens off their phones. “We asked our interior designers, Laurie Walter and Kelly Sereghy, to fill our home with light and to make the flow more accessible. They made the space so well that we gather as a family now, and our teens don’t go to their own rooms,” the wife says.

For a home to work well, Walter and Sereghy strive to understand their clients’ needs, lifestyle, preferences and aesthetics. “When making design decisions, it almost feels like we are ‘channeling’ our clients,” Walter says. So, they took down walls and repurposed rooms, and in the courtyard, all the old landscaping was removed to create a tranquil Zen-like garden. “It’s the light and the flow,” the wife says. “I think light makes you feel happy, and happiness brings everyone together.”

Now, the living areas of this 3,144-square-foot retreat are arranged around the pool and courtyard atrium. Garden views play a primary role, but each space also has a focal point, which is an important design concept that the design duo likes to employ. Throughout, the designers built upon a transitional/contemporary style; employed a neutral color scheme with pops of blue; utilized family-friendly fabrics; and, honoring the home's architecture, added a slight midcentury modern flavor. In the family area of the great room, the striking custom wall panel behind the TV provides the focal point. "We had our cabinetmaker use the same finish as the console in front of it — a three-step, hand-rubbed greige finish — and with the LED lighting, it seems to float, making a spectacular visual impact," Walter says. To add pop to the soothing neutral color palette, teal accent pillows pick up the blue in the hand-knotted area rug that Walter describes as a "work of art."

The fountain and living wall of succulents, a landscape project directed by Kevin Mooney, draw the eye through to an adjacent sitting area that opens to all of the home's social spaces. "These are the best seats in the house," Walter says. "The living wall is the focal point, but as interior designers, we like to challenge ourselves to take in the whole environment." As such, they created the suspended ceiling to make a statement. "It makes the area more inviting," Sereghy says. "And it's backlit, so at night, it looks like it levitates."

In the new kitchen, the main wall was the obvious choice to highlight with details that include a beveled, cut-glass tile-mosaic backsplash in white and shimmery shades of beige and taupe. Cabinets in two tones; and an island covered in quartzite with a waterfall edge complete the culinary space. "We combined different materials for a diverse dichotomy," Walter says.

Bathed in a more vibrant color palette, marine blue and turquoise pop with gray and off-white neutrals in the private spaces. In the den, a sculptural chandelier with its carbon-color shade set off with metal, becomes the focal point, while setting the stage in the master bedroom, a wall panel painted in a deep ultramarine blue centers the bed upholstered in a shimmering platinum weave.

The teens love the privacy of their bedrooms, of course, but they also love to lounge around the pool and hang out watching movies with friends in the cabana/guest suite. Here, the accent wall serves as the centerpiece. "We knew we had to make that wall special," Walter says. "So, we put directional lighting in the soffit to bathe the wall in light and we designed the applied millwork to keep it neutral."

"Our courtyard and pool are right off the family room and kitchen; it feels like one big room and it's a happy space," the wife says. "It feels better to be in the center of the house, then off and alone, and now, no one wants to be on a device." It's a completely new environment. "The whole place is changed," Walter says. "This home has moved from mundane to marvelous."

Story Credits:

Interior Design by Laurie Walter and Kelly Sereghy, Cardamon Design, LLC, Naples, FL

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