

Miromar Lakes Oasis Evokes West Indies Splendor

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For A Sports-Minded Couple, This piece of paradise on the Gulf Coast Makes Entertaining A Resort-Style Experience

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Corbels and rafters under tongue-and-groove soffits, louvered grills between entry arches, and exterior plantation shutters are authentic West Indies-style architectural details in this home featuring a color palette in white and bright blues.



Architect John Cooney created a “pure West Indies style” with a reflecting pool at the entry and oversized windows that flood every room with natural light.



The great room features two distinct seating areas. In one, bernhardt sofas and a pair of Taylor King's armchairs shape a social grouping. in the other, lounge chairs from Century Furniture swivel to watch TV or turn toward the kitchen so guests can mingle while enjoying the big game.



Establishing an immediate connection to the water, the foyer — crowned by a blue Venetian-plaster barrel ceiling — offers a clear view through the house to the pool and lake beyond.



Palecek barstools seat guests at the bar in the clubroom, where an adjacent sectional sofa provides ample seating to watch the game. Nearby, a billiards table and a game table up the ante for fun.



Tradewind Designs' kitchen island combines taupe and white cabinetry with quartz countertops. Corbett's metal chandelier with a rice-paper shade casts circles of light around the adjacent dining area.



In shades of aqua and white, Vanguard's bed upholstered in chenille centers the master bedroom. CR Laine's bench and a chaise from Jessica Charles continue the color scheme.



Furnishings from Century shape a hearthside setting on the lanai, while Castille Furniture's dining ensemble seats a party of eight.



Water features in the pool area include a wet shelf, fire bowls, spa and bubblers that add to the home's resort-style feel.



The master bath makes a statement of soft Hollywood glam. A spa tub centers Tradewind Designs' light blue vanities topped with Carrara marble from Stone Express. Corbett Lighting's chandelier and sconces from Visual Comfort add a shimmering touch to the private space.

Long-time Pennsylvania snowbirds and sports enthusiasts Paula and Peter Pala had already fallen in love with Miromar Lakes when they decided to build a place of their own. "It's like living at the Ritz-Carlton," Paula says. They wanted a light, bright Florida resort-style home where they could invite all of their friends over to watch a variety of games on multiple TVs with all the accoutrements: large open spaces, an indoor-outdoor flow, bars, wine storage and even a pizza oven fit the bill. So, they bought beautiful property on the water, pored over shelter magazines to come up with their desired style, and assembled their team: architects Randall Stofft and John Cooney, builder Matt Shull, interior designer Arlynn McDaniel and landscape architect Scott Windham.

"We decided upon a West Indies style," Cooney says. Corbels and rafters under tongue-and-groove soffits, louvered grills between entry arches, and exterior plantation shutters architecturally define the exterior of this 11,755-square-foot home that supports the couple's entertaining lifestyle. Inside, a great room incorporates the dining room, kitchen and an amazing clubroom that opens to a huge lanai and spa-like pool area.

Just through solid mahogany entry doors, the foyer is crowned by a Venetian-plaster barrel ceiling that transitions to a wood-beamed ceiling over the great room. A taupe color palette set off with true-white trim wraps two distinct conversation groupings in the living area. "The

taupe hue 'Drift of Mist' will go green or beige," McDaniel says. "I call it my chameleon color. It works with everything."

Warm walnut flooring flows through to the kitchen and adjacent dining area. "We are big entertainers, love cooking, food and wine, and we often invite people over," Paula says. "We had 50 people here for Super Bowl; we built the house to fit our lifestyle." The party continues in the clubroom, just around the corner past the wine rack. Four entertaining areas are cleverly delineated via a series of inverted soffits and coffers that are offset with silk-shaded metal drum lights. "The clubroom is one of the most fun rooms that we've designed," Cooney says. "It's very large with a billiards table, home theater, card table and a sit-down bar — it feels like a small restaurant." This fun space opens to the lanai, an outdoor living area with a summer kitchen.

The couple uses their summer kitchen often. "It's really a full second kitchen, with the typical grill and sink, of course, as well as a cooktop, dishwasher, and an Evo-type hibachi grill," Peter says. "Also, we imported a great wood-burning pizza oven from Italy, in which we've cooked everything from pizza to the Thanksgiving turkey."

In the master suite, a private oasis in this house built for entertaining, soft blue accents take their cue from peaceful water views. "The window treatment is a custom cornice in blue linen and white trim. We kept it simple because the view out to the pool and lake is amazing," the designer says. The master bath has a private outdoor shower with a waterfall wall that offers nothing short of a full spa experience.

"Paula and Peter tell me all the time how much they truly enjoy their home, and that they receive so many compliments," McDaniel says. "With an emphasis on entertaining ... this house definitely speaks for itself."

Story Credits:

Interior Design: Arlynn McDaniel, Freestyle Interiors, Bonita Springs, FL

Architecture: Randall Stofft and John Cooney, Stofft Cooney Architects, Naples, FL

Builder: Matt Shull, Gulfshore Homes, Bonita Springs, FL

Landscape Architecture: Scott Windham, Windham Studio, Inc., Naples, FL

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