SILVER LINING

Hints of pared-down glitz and glamour and a family-friendly casualness that reflects South Florida living beckon a Connecticut pair to find new roots.

Written by Lisa Bevan; Photographs by Michael Wall
She has sparkle to her,” designer Susan Conner says of her client, whose family was relocating from Connecticut to Boca Raton. Conner wanted to capture her client’s relaxed glamour and bring it to her and her husband’s new home, but with three young and active boys in the equation, “we didn’t want to make it a don’t-touch-me house,” she recalls.

The residence in question was a Georgian-inspired house that was designed by architect Benjamin Schacter of Atlantic Architects and built by Mark Polizzi of Mark Timothy, Inc. As much as the wife adored the traditional vernacular, she was eager to move away from the formality she was used to up North and embrace a more casual—albeit chic—way of living in keeping with their new Florida lifestyle. “I liked the simplicity and symmetry of the entries, but I didn’t want things to be heavy inside,” she explains. “I’m more modern and edgy, even in the way I think. I wanted it to be airy and light, not heavy.”
Nubby White chairs in the breakfast room, with an expansive form and curve around a Charleston Forge table with stone from Global Travertine, brightening to the floor. Spritzen Robert Allen fabric on the upholstered and acrylic barstools from CB2 add modularity.

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Certain details were already in place, starting with the strong and varied architectural elements—including the moldings and plasterwork on the ceilings—meaning that Cinnor didn’t need to add them as she often does. The wife also “fell in love with some of the fixtures and colors,” she says, so many of those remained. “But Susan wanted what needed to be tweaked.”

To make things bright, youthful, and fun but not ultramodern, Cinnor, working with her associates Vanessa Risso and Joyce Leung, kept to a cool, fresh palette that leans toward beige, gray, and dusty blues. Many of the furnishings, particularly in the formal living and dining areas, are in crisp whites “for a refreshing Florida look,” Cinnor points out.

The house is afflicted with silvery touches that play off the cool shades because, despite her penchant for glamour, “I didn’t want a lot of gold,” says the wife. Instead, there are subtle flashes of silver to
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be found in the home’s decorative accents—in the dining room, say, where railheads on the chairs and on the corners of a photograph’s frame sparkle, matching the owner’s own reverrence.

Connor eschewed antiques for the furnishings, preferring to stick to clean-lined pieces with a modern feel. Many, such as the dining room chairs and table, are bold and sculptural. Connor even gave some of the more traditional furnishings a contemporary edge. In the family room, the leather-clad sofas have cushions upholstered in a light fabric that temper their heft (there are more silver nailheads, too). And the clean lines extend to the outdoor furniture, which is sleek yet comfortable.

While every space exudes a striking elegance, Connor kept the children’s needs in the forefront of her mind. The club room has plenty of storage for toys, and the study has been repurposed to function as a homework...
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Fabric draperies by Custom Window Treatments, Inc. Frame the expansive windows in her master bath and give the room a graceful elegance along with a serene outsweeping and a pottery rug. The table is from Cyan Designs.

and protect pets. Even the living room takes the children into account. Conover split it in two, on one side creating "an intimate living area for the young ones," she says. On the other, there's a more informal seating area with eight seats in the club room. The homeowners can watch television there or enjoy the spectacular views of the Intracoastal Waterway just outside the doors while still keeping tabs on the kids.

For Conover, the project offered an unusual opportunity. "The house feels like an older home—not a new house," she says. One made with good bones and full of character. "To be able to put a contemporary twist on the traditional architecture was great fun."