A Boca Raton Waterfront Spec Home by Marc-Michaels Interior Design & Architecture by Affinity Architects

By Jana Soeldner Danger | Photography ©Edward Buerza of his designs

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

W hen an interior designer completes a project for a homeowner, he or she must interpret the specific tastes and desires of the client. With a spec home, there is usually far more freedom, because there is no homeowner to please. But there is also a different kind of responsibility. The design must appeal to a variety of buyers and encourage them to visualize themselves living there.

That was the case when Michael Daval, Lindsay Snyder, Tim Cattan, and Mike Cohen of Watermark Design and Affinity Architects, created the decor for this spec home in Boca Raton. And it had to be a design that captured the hearts of a very select group of buyers: those who had the wherewithal to purchase the 7,700-square-foot, five-bedroom, eight-bath waterfront home.

The design combines dramatic, architectural features with sophisticated, understated furnishings reminiscent of high-end hotel lobbies. “Our goal was to create a casual,luxurious, inviting space that feels like a home,” Daval says. “Luxury can be intimidating and make a house seem like a museum. But it can also be inviting, comforting and welcoming, and that’s what we wanted.”

Wide plank walnut flooring throughout most of the home contrasts with creamy white walls. Three neutral tones create a backdrop for a chic, fresh color palette of soft grays, greens, golds, and bronze for furnishings and accessories. “We wanted to use color in a unique way that reinvents itself room by room, yet has a consistent flow,” Daval says.

Doors with a dark stained finish accent and add dimension to the home’s pale gray facades.
THE LIVING ROOM

In the living room, two-story windows and a volume ceiling create instant visual drama. An area rug in saddle grays and greens softens the wood flooring. “It’s deliberately simple,” David says. “We didn’t want it to distract from the architecture or the furnishings.”

A linear fireplace wrapped in polished marble with ribs of the same golds, greens and bronzes found in the furnishings creates a focal point on one wall. Above the stone, dark wood facing climbs to the ceiling and serves as a backdrop for a colorful abstract painting. An L-shaped lighting channel that is both visually dramatic and functional runs through both stone and wood, and then continues across the ceiling.

Two tufted club chairs covered in gold velvet, and a character chair with arms and legs of faux horn and russet-colored cowhide uphostery add spade to the main seating group. A sofa covered in pale gray chenille, accented with velvet pillows in metallic gray, green, cinnamon and gold, and a darker gray dappled help to create a feeling of intimacy in the large space. In the center of the seating area is a mirrored coffee table.

The two-sided daybed can also be part of a second seating area with a lounge chair upholstered in a chenille pattern and sculptural wire resting tables. A hammered bronze console table holds two gold lamps.

WINE ROOM

Cleen glass encloses a wine room with warm gold limestone flooring. Cinnamon oak framing on the floor and ceiling, which is lower than other parts of the main floor, anchors bottle racks made of steel cable. “Because of the transparency of the cable system, you get a geometric perception and the illusion that the bottles are floating in the air,” David says.

In the formal dining room, the...
designers created a cozy, intimate space for family gatherings and entertaining. A rust and bronze painted inset in the ceiling mirrors the shape of the table below. Hanging from the inset are five hand-blown spherical glass light fixtures in metal cages.

The Walnut table with a pedestal base and a bevelled perimeter edge can comfortably seat ten. Host and hostess chairs are upholstered in buttery cognac leather with bronze nailhead detailing, while side chairs have cowhide backs laser-cut with unique reptile patterns. “No two are alike,” Duval says.

An inlaid mirrored niche on the back wall of the dining room houses a mahogany credenza with a warm cinnamon finish, illuminated by recessed lighting. A drapery in soft gold hangs from a hidden rod over a window that looks out to the front yard, providing privacy when it is desired.

**CASUAL CLUB ROOM**

The club room is perfect for casual entertaining or just relaxing. Unlike anywhere else in the house, the space has walls on all four sides, patterned with a soft, light gray and white, eye-catching design. Oak and leather furniture is placed throughout the room. A custom stainless steel hood over the cooktop creates a focal point in the kitchen.

The second-story library offers a dramatic view of the living room below. Like much of the rest of the house, the ceiling is lined with hand-plastered wood flooring. A cozy seating area adjacent to the master suite offers a place to watch TV in peace.

**STAIRCASE NOTES**

The winding staircase winds its way up the stairs and around the perimeter of a loft that overlooks the living room. On one side of a walkway leading to the master suite is a cozy sitting area with a rough-hewn, reclaimed wood base and a soft, geometrically patterned fabric. A soft, pewter-colored wool rug softens the space. A custom stainless steel hood over the cooktop creates a focal point in the kitchen.

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**UP THE STAIRCASE**

As the stairs rise, a glass railing with an iron cap leads up the stairs and around the perimeter of a loft that overlooks the living room. On one side of a walkway leading to the master suite is a cozy sitting area with a rough-hewn, reclaimed wood base and a soft, geometrically patterned fabric. A soft, pewter-colored wool rug softens the space. A custom stainless steel hood over the cooktop creates a focal point in the kitchen.
In the location's master suite, the designers conjured the feeling of floating in a cloud.

A free-standing tub in the master bath is boxed in gray-veined marble.

The master suite—the husband's master suite, to be precise—has a view of the pool and the lake beyond. The design of the master bath is a study in luxury, with a soaking tub, separate shower, and his and her sinks. The master bedroom is similarly opulent, with a king-size bed, walk-in closet, and private balcony.

The living room features a large sectional sofa and a fireplace, creating a cozy atmosphere. The dining room is adorned with a chandelier and elegant table settings, perfect for entertaining guests. The kitchen is equipped with top-of-the-line appliances and ample counter space, making it a dream for any chef.

In the master bath, the designers have created a spa-like atmosphere, with a soaking tub, separate shower, and his and her sinks. The guest bath is similarly luxurious, with a walk-in shower and high-end fixtures.

The office features a large desk and bookshelves, creating a comfortable and productive workspace. The den is the perfect place to relax and unwind, with a comfortable couch and a flat-screen TV.

The outdoor spaces are equally impressive, with a swimming pool, a fire pit, and a covered patio area. The landscape design includes a variety of native plants and trees, creating a lush and inviting environment.

Throughout the home, the use of natural materials and a neutral color palette creates a sense of calm and serenity. The open floor plan allows for easy flow between the various rooms, creating a seamless and welcoming atmosphere.

The home is a true example of luxury living, with attention to detail and a focus on creating a comfortable and functional space for its residents. It is a testament to the skill and creativity of the designers and builders involved in its creation.