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Eight Spectacular Homes Florida Style

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THEY SAY ALL GOOD THINGS

come to those who wait and that certainly held true for the homeowners of this grand, 6,500-square-foot Ocean Reef residence in Key Largo, Fla. “My husband and I spent 16 years searching for the perfect waterfront property,” homeowner Diane Hill says. The original home was torn down and rebuilt from scratch, resulting in a place that captures the essence of the tropics. While the couple was hands-on in the process, it was the creative team of interior designer Edward Cox and architect Mitch Kunik along with his team of architects, who delivered excellence into every area of the home. “Mitch understood what we wanted, while Ed was diligent about the interiors — they listened to all of our quirky ideas,” Hill says.

Inside and out, the home resembles a tropical island retreat: Described by Kunik as a “rustic Caribbean” expression, it reflects the open, indoor-outdoor spaces that the owners wanted. “Mitch and I understood each other perfectly,” Cox says. “We knew exactly what the ‘Hills’ wanted — indoor-outdoor spaces that connect with twisted walls, and reflect the beauty of the landscape and water.” Geologists by profession, the well-traveled couple have enjoyed living in residences all over the world but have a penchant for the tropics.

near: In the dining area, a blue-tinted-glass pendant custom designed by ED Cox Cascades over the table near a bay window with a stunning sea view. “It resembles a glass teardrop that enhances the inshore of the blue ocean,” interior designer Edward Cox notes. Nearby in the family room, a driftwood coffee table from Mrs. Dussel”s brings shades of the outdoors inside.
A shell stone stairway leads from the dock to the back exterior, where walls clad in coral stone and metal elements stained to resemble teak wood are engineered to withstand the harsher elements. Nearly every room in the house opens to the outdoors. "We love all the open spaces, it is like having one big living area," Hill says.

Throughout the interiors, eclectic elements are blended together effortlessly along with a backdrop of muted tones and intermittent splashes of color. "The interior of the house is really a reflection of the client," Cox says. Dark woods and furnishings add warmth to the family room, from the tongue and groove wood-beam ceiling to the richness of wood details. A comfortable sectional sofa by McCauley clad in a natural wool, basket weave fabric offers contrast when paired with a custom-designed, brown leather cocktail table trimmed in nail heads. Situated by a lighthouse-like bay window in the dining area, is a custom walnut table surrounded by six chairs, all from Jermain Roselli.

Note: Suspended above a one-of-a-kind, marble-topped center island in the nautical-themed kitchen, radiant finished pendant from Circa Lighting illuminate the space. With warm colors, they are a perfect complement to the natural hues in woven rattan barstools from McGuire.
In the nearby kitchen, the marine motif continues with a backdrop of fossilized, 50-million-year-old fossil fish from Exxon that seems apropos for a couple who make their living in geology. An inverted corner island counter designed by UNO is topped with a natural blue and white stone, which resembles an aerial view nautical map of Florida and the Bahamas. Traditional elegance is found in Ruffino's cabinetry crafted with a mix of washed oak and dark walnut — organic woods that pull warmth into the space. Eclectic style emanates from every corner of the living room. The designer started simply with a soft, light-gray linen sectional sofa from Christian Liaigre, and then infused the room with pops of color in bright orange pillows and a custom-designed cocktail table from EC7 in a blue granite stone pattern. Rope chairs from John Hutton are upholstered in an abstract blue fabric to lend a modern nautical touch. At the star of the space in the bar area is a monumental 1,500-gallon hot water aquarium that abounds with color. "It's my pride and joy, and we are perpetually past the bugs," Hill says.

After nearly two years in the making, the Hills were thrilled with the renovation. Collectively, Cis and Konni's team created the ultimate resort-style home, a perfect place to relax and entertain.