MODERN LUXURY
BY THE PUBLISHERS OF MIAMI MAGAZINE
Interiors
South Florida
TUCKED IN
MAKING EVERY DETAIL COUNT
ALDO PUSCHENDORF PUSHES THE COLOR IN FORT LAUDERDALE
JONATHAN ADLER ROCKS A PALM BEACH RESORT
ORNARE AND FLORENSE: BOLDLY BRAZILIAN
VALERIO MORABITO'S MEDITERRANEAN DREAM
THE BEST OF DESIGN MIAMI/
MODERNLUXURY.COM

MEDITERRANEAN MANSE
Marc-Michaels Interior Design designed this palatial home, on the market for $18 million.

PALM BEACH

VISION QUEST

A spec home as vast and open as this coastal abode needed to show off its sightlines.

By Richard Pérez-Feria
Photography by Ed Butera/ibi designs
Interiors by Marc-Michaels Interior Design

On the face of it, this 10,000-square-foot spec house could have easily turned out exactly like the thousands of other luxury manses that line South Florida's coastline: benign and characterless. But this Mediterranean-modern beach house in tony Gulf Stream, built by Affinity Architects and designed by Marc-Michaels Interior Design, defies expectations in spectacular fashion. In fact, the home is more than a triumph; it's a revelation of scale and sculpted space.

The sprawling home, boasting an open floor plan and uninterrupted ocean sightlines, is no mere beach retreat; its substantial size—four bedrooms, 5 1/2 bathrooms and its vast common areas—helps justify its $18 million price tag. But it's irrefutably the design choices that take this CONTINUED...

...CONTINUED contemporary coastal home to the next level. And this abode is precisely that: next-level luxury.

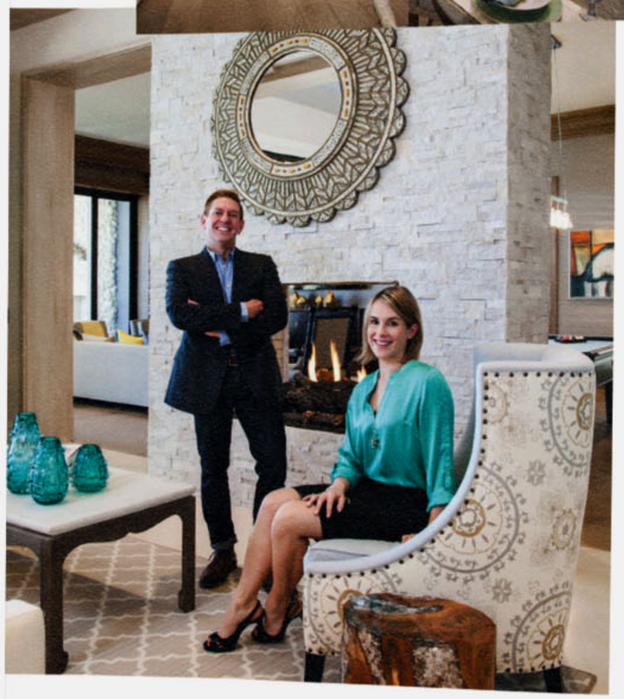
Designer Jeff Strasser, who worked on the project with his colleagues Shannon Coyman and Samantha Lipman (with interior detailing by Kathryn Dunagan and Rachel Jones), says the aesthetic process began well before the home was even built. "We work really closely with the architects on space planning, and we're not shy about giving our thoughts," Strasser says. "The entire experience from inception was very collaborative."

Strasser and Coyman enjoy an obvious and palpable rhythm and speaking-in-shorthand rapport, an asset that's a decade in the making. "Shannon and I have worked together for more than 10 years," Strasser says. "Our process on this project was that Shannon was the day-to-day designer, and after we agreed on overall concepts, she took it and ran with it. When we were ready to install and the final touches were done, that was the best part—when we could see the fruits of our labor coming together in an exciting way."

SEEING CLEARLY
From top: Enviable sightlines help justify the price tag; horizontal lines emphasize the vast spaces; the ample master bath; an exterior view.

Pointing out the unique risk-and-reward aspect of this residence, Coyman cites the home's open floor plan as an asset that in lesser hands may well have turned into a problem. "With this open plan and how uninterrupted the sightlines are, it made it visually great on the one hand, but exceedingly challenging on the other," she says. "The absolute best thing about this house, in my estimation, is that when you open the front door, not only do you see every significant designed element in the home, but also you can see the gorgeous ocean at the far end of your eye line."

Coyman emphasizes that choosing ocean hues as a color palette was deliberately meant to appeal to the largest pool of prospective buyers. "Our muted color palette was intentional, for sure," she says. "The watery



TEXTURAL CHARM
Clockwise from top: A soothing atmosphere pervades in the open kitchen and breakfast room, where texture is stressed more than color; the bar is clad in pale marble; designers Jeff Strasser and Shannon Coyman in front of the split-face stone fireplace.

...CONTINUED greens, the driftwood tones, the sand hues—all of those colors are so soft and truly quite comforting." One way in which the designers made bold statements without disrupting the whisper-soft color palette and resort feel that is present in much of the larger furniture pieces is by selecting smart, impressive lighting throughout the residence. This is most evidenced by the breathtaking multitiered chandelier in the living room. Coyman says that the piece was "custom-made and was very much inspired by jeweled chains." The effect is serene, stately and, yes, rich.

Another winning lighting option can be found just off the living room, in the home's indoor/outdoor enclosed loggia, which feels like the residence's entertainment heart. There, a surprisingly stark custom-made light fixture that is essentially a black iron cage hovers enticingly above. It was an inspired direction, to be sure. The house's other lighting choices are equally successful and, frankly, show a touch of ingenuity. The selections—all sourced from Lowcountry Originals—include four

...CONTINUED eye-popping chandeliers, which are located in the expansive foyer, the dining room, the breakfast room and the family room.

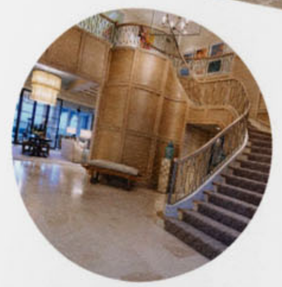
Here's the one thing that becomes evident about this comforting, welcoming home: The larger pieces are less showy than some of the luxe, sexy accessories. The pieces in the living room (sofa, ottoman, side tables) and some pieces in the master bedroom and loggia, for example, all come from Bernhardt, and most of the carpets (main stair runner, living room and master bedroom area rugs, the wall-to-wall in the guest room) were sourced from Casper Source of Winter Park. In other homes, these big-ticket items would inevitably spell bling. But here they are quietly confident.

So can this hushed, toned-down design survive the test of time, say, 10 years?

"Oh, totally," Strasser says emphatically. "Save for a few touches here and there, the architect's finishes are genuinely timeless," Coyman concurs. "Our color palette makes that attainable for sure."

Without missing a beat, Strasser adds, "For me, the approach is rather simple: The house has to look good on its own before we design it—wall colors, lighting fixtures, floor plan, all of that. Here's how I view it: You have a beautiful woman who becomes even more breathtaking when she's wearing a showstopping dress—same thing happens with this house. We provided the beautiful dress." *Marc-Michaels Interior Design, 720 W. Morse Blvd., Winter Park, 888.664.6272, marc-michaels.com* ■

CREAMY COMFORT
From top: The major pieces in the living room were sourced from Bernhardt; the main staircase runner is also from Bernhardt; the family room, like the foyer, features a chandelier from Lowcountry Originals.



TRAVEL SOCIETY HOT SPOTS JEWELRY
REAL ESTATE SCENE CELEBRI
SHOPPING DI
SPO
TE S
S S
IET
AL E
Y GO
VEL SO
GN R
N LUX
LTURE T
HOME I
ELRY FA
CELEBRI
OPPING I
HOT SPO
L ESTATE S
GOODS S
L SOCIET
GN REAL E
LUXURY GO
E TRAVEL SO
E DESIGN R
ASHION LUX
TY CULTURE T
ING HOME I
S JEWELRY FA
CELEBRI
OPPING I
HOT SPO
N REAL ESTATE S
XURY GOODS S
TRAVEL SOCIET
N REAL E
XURY GO
ULTURE TRAVEL SO