A NEW ENERGY IN PALM BEACH

Canadian designer Scott Yetman renovates this Mediterranean-style home in Florida

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PHOTOGRAPHER AARON THOMPSON
STYLIST SCOTT YETMAN
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT of living in Palm Beach? Just imagine.

The town is a 29-kilometer stretch along a barrier island off the eastern coast of Florida. It is no wider than 1.2 kilometres and narrows to about 150 metres at points, covering an area of 27 square kilometres, of which only 10 is land. The rest is water. Oh, and there is sunshine everywhere.

Frequently featured in the news during the past year, the island is the site of the Mar-a-Lago estate owned by U.S. President Donald Trump, which he often refers to as his "Winter White House."

According to the latest census, Palm Beach has slightly more than 18,000 residents, of whom more than half are over the age of 65. But Scott Yerman sees that shifting. He's a Montreal-based interior designer and owner of Scott Yerman Design. He does about 30 per cent of his business in Florida, and says Palm Beach is experiencing a youthful resurgence.

It is with that trend in mind that he set out to remodel a prime luxury home that hit the market with an asking price of $8.8 million. It's a substantial, seven-bedroom, two-story Mediterranean-style house. To bring the project to fruition, the designer worked with builder Scano Homes of Palm Beach and with architect Auguste Schmitz of Affiniti Architects in Boca Raton.

"It's a fresh, young version of a classic Palm Beach home," Yerman says of the project, which
When asked if it would be a perfect second home, his response: "Oh, third, or fourth or fifth." Welcome to the no-worries, privileged lifestyle of Palm Beach.

The home, which was originally built in the 1950s, has been completely remodeled and updated. Yetman refashioned it for a young family, or an older couple who has grandchildren. "I'm trying to create a younger, more modern Palm Beach look," he says. And that starts with creating energy. "I really like the living room, there's energy between the colors - the black and the white.

The setting is all white, including the pecky cypress-clad ceiling. As Yetman explains, "It gave it a fresher approach to paint." The black is introduced via accents and art. Many of the dramatic works displayed on the walls and atop the limestone fireplace mantel are on lease from a local gallery, giving the new owners the option of keeping them for now, changing them up later, or buying them.

Quality art pieces give the home a curated look, Yetman says, which adds to the vibe.

The designer also created his signature coffered ceilings in the kitchen and dining areas. This is a feature that provides both function and form, he says, allowing for a practical way to install ductwork, while creating a "layered effect" that "gives the room texture."

During the renovation, a new bank of wide patio doors was added to the dining room, giving access to the outdoors almost across the entire side of the home, stretching along the living room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast nook area. Of
The open terrace is an inviting space with a selection of furnishings that include a four-seater table made of a coal material.