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# 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 BINGHAM DEWART PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WALL

INTERIOR DESIGN Susan Connor, P&H Interiors, Inc.  
BEDROOMS 6 | BATHROOMS 10 | SQUARE FEET 10,000



She has a sparkle to her," designer Susan Connor says of her client, whose family was relocating from Connecticut to Boca Raton. Connor 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 Schreier of Affiniti Architects and built by Mark Pulte 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 exterior, but I didn't want things to be fussy inside," she explains. "I'm more modern and edgy, even in the way I dress. I wanted it to be airy and light, not heavy."



Chairs from Leathercraft gather in the family room along with a Hickory White ottoman doubling as a coffee table, Bentley Churchill sofas and a rug from Creative Designs in Carpet. Opposite: A Cabin Klein Home rug for Nourison, also from Creative Designs in Carpet, graces the entrance.



Ferguson Copeland host chairs and side chairs from Designmaster Furniture wear Kravet and J.F. Fabrics textiles in the dining room. Troy Lighting sconces flank Sondra Wampler's Magnolia, and Robert Charon's giclées on canvas peek in from just outside the room; all art pieces are from ArtSpex/Frameworks.



Hickory White chairs in the breakfast room, riff on neoclassical forms and surround a Charleston Forge table with vases from Global Views brightening its surface. Spiral Robert Allen fabric on the chair backs and acrylic barstools from CB2 add modernity.



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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 Connor 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 tweaked what needed to be tweaked."

To make things bright, youthful and fun but not ultramodern, Connor, working with her associates Vanessa Bugeja and Joyce Leung, kept to a cool, fresh palette that leans toward beige, gray and watery blues. Many of the furnishings, particularly in the formal living and dining rooms, are in crisp white "for a refreshing Florida look," Connor points out.

The house is shot through 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

The owners appreciate the traditional lean of the home's architecture and kept many elements in place, like the glimmering mosaic tile backsplash, handsome cabinetry and lustrous countertops in the kitchen.

"MANY OF THE FURNISHINGS ARE IN CRISP WHITE FOR A REFRESHING FLORIDA LOOK."

Even the outdoor furnishings, including the basket-weave chairs, sofa and table from Dedon, maintain the clean-lined elegance found inside the house. For a playful touch, a leopard-print Duralee fabric covers the accent pillows.



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be found in the home's decorative accents—in the dining room, say, where nailheads on the chairs and on the corners of a photograph's frame sparkle, matching the owner's own effervescence.

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 tempers their heft (there are more silver nailheads, too). And the clean lines extends 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

The house overlooks the intracoastal Waterway, but the clients wanted relaxed sophistication, rather than a beachy vibe, to play off the strong architectural presence of the house. All of the rooms at the rear accommodate sliding doors that open them up to the views.



Bedding from Eastern Accents lends opulence to the guest bedroom. A tufted headboard and lounge chair from Vanguard Furniture further soften the room. Draperies fashioned using Kravet fabric take color cues from a Masland Carpets rug underfoot.



Fabricut draperies by Custom Window Treatments Etc. frame the expansive windows in her master bath and give the room a graceful elegance along with a Romo wallcovering and a Surya rug. The table is from Cyan Design.

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and project area. Even the living room takes the children into account. Connor split it in two, on one side creating "an intimate little seating area for grown-ups only," she says. On the other, there's a more informal seating area with sight lines into 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 boys.

For Connor, 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." **L**