

FLORIDA DESIGN'S

MIAMI

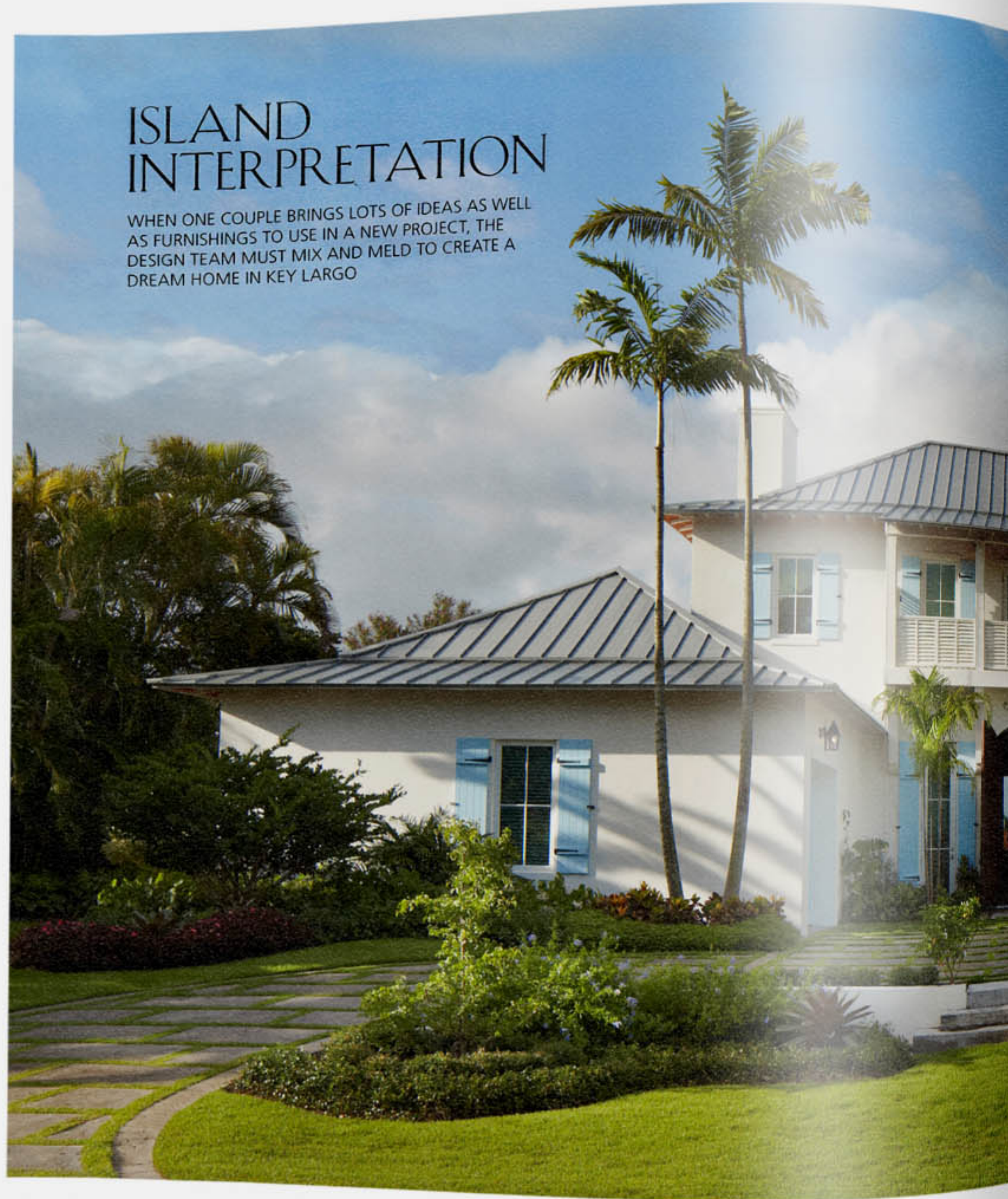
HOME & DECOR

Architecture
& Design
Miami Style



ISLAND INTERPRETATION

WHEN ONE COUPLE BRINGS LOTS OF IDEAS AS WELL AS FURNISHINGS TO USE IN A NEW PROJECT, THE DESIGN TEAM MUST MIX AND MELD TO CREATE A DREAM HOME IN KEY LARGO



INTERIOR DESIGN LOUIS SHUSTER AND GAGE HARTUNG, SHUSTER DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC., WILTON MANORS, FL
ARCHITECTURE MITCHELL KUNIK, BRIAN COLLINS, LOU NUNEZ AND MATT WHEELER, AFFINITY ARCHITECTS, BOCA RATON, FL
BUILDER BRAD KIVACH, D GARRETT CONSTRUCTION, INC., NAPLES, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SCOTT WALTZ AND CATHY HAYES-DIAZ, WALTZ LAWN & LANDSCAPE, HOMESTEAD, FL
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PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEL AND ROBERT BRANTLEY, DELRAY BEACH, FL

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Mahogany wood doors open and pocketing screen doors retract to welcome guests with beautiful water views. Rear screen doors allow for cross ventilation that cools this Dutch West Indies-style house.

Nowbirds Linda and John Noble knew what they were getting into when they started planning their newest home in the luxe Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla. This was the sixth club property they've owned in 22 years. While some of their projects were mere renovations, three, including this one, were total tear-downs.

Chosen for its waterfront views situated at the end of a canal, its location close to the cultural center and medical center, and its proximity to the ocean, this 5,700-square-foot house is in the perfect spot



for the Nobles who wanted a casual yet sophisticated home where they could entertain and enjoy the resort lifestyle. The couple also wanted a home they could open up to the fresh air and enjoy after a tennis match or in bathing suits just off their 23-foot motor boat. And finally, they wanted something different.

Having previously built in the area, they were familiar with many of the designers and architects whose work is prevalent in the upscale community. "They didn't want their design team to merely rehash what they'd already had in their other homes," says architect Mitch Kunik, who was introduced to the couple by their realtor.

For the first meeting with Affiniti Architects, the Nobles brought a vision of their dream home inspired by Caribbean architecture. "But when I listened to them, I heard that Linda wanted a Bermudian-style house and John wanted a house indicative of the West Indies," Kunik says. "So our team suggested the Dutch West Indian style that is an amalgam of the two." It took them only about a week to formulate a sketch of the new home. "When we saw it, we hardly changed a thing," Linda says. "I think that's pretty incredible."

RIGHT: Boxed beams with tongue-and-groove insets shape the 12-foot-high ceilings of the great room, where the designers mixed and matched the old with the new to define main areas. Currey & Company's shaded chandelier casts a nautical glow over the dining area, while CLAD's aqua glass-tile backsplash draws the ocean hues into the kitchen.



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A fairly traditional facade sports a cantilevered porch supported by brackets with wooden columns and slatted railings. Deep overhangs protect windows from the sun and rain, double chimneys — that in this case are merely decorative — and board-and-batten shutters reminiscent of hatch covers complete the island-style look.

Enter interior designer Louis Shuster and his team, a group that came highly recommended by Affiniti. Designer Gage Hartung lightheartedly remembers meeting the Nobles for the first time when they came to his office armed with a book full of ideas and photos that Linda had collected. But Hartung

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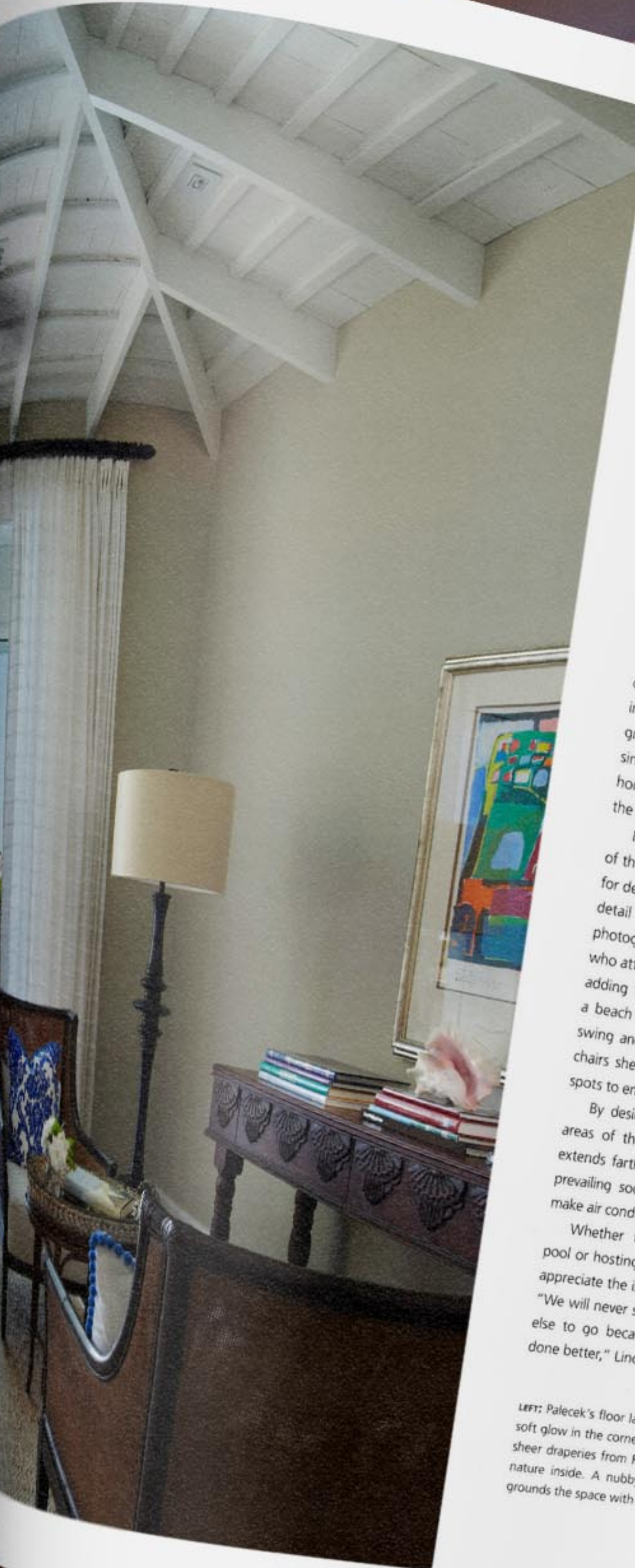
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space with warmth.

Acacia wood flooring flows through the great room, where the design team
paired walls in shades of white with the couple's love of blue. In the living area, a
white sofa from Swaim joins Hickory's wood-framed chairs cushioned in splashes
of blue from Lee Jofa. Designer Gage Hartung pulled from owner Linda Noble's
photos to reinterpret the custom-made, blue lounge chairs to fit the space.

wasn't fazed. Nor was he surprised when, during the design process, the couple e-mailed him photos of
furnishings and architectural details they'd seen while on vacation in the Bahamas.

Getting to know his clients, the designer readily interpreted many of their ideas and improved upon
others. When Hartung first saw the plans for the great room's kitchen and dining area, he noticed the
room divider had only a lower cabinet topped with dark-stained walnut. To provide more storage plus
privacy for Linda while cooking, he added the painted upper glass cabinetry accessible from either side.
Clerestory cabinets line the space in perfect complement.



At the other end of the great room, Hartung designed the living area with the couple's art in mind. One colorful contemporary piece has graced every home in which they have lived since commissioning it. "Each time we build, the horses are always remembered in the design," the homeowner says.

For the master bedroom, Linda had most of the furnishings in her possession just waiting for designers to assign them a place. The ceiling detail in this room is straight from one of her photographs brought to life by the design team who attached wood shims to the drywall before adding the wooden structure below to create a beach cottage effect. Just outside, the blue swing and a pair of weathered teak wingback chairs she purchased style one of her favorite spots to enjoy her new home.

By design, an infinity pool lines the social areas of the home. One wing of the house extends farther toward the canal to catch the prevailing southeast winds that, at times, can make air conditioning virtually obsolete.

Whether the couple is lounging by the pool or hosting friends in the great room, they appreciate the island feel of their newest home. "We will never sell this house. There's nowhere else to go because nothing could have been done better," Linda says. "We just love it."

LEFT: Palecek's floor lamp from Judith Norman casts a soft glow in the corner of the master bedroom, while sheer draperies from Robert Allen pull open to bring nature inside. A nubby area rug from Stark Carpet grounds the space with warmth.

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SOURCES

FRONT EXTERIOR

Entry doors - Smith & Deshields, Inc., Naples, FL
Balcony railings and shutters - Hardie Boys, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL

DINING AREA/KITCHEN

Table and side chairs - Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
Cushion fabric - Duralene Fabrics, Ltd., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Host chairs - Custom designed by Shuster Design Associates, Wilton Manors, FL; fabricated by New Design Furniture, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Fabric - Jane Churchill, Cowton & Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Trim - Samuel & Sons, Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Chandelier - Currey & Co., Atlanta, GA
Drapery fabric - Kravet, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Fabricated by Hart-Lines, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL
Kitchen cabinetry and island - Encore Cabinets & Design, Naples, FL
Countertops - Caesarstone, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Glass-tile backsplash - CLAD Tile & Stone, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Lighting over island - Hudson Valley, Capitol Lighting, Boca Raton, FL

LIVING AREA

White sofa - Swaim, High Point, NC
Fabric - Jane Churchill, Cowton & Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Blue-and-white accent pillow fabric - Kravet, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Wood armchairs - Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC
Cushion fabric - Lee Jofa, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Blue lounge chairs - Custom designed by Shuster Design Associates, Wilton Manors, FL; fabricated by New Design Furniture, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Fabric - Norbar Fabrics Co., Inc., Boca Raton, FL
White accent pillow fabric - Kravet, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Wood cocktail table - E.M. Soberon, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Occasional tables - Drexel Heritage, Retro Interiors, Wilton Manors, FL
Table lamps - Frederick Cooper, Capitol Lighting, Boca Raton, FL

Artwork and area rug - Owners' Collection

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed, throw, bedside table, table lamp, console, artwork, armchairs, accent pillows and cocktail table - Owners' Collection
Floor lamp - Palecek, Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Drapery fabric and window shades - Robert Allen, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Fabricated by Hart-Lines, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL
Area rug - Stark Carpet Corp., Hollywood, FL
Swing and area rug on patio - Owners' Collection

POOL/PATIO

Pool - Custom designed by Affiniti Architects, Boca Raton, FL
Fabricated by Reef Tropical Pools & Landscape, Key Largo, FL
Wingback chairs on bedroom patio - Restoration Hardware, Pompano Beach, FL

THROUGHOUT

Windows and doors - Window Classics, Pembroke Park, FL

RIGHT: From the Florida room with its stunning, white-washed brick fireplace to the master bedroom's sitting area across the infinity pool, the social living spaces open to the elements.



"BECAUSE JUST ABOUT ALL THE ROOMS CAN BE SCREENED AND OPENED TO NATURE, THE HOUSE HAS THE FEEL OF A CARIBBEAN RESORT," ARCHITECT MITCH KUNIK SAYS.