



GRAND GESTURES

IN BOCA RATON, A GRACIOUS ESTATE EVOKES THE AREA'S CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE WITH TRADITIONAL DETAILING EVEN AS IT OFFERS A MODERN WAY OF LIVING.

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 ARCHITECTURE: Paul Beveler, The Benedict Group | 1-800-545-0100 LANDSCAPE: LARRY'S ALABAMA, LARRY'S ALABAMA & Sons Builders, Inc.
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: KIMMIE LA SCHANDER and Stephanie Parker, KIMMIE LA SCHANDER Design, Inc.
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It's as if possible to build something great, something new and to match the grand Florida estates of the 20th century. It just requires a little patience and ingenuity, not to mention an art design team. For a Florida couple looking to create their own home addition, the story begins when they assumed a series of three home renovation projects along the 100,000-sq-ft waterfront over several years—going from a canvas for discovery. Of course it helped that “the programming was specific from the beginning,” says designer Nitin LeSchander, who, along with senior designer Lindsay Taylor, was responsible for the interiors. “The clients knew what they wanted and how they wanted it to function.”

But first, to build on the landmark site, the clients tapped Tom Bescher, an architect well-known for his facility with Mediterranean-inspired forms. Drawing from Spanish and Italian sources, he created a blend of the grand with color, arches and colonnades reaching across the

Canary date palms grace the water-front of the Mediterranean-style house. The formal European results led them to request a take on the landscape that reads classically but adds lively twists. The outdoor 11-foot-high entry door frame is made of wrought-iron and features decorative ironwork and treated glass.



Using eye-meets-eyes from Italy, the contrast of the floor is the key, where shimmering gold and accents of white. More gold appears in the form of the gilt Louis XV console, from the owner's collection, and the Adam-style mirror and 18th-century Régence-style armchairs from William R. Dubois. The formal art is from Jerry Fox.



Facilitating an air of relaxation, the space includes built-in seating and a large outdoor fireplace. The ceiling is a mix of wood and plaster, and the walls are finished with a combination of stone and plaster. The design is a blend of traditional and modern styles, with a focus on natural materials and a warm, inviting atmosphere.

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patio area. He decided a formal plan, putting the house on an axis and offering it spectacular views. The ceilings are high, emphasizing the feeling of space and grandeur. From meeting out from the main entrance, other structures benefit designed—the guest house, pool cabana, an open table people at the boat dock, for example—“enhance the experience each way you view,” he says.

Bobby Leonard Moore, a longtime acquaintance of the clients, helped make the project a reality. A part of the undertaking from the group, Moore brought with him his own knowledge of the area design as he and the rest of the team “brought back the essence of this South architecture,” he says. “It’s in line with what you’d find back in the day.” He also brought his resources along. Mark and Anthony, who had just joined his firm and served as project managers.

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Inside the house, Lefebvre and Siegel infused the interiors with a sense of luxurious discovery inspired by the husband's desire for a feeling that was at once timeless and unobtainable without being excessive. "The client wanted us, if we were feeling the instinct to step back, to step forward and push the envelope. The more gold the better, the more daring the better," says Lefebvre, noting the owner's request for a layered, detailed and warm aesthetic.

Throughout the house, each space had its own unique starting point and function that was indeed layered on top. The open selection for the layer base provided the transition for the photos in the living and dining areas, while in the family room, large pieces of artwork set the tone there. The furnishings, though set in a fairly neutral palette, carry the same level of opulence courtesy of gilded details, and textured fabrics offer comfort and durability for the owner and their friends and family. "Our rooms need to be lived in and loved in. We let things evolve naturally," Lefebvre remarks. "In the VIP suite, for instance, the detailing—including the paneling and herringbone floor—is very traditional. And those traditional details were complemented by the unexpected layer of the latex-walls rug that we found on the wall behind the bed."

The client embraced the landscaping of the 3-and-a-half-acre site to landscape architect Ryan Mulford and senior project manager Stephanie Parson, who created an experiential environment. Although it presented a great opportunity, the property's three vegetable did



Background Photo from Alessandro Paganini for a contemporary look to the kitchen, balancing the traditional feel of Circo Lighting pendant and the cabinetry and range hood. From: Boverstone Milano, Countertops from Marble Brands & Marble (continued) the soft palette, and appliances from Thorco Builder Appliances stand right in.



The interior columns and archways are clad in Mexican Crema Marble stone. The hallway here separates the dining and family rooms. Appropriate to the family room, formal to guests, 40% of stone is used to create a dramatic & lively look from Jerry Pace. The cocktail table is by Lillian August for Monterey White.



After Wendy Sherman applied hand-painted details to a barn-stained stone in the wife's bath, the tub, from HTI Bath's, with an Atlanta forest, stands on a Kays Granite floor accented with honeycomb details from Atlas Stone & Tile.

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every the clients, during early meetings, to ask, "What do we do with all of this space? How do we make it feel like home?" For Portas and company it all came down "to creating destinations and linking them all together," she says. Overlapping moments mingle with quiet ones, so a gravel alley of slate pavers leads to the pool area and cabana, while a flowering arbor leads to a kitchen garden, one of the husband's special requests, which also functions as a secluded and intimate dining area.

For Benedict, the work he and the rest of team completed has translated into a home that will "continue to excite and never disappoint," he says. No matter the mood, be it for quiet, for morning or afternoon sun, for a glimpse of the water, or the chance to revel in nature, it's all there. **B**



Glassware reaches high in the 19th bedroom, including mirrored Century Furniture chests topped with rock crystal lamps from J.W. Ford Art and Interior Services in Las Vegas. A rug from ABC Carpet & Home anchors a Bernier Bed and Breakfast bench, and a custom Kyle Bunting hair-side table from David Sutherland rings at it.