

WHEN MAGIC HAPPENS

Interior Designer: Louis Shuster Channels A Latin Vibrancy To
Fulfill One Couple's Wish For Their New Estate In Boca Raton

ARCHITECT: Louis Shuster, Principal, with Gage Hartwig
and Clayton Weiland, Studio Design Associates, Inc., White Marsh, FL
INTERIOR: Joe Greenlock and Mark Mail
Cabinet: + Blue Architects, PA, Boca Raton, FL
PAINTER: Jerry Calabrese, Calabrese Builders, Boca Raton, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: Kent Weiland, Kent Weiland Design, Inc., Delray Beach, FL
101 Marine Blvd.
HOUSING: Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL



AGC® Landscape architect Kent Weiland used four varieties of palms among the hundreds of landscaped plantings. "We had to try many of them to come over the two-story rock," he says. As if creating a painting, Weiland chose trees that would highlight the contemporary architecture.

"Art is an important part of the client's lives," interior designer Louis Shuster says. Foyer works by Brazilian painters Mônica Hilde and Giorgio de Araucario that adhere to the foreground, the wood console is one of a pair designed by Oscar Niemeyer, while Franz Brackberg's red wall sculpture catches the eye above a glass-topped console beyond.



INTERIOR DESIGNER LOUIS SHUSTER RECALLS ONE of the first conversations with his client. It took place after the homeowner's wife saw one of the designer's homes featured in *Florida Design* and she watched a video of Shuster describing his work.

"She has a strong intuition that you are to be the one," the husband says. A week later, Shuster began to put together a team to transform an existing estate in the ultra-exclusive enclave of St. Andrews in Boca Raton, Fla., into a home for the Brazilian couple, their two young children and several live-in staff. While maintaining a sprawling residence in South America designed by a world-famous architect, the couple wished to bring the same Latin vibrancy and luxury to St. Andrews.

ABOVE: Architects Jay Golestock and Mark Muir designed the square-paneled doors of irragony that serendipitously echo the painting by Gonçalo Ivo. From Etal Interiores in São Paulo, Brazil, the only table is designed by Cláudia Moreira Salles; its sculptures by artist Alfredo Cachorril.

Strength and symmetry are apparent in the soaring living room. From left to right a quartz basin, a panel drier is created by the bar. Across the room, the 10-foot-long high-top art by Carter Cruz/Ded seems to vibrate with its name. Even the Zigzag floor lamp from Philip Johnson, and the custom chandelier that designer Sage Marking created by cobbling together Louis XV-style, rock crystal and brass are works of art.





The designer's first call was to architect Jay Colestock and Mark Mass. "I was totally overwhelmed by the views," Colestock says. "A fan-shaped property set on one-and-a-half acres overlooking sweeping golf course greens ... I couldn't wait to pick up my pencil and paper." But problems were embedded in the 1980s-built existing structure. "It simply could not accommodate what we wanted to build," he says. The owners' quick decision to raise funds with a totally new home opened the floodgates of inspiration and the magic began.

Colestock created a thumbnail sketch of a 13,300-square-foot, two-story home situated to embrace the spectacular views. "I kept three principles in mind," the architect says. "The needs of this particular family and how they like to live, the incredible views and setting, and the things they are passionate about — art. I needed to design around an important contemporary collection."

As Colestock refined his blueprints for the now closed lot, Shuster and his lead designer, Gage Hartung began the first of two trips to Brazil. "Steeping oneself in the life of the people for whom you are designing a

LEFT: Brazilian art collection in the library created the dining table and Carlos Motta the chairs. All by Marisa Mota, Antonio de Castro, Orlando Iraz and Abraham Palatnik comprise the homeowners' 21st-century focus. The Studio 1601 sofa from Cottage House sends light downward, each like glass boat ceiling allows it to filter.

With entertaining and family living a priority, the homeowners doubted their pleasure with one of his family rooms — his one with walls of glass that just open to fill the space with soft Florida breezes.



home is a wonderful privilege," Hartwig says. "Seeing the colors they love, the textures they treasure, how they move and relax in their spaces is invaluable." Though select pieces of art and furnishings from their current home were chosen for St. Andrews, the São Paulo Design Center offered most of the pieces in the exotic woods the owners loved.

Soon, builder Timmy Cadmore and landscape architect Kent Whitland came aboard. "We gave ourselves a 14-month timeline," Cadmore says. In the end, 12 months later, the owners moved in, loving everything they saw.

Throughout the home, natural woods, LedgeStone-faced columns and slabs of limestone give the feeling of a resort.



Datura stramonium from the first moment. Against the schemes of Whitland's date palm oasis, Colestock raised blocks of rectangles, perforated walls with rectilinear shapes, and then settled the tension with a palette of soft greens for the LedgeStone columns and concrete-tiled roof. Four individual, steel-faced walnut-painted garages flank the house's central entry styled with a mighty arched trellis that feels as if the curtain is about to go up. And indeed it does.

Just inside, Hartwig positions 21-foot-high flat rosewood columns on either side of the entry to narrow the aperture and allow the main social axis impact to dazzle.

And high above, the entry foyer's fluted rosewood panel and the living room's 26-foot-high vaulted ceiling make for the majesty of a modern cathedral.

On glowing rosewood panels and gallery-white walls, color splashes from every corner. "Each piece of art was photographed and measured," Hartung says. "We knew where each work would live before it arrived."

Linear situations develop in the living room, where slatted panels lining the bar and a Tai Ping area rug define the motif Hartung uses throughout. Clad in Bergamini's pale linen, the Berman Rossetti sofas join casual armchairs to create a rare Amazonian wood cocktail table designed by Ray Ohnke that is "shaped like the Shuster S," the owner says.

As if pulled from the hues in the dining room's art, the multi-colored area rug from Anier Rug Gallery continues the color-block motif. The table's warm cannella di Brazilian cedar wood resonates in hue with the hand-blown glass "casses" that suspend, mobile-like, from above.

"For me," Hartung says, "the biggest challenge was positioning furniture and defining usage areas in the outdoor family room." With accordion doors, a massive Viking barbecue, and a fireplace along one side, Hartung focused seating and dining areas in the center of the room. Wicker furnishings by Briton from São Paulo form an open-air social grouping, while Alho Liu



ABOVE: (LEFT) Deceptively Indian fluted rosewood panels, Shuster-designed cabinetry wrap the kitchen's perimeter. Palm-rugging chairs from Estabro Latop in Dark Root against white quartzite counters.

"There are some properties and some projects that just get the juices flowing — this was one," architect Jay Colestock says. "I was so inspired I couldn't put my pencil down. Every member of the team felt that way."



ABOVE: With an entire wing devoted to the pleasures of the master suite, the bedrooms is but one. Amber wood cladding spans to a custom-designed bed atop a drilled area rug. In the hall beyond, the "Frame" light fixture from Wired Device Lighting enhances José Boscana's artwork that leads the way to massive dressing rooms for both husband and wife, as well as separate baths that are outfitted with a formal reader lounge and walk-in.

bar stools pull up to a custom oak-stained bar that allows guests to concentrate on the steak, South American steaks grilling on the barbeque.

Opening out of the white of quartzite and warmth of rosewood, the limestone-floored kitchen merges with a family-sized breakfast area and the family room beyond. A stone wall with room for over 400 labels, hidden cabinetry and a rich Calacatta marble backsplash underline the luxury in each kitchen detail.

The master suite features nearly 400 square feet of private dressing rooms, plus a private sitting room off of the sleeping area. Beneath the stepped and coffered ceiling, the headboard wall is faced with an embrace of red acalyptus. A Sergio Rodriguez chair and ottoman in creamy leather sit



ABOVE: In the husband's bath, modern technology makes glass doors a thing of the past. A THG mistshower from Miller's Design Hardware and a floor drain keeps water where it should be, while art and architecture combine in Marble of the Wild's eye art.

"Sometimes the chemistry is just right for all the members of the team," Wieland says. "In this case, the homeowner, with his wonderful attention to detail, was a key player. Then for everyone — the magic just happened."



above: An aqua-glass mosaic wall holds the pool like a delicate vessel. Water cascades down stone baffles into bronze containers that spill into the pool. Nearby, Tawny's "Siligray" umbrella from Stone Jarlar guards against the sun.

swirly beneath Coore Martins' abstract work. For the husband's shower, tiny strips of trays were milled and matched to form a soft arc worthy of its own artistic status.

As the homeowners now relax around the glass-tiled pool, ingeniously designed to prevent small children or dogs from inadvertent curiosity, their new American home seems complete. With a balcony playground keeping the small ones busy, the couple allows their minds' eye to drift along the marble-faced blue walls of the pool and beyond. Magic becomes tangible it seems ... American-made with a samba beat.