

FLORIDA DESIGN'S

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VOLUME 9 NUMBER 3

\$5.99 21000 04-10 3.43



DISPLAY UNTIL 02/24/14

Floor-to-ceiling windows in the living room capture the view of the lush grounds, while artwork, entitled *Jander* by Francesco Jozzi, adorns the sofa wall in complement to the turquoise and hot-pink vintage armchairs, clad in fabric by Osborne & Little.





SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

VIVID TROPICAL HUES AND ARTISTIC DESIGN TRANSFORM AN EXISTING TROPICAL HOME INTO A FAMILY RETREAT

INTERIOR DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE:
JOHN BARMAN AND KELLY GRAHAM,
JOHN BARMAN, INC., NEW YORK, NY,
AND MIAMI, FL
TEXT BY SCHOFIELD
PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBERT BRANTLEY,
DELRAY BEACH, FL

Before sealing the deal for the purchase of this luxurious, 4,600-square-foot, 5-bedroom, 6-bath residence, the prospective homeowner sought the advice of her longtime friend and interior designer, John Barman. The Manhattan resident was looking to replace the vacation home she and her former husband had previously shared in Boca Raton, Fla. "I wanted to create a new footprint here for my teenage children and me," she says. "When I found this house, I envisioned John's help in doing the complete renovation."

With a professional relationship that spans 10 years, there was no question in the owner's mind about commissioning Barman to design her latest home. "When my former husband and I built our place in East Hampton, we hired John to do the interior design," she says.

With a stellar portfolio of projects from the Hamptons, New York and Greenwich, Conn., to Los Angeles, Miami and Washington, D.C., Barman's reputation precedes him as the go-to designer for

Barman's creative
spot-on suggestion
to duplicate the colors
in the owner's dress,
cued the home's
signature palette of
bright turquoise, hot
pink, lemon yellow
and lime green.



Back: In the dining area, fanciful gold rings by Arco's Fosse archly adorn the backs of the floral dining chairs. On the wall is an elegant, unframed painting by artist Lynn Goldsmith, a gem from the homeowner's private collection.

Far left: A centerpiece table by Dennis & Leon makes a striking impression in the foyer, while an oversized showstopper, entitled *Lady Apple* by artist Hung Liu, commands the wall.



such high-profile clients as George Stephanopoulos, Winton Mansels and Neil Simon. He is renown for his sophisticated style, bold new ideas and strong point of view. Barman and interior designer Kelly Graham concurred with their client's decision to purchase the house and accepted the challenge to oversee its makeover. "My thoughts were to lighten up the home and take advantage of its exquisite waterfront site and lush landscaping by bringing the outdoors in as much as possible," Barman says.

The design team proceeded with a floor-to-ceiling transformation that left only the windows and main stairway in tact. The home was refashioned into one sprawling open plan that better suits the family's casual entertaining style. "One of our objectives was to provide the homeowner with a large, open kitchen like the one in her East Hampton home," Barman says. "She's always cooking and baking and it's the family's favorite place to congregate and entertain."

Deep, saturated colors prevail in the living room. "This room is all about being elegant but not too serious," Barman says. The colors pair well with



IN THE OPEN KITCHEN, A CUSTOM-CRAFTED BACKSPLASH IN WHITE CERAMIC TILE ADDS TEXTURE BENEATH GLOSSY CUSTOM CABINETRY BY SEMATIC. CASUAL FAMILY DINING IS ENJOYED WHILE SEATED ON VINTAGE LUCITE BARSTOOLS



many of the home's various eclectic furnishings, a disparate collection of new and refurbished custom pieces, and unique retro finds from the 1940s through the 1960s. A conversation grouping includes a pair of white Chippendale armchairs that surround a glass-topped cocktail table, all fronting a sofa upholstered in a lighthearted, Chinoiserie pattern.

A step into the main entry foyer presents a custom-designed turquoise and white area rug that grounds the space as an exclamation point to herald a collection of carefully displayed glass art.

In the dining area, chairs upholstered in an exuberant, stylized floral fabric by Scalamandre are grouped around a table fashioned from a 1960s bronze base and a glass top. "I love John's choice of fabrics," the homeowner says. "They're beautiful but with a relaxed not-too-serious edge."

Even in the far corner of the kitchen, unadorned dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows frame the breakfast area giving the impression that the house is surrounded by woods. A one-of-a-kind dining group features a glass-topped table with a vintage base centered by shellback chairs that the homeowner purchased from a Southampton, N.Y., garden shop.



THE HOMEOWNER
REVEALS HER PENCHANT
FOR A BLUE AND WHITE
MOTIF IN THE FAMILY
ROOM'S COMFORTABLE
SOFA AND ARMCHAIRS
BY GEORGE SMITH.



In the master bedroom, the custom bed upholstered in Sabot, by Osborne & Little is in sync with vintage armchairs that provide a perfect view of the outdoor patio. The chair, right, offers a serene place to relax.





"Vacationing in South Florida is like a homecoming," the homeowner says. "It's such a happy, sunny place you can't help feeling invigorated and upbeat just by being here."



All agree that the kitchen is the center of the home. Originally the space featured dark wood cabinetry, but Barman made the decision to brighten it up with new, custom cabinetry finished in gleaming white lacquer that complements the spacious kitchen island's brilliant, blue granite countertop and lacite bar stools.

In the family room, a refinished 1960s vintage console sits opposite a sofa clad in a turquoise fabric from Donghia and armchairs dressed in a geometric fabric by Lee Jofa.

The pristinely landscaped pool serves as a backdrop to the master bedroom. Here, the space pays homage to the homeowner's penchant for blue and white in Barman's custom-designed bed dressed in a bold print, while vintage artwork adds dramatic contrast.

With the designers' considerable talents and the owner's confident use of hues, the success of the makeover was insured. "This vacation home exudes ease of use and vibrant, happy colors," Barman says. The end result is an eclectic retreat that combines sophistication with an effortless ambience.