

INTERIOR DESIGN BY CHRISSY HOWARD AND JANINE BLUME WITH JINX MCDONALD,
JINX MCDONALD INTERIOR DESIGNS, INC., NAPLES, FL
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN BY RICHARD GUZMAN, RG DESIGNS, BONITA SPRINGS, FL
DEVELOPER AND BUILDER JAMES NULF, SEAGATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP, FORT MYERS, FL
TEXT BY MARINA BROWN
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Off Florida's Gulf Coast in the exclusive community of Boca Grande, this 6,700-total-square-foot home brilliantly recalls the West Indies with its crisp whites and blues, and Bermuda-esque roof lines. With island transportation by golf cart only, the pergola houses the homeowners' red-and-white striped caddies — ready to go at a moment's notice.

PRISTINE PARADISE

AS SEEN IN
NAPLES EDITION
FLORIDA DESIGN

UNTOUCHED IN A GENERATION,
A TINY PENINSULA COMES TO
LIFE ON GASPARILLA ISLAND

Warm oak flooring sets the great room’s organic tone that is picked up in the richly stained, tongue-and-groove hood in the kitchen. Here, an aqua island for food prep and a white one for casual dining complement Soho Kitchens’ white Shaker cabinetry and a mosaic glass backsplash by Glazzio. Smoked-glass pendants by Modern Forms line the tongue-and-groove ceilings that define the living area comfortably seated with Taylor King’s sofas and lounge chairs.

Interior designer Chrissy Howard recalls the beginning of the building two years ago. “There was absolutely nothing here,” she says of the home that was the second on the peninsula. “Now, it’s a quaint community where everyone knows everyone else.”

THEY HAD BEEN WATCHING it for years — its solitude, its verdant finger into the waters where the Gulf of Mexico flows into Charlotte Harbor at Boca Grande. They’d seen the pristine beaches and the tarpon torqueing themselves skyward, feasting on crab. This was a piece of “untouched” land where former developers and builders, Tom and Michele Harrison had long fantasized they would live. And when at last Seagate Development purchased the plot, the Harrisons were all in.

The couple chose a lot giving them views to both sunrises and sunsets at the tip of the small peninsula. Here, from their natural beach, they could muse on the land’s history which includes legendary Spanish pirate José Gaspar, magnates DuPont, Vanderbilt and Ford, and the fortunes made from phosphate that were brought by train and off-loaded on ships in this very channel. “It was like an untouched paradise,” Michele says.

To add to the perfection, the Harrisons turned to the professionals they have used for their last eight properties, the team at Jinx McDonald Interior Designs. “We have designed a number of residences, including two homes in North Carolina, two yachts and a small plane for the owners,” lead designer Chrissy Howard says. “The Harrisons have become friends as well as wonderful clients.”

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A nod to the Caribbean comes with the vaulted ceiling line and clerestory window of the private den. Luxurious furnishings from Cabana Coast offer the perfect spot to enjoy nightly sunsets. With a turn of the head and a few hours, a sunrise will appear at the entrance.



With a tailored flair in the master bedroom, the boldly striped bench from Vanguard gives a nautical suggestion that, paired with the blue tweeds of Fairfield's lounge chair and ottoman, even a captain would be content. Century's java-finished bed fits the island flavor, while white plantation-shuttered windows are crowned by Roman shades with embroidered Celtic knots.

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Working with residential designer Richard Guzman, the group would go on to create 6,700 total square feet of West Indies-inspired comfort. “With it’s two-story columns, roof corbels and peaked roof lines, this home feels just right in its setting,” Guzman says.

As if no distinction is made between inside and out, the interior palette is filled with aqua and blue hues that mimic the seascape beyond as they splash across the wide-open spans of the great room. Here, Jezebel, the homeowners’ Yorkie, is momentarily distracted from an island breeze. In the vast open plan, Guzman’s signature “glass house” concept can be seen as nearly every area opens to a balcony, the loggia or the pool. With no need to “leave the room” to change activities, the dining area, kitchen, living area and outdoor entertainment spaces are always at hand.

“With a penchant for entertaining, this couple enjoys true comfort in their home,” Howard says. The great room does not disappoint with the living area’s classic sofas in sea blue and a traditionally shaped cocktail table of graphite gray that gives a nod to the practicality of leather recliners clad in navy. From Stout’s performance fabric on the kitchen stools to the artwork and the patterned draperies by Fabricut, layered aquas, indigos, azures and cerulean blues appear again and again. And yet, it is never repetitious.

Views toward Boca Grande Pass, the deepest natural inlet on the Gulf of Mexico, provide the backdrop for the upstairs den, a collective respite for guests staying in the three second-story suites. In creamy chenille, the sofa glows against walls wrapped in soft blue. A plush “performance” area rug from Nourison makes taking one’s shoes off a must. Here, the designers, given their tranquil palette of sea tones, dramatized the colors through patterning on draperies, throws, accent pillows and art.

In the master suite, a wing unto itself on the first level, the owners find an intimate escape. Cherished pieces from other homes lovingly reappear here in bedside lamps and a mirror of shells that holds memories. A tiny cove in the bed chamber allows for ocean breezes and a good book on a quiet afternoon. A private door leads directly to the pool and firepit beyond.

The loggia’s panoramic vistas of the seascape pull the eye to the horizon as guests pause to enjoy views of the semi-circular pool and the pristine shoreline. With an outdoor grill and cozy pizza oven, there’s little reason to go inside. An “eating island” makes serving easy and even the arms on Soho’s outdoor sofas are wide enough to sit a plate or drink. With the pool stretching its arc toward the Gulf, the sun setting completes a heavenly day in paradise.

Encased in sparkling glass mosaic tiles, the half-moon pool and its sister spa by Nassau Pools are joined below by a nearly beachside firepit. Enamored with her home, owner Michele Harrison says, "I think we'll stay!"



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From barbeques to pizza nights, the homeowners' love of entertaining can be accommodated on the loggia that does not stray from the aqua, blue and navy hues used throughout the interior. The coffered wood ceiling is as elegant as those inside and the limestone paving as long-lasting.



SOURCES

FRONT EXTERIOR

Driveway pavers - Tremron, Naples, FL
Pergola fabricated by Seagate Development, Fort Myers, FL
Front door - New Erra Doors Corp., Fort Myers, FL
Garage doors - Eden Coast, LLC, Allied Doors West Florida, Naples, FL
Stairway and balcony railings - Liberty Aluminum Co., Lehigh Acres, FL
Wall sconces - Feiss, Wilson Lighting, Naples, FL

LIVING AREA

Sofas and lounge chairs - Taylor King, IDS, Naples, FL
Cocktail table - Chaddock, IDS, Naples, FL
Occasional tables and sofa table - Old Biscayne Designs, IDS, Naples, FL
Table lamps - Owners' Collection
Fan - Minka-Aire, Wilson Lighting, Naples, FL
Drapery fabric - Thibaut, IDS, Naples, FL
Area rug - Hadinger Flooring, Naples, FL

KITCHEN

Cabinetry, island and hood - Soho Kitchens and Design, Naples, FL

Countertops - Cambria, Mediterranean Marble Gulf Coast, Naples, FL
Backsplash - Glazzio Tiles, Wayne Wiles Floor Coverings, Fort Myers, FL
Counter stools - Palecek, IDS, Naples, FL
Fabric - Stout, IDS, Naples, FL
Light pendants - Modern Forms, Wilson Lighting, Naples, FL

DINING AREA

Dining table - Fremarc Designs, IDS, Naples, FL
Host chairs - Thibaut, IDS, Naples, FL
Side chairs - Braxton Culler, IDS, Naples, FL
Chandelier - Viz Glass, Wilson Lighting, Naples, FL
Artwork - Owners' Collection

DEN

Sofa - Sherrill Upholstery, IDS, Naples, FL
Cocktail ottoman - Wesley Hall, IDS, Naples, FL
Occasional tables - Braxton Culler, IDS, Naples, FL
Table lamp, artwork and small guiter - Owners' Collection
Lounge chair - Fairfield Chair Company, IDS, Naples, FL
Cabinetry - Chaddock, IDS, Naples, FL
Drapery fabric - Fabricut, IDS, Naples, FL
Area rug - Nourison, Abbey Carpet & Floor, Naples, FL

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed - Century Furniture, IDS, Naples, FL
Bedside chests - Chaddock, IDS, Naples, FL
Table lamps and mirror - Owners' Collection
Bench - Vanguard Furniture, IDS, Naples, FL
Lounge chair and ottoman - Fairfield Chair Company, IDS, Naples, FL
Chandelier - Brielle, Wilson Lighting, Naples, FL
Window shades - Cover Up Designs, Naples, FL
Plantation shutters - Naples Shutter, Naples, FL
Area rug - Abbey Carpet & Floor, Naples, FL

REAR EXTERIOR

Pool and spa - Nassau Pools Construction, Inc., Naples, FL
Blue planters - Pottery As Art, Bonita Springs, FL
Cabinetry, bar, barstools and sofas - Soho Kitchens and Designs, Naples, FL
Armchairs - Patio Renaissance, IDS, Naples, FL
Cocktail table - Ebel, IDS, Naples, FL
Area rug - Dash & Albert, IDS, Naples, FL
Grill and hood - Alfresco, Ferguson Enterprises, LLC, Naples, FL
Balcony chairs and chaise lounges - Cabana Coast, IDS, Naples, FL
Umbrellas - Treasure Garden, IDS, Naples, FL