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DESIGN

Down to the Studs *A fast-forward RENOVATION for a* *1983 Monaco Beach Club condo*

By Mary Thurman Yuhas | Photography by Amber Frederiksen

When a retired Indiana couple decided to buy a seasonal condo in Monaco Beach Club, it had the views and the Southwest Florida vibes they were seeking, except it was in dire need of not just a refresh, but a complete overhaul.

The couple had rented in Park Shore for years before deciding to buy their three-bedroom condo midway up the 18-story high-rise. There was one obvious challenge: It had not been changed since the tower went up in Park Shore in 1983. In that era, highly compartmentalized dwellings were de rigueur—a sharp contrast to open floor plans popular today. Why not take maximum advantage of the Gulf of Mexico views? After exploring their neighbors' updated units and





TOP: ENHANCING VIEWS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO WAS A MAJOR FOCUS OF THE RENOVATION. THE ORIGINAL MIRROR, CRAMPED BAR (ABOVE) WAS REPLACED WITH A NEW ONE (RIGHT) FEATURING WARM CORIAN FOR BOTH THE COUNTER AND BACKPLASH.

contemplating how airy their residence could be, the couple embarked on a renovation odyssey.

Following a friend's advice, the homeowners contracted EECON Construction Services. President Pete Emidy recommended Jinx McDonald Interior Designs team comprising Chrissy Howard, senior interior designer and lead designer, and Janine Blume, interior designer. Together, the two award-winning, Naples-based firms forged their clients' vision into reality.

"After about three meetings with the clients, we knew it was going to be a full gut down to the studs. A lot of it had to do with opening up the view and creating more storage," recalls Howard. "They wanted a clean, transitional style with a touch of glamour."

TRANSFORMATION

The original front door led to an enclosed, mirrored foyer providing no hint of the glorious panorama beyond. Today, the sophisticated retreat opens to an airy great room with the gulf as a stunning backdrop. Sheathed in a neutral color palette, the nearly 3,000-square-foot condo incorporates variations of blue that echo the wild blue beyond while splashes of the colors of driftwood, black, and gold infuse glamour. Generous use of performance fabric on most of the furnishings allows worry-free



THE ANTIQUATED GALLEY KITCHEN (ABOVE) WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A MODERN, OPEN SPACE WITH OUTDOOR VIEWS AND COMFORTABLE FUNCTIONALITY (LEFT). A LARGE SOAKING TUB WAS REPLACED WITH A LUXURIOUS SHOWER IN THE MASTER BATHROOM (BELOW LEFT). THE MASTER BEDROOM SHIMMERS LIKE THE GULF (BELOW).



entertaining and gives their grandchildren free rein in the elegant but comfortable home.

“There’s a lot going on in a relatively small space, but basically, we captured the view and combined competing elements,” Blume explains.

For the reconfigured dry bar, “we used the same Corian with warm veining on the counter and backsplash” to create unity, says Howard. Jewel-like sconces—fabricated from textured glass with a layer of gold leaf along the bottom and supported by hand-rubbed, black iron brackets—flank the bar.

Walls were removed to open the enclosed galley kitchen and two remaining load-bearing columns were hidden in plain sight after being converted into pantries. The couple worked closely with designers on the kitchen, which features Sub-Zero and Miele appliances and a coffee bar, a favorite feature where they brew fresh coffee, lattes, and green tea before settling into the great room to plan out their day.

To separate the formal dining and living spaces without being

obtrusive, the designers created an indigo sideboard with gold accents supported on a base of satin brass. “We commissioned it so it would fit perfectly between the two columns,” says Howard. Elevated dry wall finishes attractively obscure the sprinkler system and sprinkler heads.

Bringing the outside blues into the soothing master bedroom adds to the nurturing feel of nature that surrounds the plush space. Rows of custom pillows on the king-size bed make a subtle connection to the waves outside. “My goal was for them to have a relaxing haven at the end of the day,” notes Howard.

In the master bath, the couple requested a soaking tub that took up a lot of space be replaced with a luxurious shower. Gold fixtures,

ABODE



FROM LEFT: THE EN-SUITE GUEST ROOM FOR THE GRANDCHILDREN INCLUDES TWIN TRUNDLE BEDS; THE POWDER ROOM FEATURES THE COLORS OF DRIFTWOOD INCORPORATED IN THE CONDO DESIGN PALETTE.

Champagne-like suspended bubbles in the glass sconces, and a vanity chair embroidered on the back with a little shimmer enhance the space's sumptuous vibe.

Used by their adult children when they visit, the en-suite guest room features a king-size bed topped with über-cozy bedding. "Most important in guest bedrooms is treating guests to a spa-like retreat that is calming, well-furnished, and comfortable," says Howard.

The charming en-suite grandchildren's bedroom is alive with blues and greens. "It makes you feel like you are in Florida," Blume

adds, noting the twin trundle beds create more space for additional visitors and everything in the space is durable and washable.

The husband and wife are delighted with their home. "It makes me feel at peace, and we love the views. This is a dream I've always wanted, and I pinch myself that we have it," she says, praising the design team. Both designers are equally enthusiastic. "Our clients are over the moon. It was a labor of love, and we're extremely proud of the way it came together. This was a collaboration that made their dream home come to life," says Howard. «



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