

# A Casual Waterside Retreat

By Sarah Reidy-Ferguson  
Photography by Robert Brantley | Styling by Jackie Armour

(right) A grand staircase leads to the entry on the first floor. Windows were selected to take in the expansive water views. The balconies added on various floors serve as architectural accents and provide the instant ability to move from the interior to the exterior.



A comfortable yet elegant seating area surrounds the fireplace in the living room. Fabrics are in a range of blue shades. Windows were deliberately left without curtains or shades to emphasize the spectacular water view.



**Artwork, family heirlooms and striking views set the tone for the look of this seaside home.**

“A coastal casual expression,” interior designer Jackie Armour responds when asked to describe the style of the waterside home she completed for her clients along Florida’s east coast. Jackie, founder of the firm JMA Interior Design, was involved with this 16-month design endeavor from the architectural phase through the building phase and the furnishing stages. The selected interior finishes reflect the homeowners’ desire for “design details not to impede or take away from any of the views, but yet provide a clean backdrop,” Jackie says.

The designer credits pieces from the homeowners’ art collection and the home’s exterior natural surroundings as her inspiration for developing the overall design scheme. The color palette was lifted from the tones of a treasured painting, which now hangs in the lofty foyer. “We used over one dozen different shades of blue to pick up the varying shades of blue in the artwork and the ocean, beach and the sea grass beyond,” Jackie says. “By combining multiple shades of blue, we keep the visual interest going, your eye moves around the room, but you never lose sight of the view beyond.”





The placement of the couple's large scale painting within the 22-foot-high foyer not only serves to anchor the space, but the painting and a clean-finished, sand-colored accent table work together to create a sense of intimacy within the grand setting. Jackie seamlessly blended the homeowners' family antiques with contemporary clean-lined furnishings, upholstered in a mix of solids, stripes and patterns. The design choice of selecting natural sisal rugs for all the rooms mirrors the grasses found in the outdoor landscape.

The elegant livability of the interiors is extended to the home's exterior entertaining spaces. Natural coral stone was installed throughout the summer kitchen and bar area, surrounding the pool and lanai. The furniture, selected both

*"I am always aware of the environment around a project and how to preserve and enhance the surroundings, not only inside but outside."*



(left) A painting from the homeowners' art collection is proudly displayed above a natural-finished sideboard in the dining room. Tones from the painting inspired the room's accessories, soft fabrics and natural-weave rugs. The design of the chandelier continues the casual coastal theme.

(below) A custom-built bar area overlooks the expansive water views. The dark finish is carried to the barstools surrounding the bar area and the circular accent table. Accessories were inspired by elements of the sea.

(opposite) The kitchen design offers a clean white backdrop for beachy decorative accents to pop and stainless steel elements to shine.







Inspired by the sky and sea, a soft and soothing color palette of cream and blue shades was selected for the master bedroom and applied to the upholstered bed, furnishings and accent pieces.

for comfort and durability, was crafted from a high-end woven vinyl to mimic the style of natural wicker and finished in a shade similar to driftwood to reflect the shades of the dunes. A custom stone and mosaic tile tabletop was crafted for the summer kitchen space, positioned close by casual sectional seating and the sleek outdoor fireplace.

The result of this year-plus-long project is an ultimate retreat. “As a native Floridian, I am always aware of the environment around a project and how to preserve and enhance the surroundings, not only inside but outside,” Jackie says. ★

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The causal coastal theme continues in the bedroom through the selection of soft-to-the-touch bedding and carpet, as well as the choice to keep the windows free of drapery to let the impressive view in.

*“We carefully limited the color palette to complement not only the art, but also the external environment.”*



The tone-on-tone finishes were kept simple in the master bath, yet the walk-in shower and soaking tub provide immediate at-home luxury.





(left) The rear-facing view showcases the grand windows, balconies and outdoor entertaining spaces, thoughtfully designed to appreciate the breathtaking waterside locale.

(below) The sleek outdoor fireplace is covered in natural coral stone. Architectural details include a coffered ceiling and X-designed handrails.



(above) The refined elegant style of the interiors extends to the outdoor entertaining spaces. The furniture, selected for both comfort and durability, is crafted from a high-end woven vinyl to mimic the style of natural wicker and finished in a shade similar to driftwood to reflect the shades of the dunes. A custom stone and mosaic tile tabletop was crafted for the summer kitchen space.

## STYLE SECRETS

Follow these top designer tips to get this look in your own home.

Designer Jackie Armour can't stress enough the importance of including art within a design plan. She notes that the success of this project would not have been possible without her client's amazing

collection. If you're interested in incorporating artwork in your own home but at the beginning stages of acquiring pieces, Jackie insists that art is affordable for any budget. If you are just starting out, she suggests buying photography or taking your own photos and having them enlarged.

To incorporate the décor style of this home into yours, Jackie suggests keeping decorative furnishings simple. Look for very clean lines and varying shapes and heights, all elements that work collectively to create visual interest. And, although it may be

tempting, she recommends not buying suites of furniture because, ultimately, this design falls flat.

Look to the surrounding landscape or a treasured accessory for color palette inspiration. Jackie lifted shades of blue from the sky, water and her client's beloved painting, and natural colors from the exterior's native dune grasses for her interior design. These tones are applied to fabrics, paint colors, rugs and accent pieces.

Adding a handcrafted element to the interior design highlights the unique style of

this home. The hand-blocked wallpaper in the powder room was custom printed for this project.

The expansive water view dictated the architectural design of the home. From the moment you enter the front door, your views are through the house to the outdoors. Designing the windows in each room without curtains or shades reflects Jackie's desire to allow the outdoor view to play an integral part in the overall interior design of the home.