

SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND



In the new colorful, glossy, and glorious coffee table book *Classic Florida Style: The Houses of Taylor & Taylor* (The Monacelli Press, April 1, 2014, \$50), Miami Beach interior designer Phyllis Taylor says in the preface: “We believe that Florida is not only a state, but a state of mind. It’s a land infused with character, class, color, texture, pattern, light, and much more.” She also stands up to the “bad rap” that Florida’s design has received for being “too trendy, too kitschy, and too ephemeral.” Taylor and her husband, William, an architect who established the Taylor & Taylor Partnership in Miami in 1983, hope their work has the ability to put these “notions to rest.”

With photographs by Deborah Whitlaw Llewellyn and text written by Beth Dunlop, a frequent contributing writer to *Fisher Island Magazine* — see her story in this issue about 30 Star Island on page 68; she is also editor-in-chief of *Modern Magazine* and the author of *Great Houses of Florida* and *The Tropical Cottage: At Home in Coconut Grove* — the book takes an inside look with lush photography of private residences, some with celebrity status, that Taylor and Taylor have transformed. Their style is “formal living to be enjoyed in a relaxed, tropical setting.”

Ten luxurious homes are profiled, including a 15-room single-family home on Fisher Island. For this home, Taylor and Taylor wanted to convey the subtlety and sophistication befitting the house and its “enviable setting.” Plus, they were consistently mindful of maintaining the architectural style set by William K. Vanderbilt II.

The Ibis House, which University of Miami president Donna Shalala envisioned, both as the president's residence and as a place of gathering for the university community and visiting dignitaries, was completed in 2012. It was the last house to be built on a plot of land — formerly Smathers Four Fillies Farm — bequeathed to the university. Interiors of the LEED-certified building were sourced locally or made from recycled materials in order to narrow the home's carbon footprint and maintain the botanical integrity of the environment.



The oceanfront house of former Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, and his wife, Claire — nestled between South Carolina and Georgia — is spotlighted in a chapter entitled “Traditional.” “Though it’s not in Florida, the house and its owners have strong roots in the Sunshine State,” the opening paragraph states. Marino requested that much of the interior include a color scheme based on blue. Taylor’s interior also considered the importance of personal touches — such as a director’s chair with Marino’s name on it, a souvenir from the football player’s appearance in the movie *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, and an antique pine cabinet found in Charleston, S.C., which displays the Hall of Famer’s many career trophies.

The Marinos have worked with the Taylors for several decades on many of their homes, including the couple’s 20,000-square-foot home in Weston, which was sold in 2011. The Weston home is not featured in the book.

All of the homes spotlighted in the book are displayed with photographs and room by room descriptions, and serve as an inspiration to anyone who lives in Florida — or as the book’s introduction says, “or dreams of living there.”