

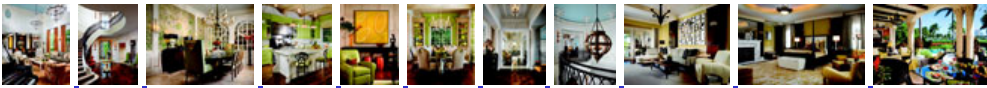
Issue 19-3 Cover Story

PARADISE FOUND

Design-Savvy Owners Collaborate With Husband-And-Wife Team Taylor & Taylor In Creating A Distinct Interior Scheme For A Fisher Island Grand Villa



Click Image To Enlarge



INTERIOR DESIGN

[Phyllis Taylor](#)

[The Taylor & Taylor Partnership, Miami Beach, FL](#)

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

[William Taylor](#)

[The Taylor & Taylor Partnership, Miami Beach, FL](#)

ARCHITECTURE

[Thomas K. Benedict](#)

[The Benedict Group, Deerfield Beach, FL](#)

CLIENT CONSULTANT

[Jeffrey Howard, Miami, FL](#)

BUILDER

[Coastal Homes, Miami, FL](#)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

[Susan Hall Landscape Architecture, Inc.](#)

[Merritt Island, FL](#)

TEXT

[De Schofield](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

[Kim Sargent, Palm Beach Gardens, FL](#)

"Accessible only by private ferry or helicopter, the island paradise of Fisher Island, located three miles off the shore of Miami, may very well be the world's most exclusive address. Lured by the unique tropical ambiance of this exclusive community, the owners of this spectacular villa called upon talented husband-and-wife team interior designer Phyllis Taylor and architect Bill Taylor to customize their new home, which offers 10,000 square feet of living space with an additional 2,000 square feet of outdoor terraces. "The area was once the family home of the Vanderbilts, whose 1920s mansion currently serves as the Island's clubhouse," Bill says. "Strict guidelines for residences require the architectural style to complement the Vanderbilt mansion's Spanish Mediterranean style."

Like the other residences found on the island, the villa's exterior expertly meets this stringent requirement. The interior, however, eschews this influence, taking a decided turn north to France, and in particular Paris, as inspiration for its sophisticated and elegant decor. "The owners did not want the interior theme restricted by the Spanish Mediterranean vernacular," says Phyllis, who, along with her husband, has worked with the owners personally and professionally for over 20 years. "The challenge was to create a plan that satisfied this request yet was not such a disconnect between the inside and outside styles." Cued by her clients' love of French style, Phyllis' solution was a Provincial theme with a more urbane approach to depict the cosmopolitan locale. "We felt this house should reflect its environment," Phyllis says. "And so, the interiors were designed to make a statement in a manner that was more akin to a well-appointed Parisian apartment."

"We were going for a look that emulates an elegant Parisian apartment," interior designer Phyllis Taylor says, "dramatic and glamorous, but not heavy or overdone."

The continental decor scheme of the home initiates in the foyer, a space defined by walls of hand-cut Florida keystone in homage to the Vanderbilt estate's materials palette. Prominent ironwork detailing in the custom-designed stair railing and entrance door references the Parisian-inspired motif, as does hand-scraped walnut flooring in a French Versailles pattern. Steps away, the grand salon introduces the home's signature citrus palette of lemon, lime and orange. Iridescent draperies made of tangerine woven silk set a glamorous backdrop for a conversation grouping that is grounded by elegant, velvet-clad sofas. Additional seating is provided via two Madeline Stewart lounge chairs that are upholstered in a textural, leaf-patterned damask and a pair of unique chairs discovered by the owners. Low-hung chandeliers lend a human scale to the grand salon's towering ceiling, which Phyllis had painted sky blue. "Our main objective was to lend a sense of intimacy to such a tall-ceilinged space," Bill says, citing his addition of the large oval windows and meticulous panel molding that tones the room's scale to a comfortable level.

Bill designed the adjacent dining room around two antique mirrored wall panels. Made of solid pine and over 150 years old, the panels work far better than actual windows to lend a sense of openness. Sand-toned travertine flooring grounds the grouping that features an oversized, double-pedestal dining table made of Macassar ebony wood and sleek, tall-backed chairs clad in sand and citrus-striped silk.

Architectural detailing serves to unify the nearby kitchen and adjoining breakfast area, where Bill placed an arched feature between the two spaces for cohesiveness. The differentiation of the bright lime-green kitchen cabinetry and the bleached- wood cabinetry in the breakfast area delineates the two rooms.

Upstairs and through the grand main hall lies the master bedroom and separate sitting area, where a restful color scheme of grays and creams fills both rooms. In the master bedroom, a custom-designed, Madagascar ebony bed and its tufted-leather headboard are flanked by a pair of consoles used as bedside tables. Panels of Sapelli wood, like those in the sitting area, frame the bed and provide visual continuity.

An extension of the interiors, the expansive loggia serves as an outdoor living room set with multiple seating arrangements that lend a sense of refinement in continuity with the interior scheme. With meticulous detailing and continental flair, the home is a fitting tribute to its design-savvy owners and their creative design team.

[Click Here to View Interior Design Sources](#)

<< [Back to Table of Contents](#)