Comfort & Joy

By adopting an abundant mindset, a design team delivers a Naples residence with inspired spaces for the celebration of family.

Above: The home’s entry, with a striking wooden staircase designed by Harrison Design and fabricated by Architectural Millwork and Stairs, combines a more traditional vaulted ceiling with a transitional iron railing pattern, crafted by Mudge Metalcraft, and foreshadows the stylistic complexity and marriage of materials that are forthcoming.

Right: Layered landscaping and a statement-making geometric configuration of pavers by Windham Studio beckon visitors towards the unique bubbling water feature and massive two-story arched doorway. Loading the living room to the north of center allows views through the home to the water without giving away all of the interior.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, this home was created to be lived in and enjoyed. The rooms were designed to be filled with conversation, laughter, and the occasional cheering of spirited sports fans. The kitchen was meant for culinary adventures and the seating was selected to be ample, comfortable and resist the occasional juice stain from young grandchildren. This home, at its essence, was designed for happiness.

For designer Lisa Kahn and architect Greg Palmer, the challenge was to successfully marry function and design in a truly creative and warm way that would echo the vibe and interests of the close-knit family who occupy it. Kahn had become acquainted with the Ohio homeowners (a couple with three adult children and three grandchildren) years earlier when she remodeled their previous Port Royal home. Now they were beginning from scratch, with an empty lot and water views of Treasure Cove.

“This house is its own cabinet of curiosities that you walk through,” says designer Lisa Kahn. “Every space has something that is unique and really suits the people they are, the family they are, and the life they lead.”

above: The home was designed to capitalize on the water views with floor-to-ceiling windows. In this great room tableau, the seating area riffs a blue and gray color palette with fabrics from Schumacher and Cowtan and Tout. The ceiling here is finished with layers of capiz shell covered in a light layer of Venetian plaster, which gives the room its pearlescent glow.

The stacked stone that surrounds the wine cabinet and weathered oak ceiling beams in the dining room echo the home’s exterior and add to the home’s architectural integrity. The chandelier, from Los Angeles-based Richard Roy Custom Design, along with Crate & Barrel dining chairs whimsically upholstered in both Thibaut and Schumacher fabrics in warm neutrals, make the dining room dynamic and interesting.
“We decided to start out with an abundant mindset, use everything they liked, and put it all together artfully,” says Kahn. “Our goal was to create a sanctuary of spaces that embrace you and an environment that will support their overall happiness.”

That began with the family’s love of the outdoors. Kahn stood in the space where the home would go and considered the surrounding elements of sky, water, and foliage when deciding on the color palette. “By [bringing those elements] into the house and having tons of glass, you feel like you’re outside in a way,” she says. “That blurring of the lines is really powerful to how the space feels and creating that sanctuary-like backdrop.”

Palmer echoes that sentiment and points to the expansive windows across the front and rear walls of the home, which effectively take your eye from the front door through the interior space and across the pool to the water behind it. The weathered cypress beams under the front overhanging balcony are also carried into the dining room and across the covered backyard seating area. “There’s a play between the indoors and outdoors,” he says. “It’s all little gestures—nothing in your face. It’s an attempt, in a quiet way, to lead you through the house.”

For both designer and architect, it was essential to establish the home’s voice in the opening rooms. Palmer classifies the architectural detailing as walking the line between traditional and transitional modern to evoke both a soothing familiarity and freshness. “We used very traditional above: Butterfly-matched Tiffany-blue natural quartzite slabs were used to create a captivating island top and backsplash for this kitchen that bucks the all-white kitchen trend.

Textural grasscloth wallpaper by Thibaut applied to the ceiling of the media room brings down the cavernous feel created by the room’s height to create a more cozy and intimate space. Add to that the custom walnut bar designed and built by AlliKriste Fine Cabinetry with patterned Hancock and Moore stools and an elegant pool table from Blatt Billiards to create the ultimate diversion spot.
materials, but crafted them in a way that is more modern,” he says. “This family lives in a more traditional home up north, so a lot of elements in these rooms are similar to what they have there, but they will experience them in a completely different way here.”

Mixed materials create the stylistic fusion. In addition to the entry, this is evident in the kitchen, where wood is combined with brushed chrome, iron, brass detailing on the range hood, and a stunning island and backsplash made out of quartzite slabs.

Paramount to the success of the home’s design was consideration of both warmth and functionality in its numerous communal spaces. The media room delivers a myriad of diversionary options with its walnut bar area, a coastal-apropos tan billiards table and expansive sectional where the family likes to gather in mass for movie watching.

As the homeowners entertain year round, it was essential that the backyard space have its own convivial spirit. Multiple seating areas deliver ample opportunities for causal interaction, while an island with counter chairs ensures the chef in the gorgeous and well-
equipped summer kitchen will never want for company. A shimmering, multi-tiered pool with a sun shelf for grandchildren sits as a central gem in the tableau. While the shared spaces deliver countless charismatic style moments, every guest bedroom has an individualized finesse that truly makes the home inclusive. “A lot of times when we do projects, the guest rooms are considered more of a B-level than an A-level space, but here they really wanted their guest rooms to be well appointed and beautiful because they wanted all of their family to be included,” says Kahn. “Each of the bedrooms has its own color scheme and personality. And all of the rooms have a totally different vibe, while still working within that sanctity philosophy.”

The success of the house is not in its intrinsic beauty, although it is plush with it, but rather with the joy it delivers to the homeowners who describe it in three words: “inviting, comfortable, and serene.”

Words to live by, as it turns out.

above and right: For the covered loggia, architect Greg Palmer flawlessly executed the delicate dance between maximizing views with expansive openings, while also providing enough wall to create the feeling of enclosure and defined architectural space. The two-sided fireplace anchors the loggia’s seating area, which is replete with ultra-comfortable Summer Classics furniture, and also creates an unobstructed flow to the sparkling multi-level pool designed by Scott Windham.