

EAST MEETS WEST

FLORIDA TROPICAL MIXES WITH CALIFORNIA MISSION IN THIS FRESH INTERPRETATION OF INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING AT ITS BEST

ARCHITECTURE WILLIAM TAYLOR, THE TAYLOR & TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP, MIAMI BEACH, FL
INTERIOR DESIGN PHYLLIS TAYLOR, THE TAYLOR & TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP, MIAMI BEACH, FL
BUILDER LOWELL HOMES, INC., CORAL GABLES, FL
TEXT DE SCHOFIELD
PHOTOGRAPHY DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN, ATLANTA, GA

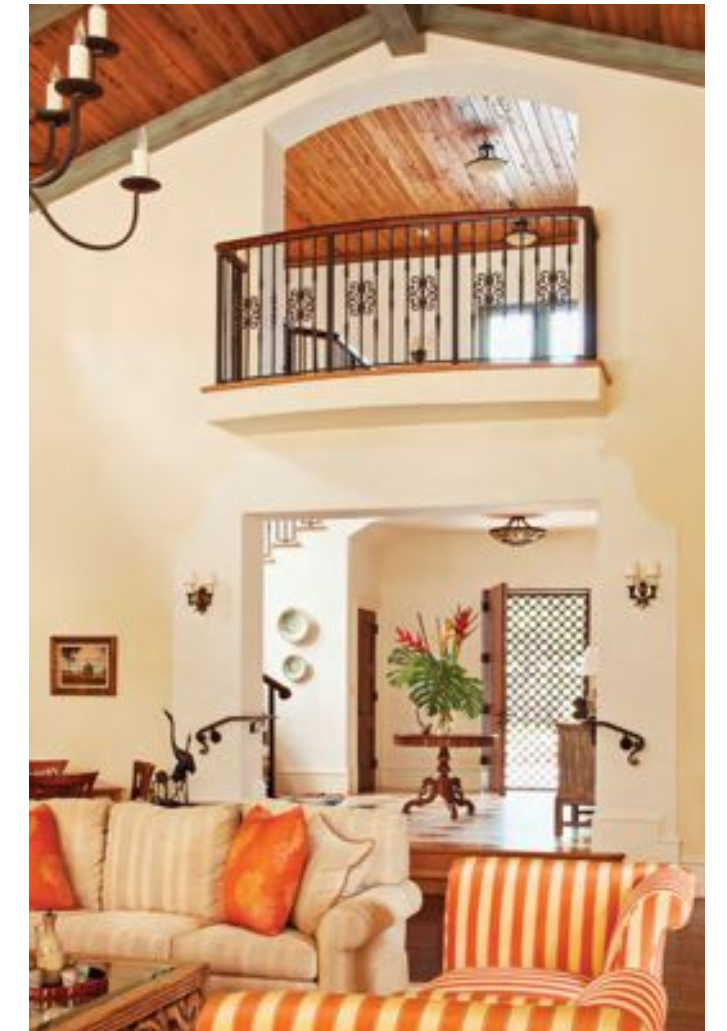
“This house pays homage to George Washington Smith, the renowned architect who created Santa Barbara as we know it today,” Bill Taylor says. “It’s a statement in testimony to his style — the front door and stucco columns are exact replicas from his house.”



AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN'S
MIAMI
HOME & DECOR

Having lived and raised their children in the same house in their beloved Coral Gables, Fla., neighborhood for 25 years, a real estate developer and his wife decided it was time to build their dream home. “We loved the location, ambiance and lush vegetation of our neighborhood, which had once been a natural hammock,” the wife explains. “We had a particular fondness for the property directly across the street from our house, as it is situated on a secluded end of a

Graceful curves of a turned wood and metal chandelier in the living room underscore the lines of the fireplace mantle that extends to outline the passageways to the adjoining library. The homeowners' sofa and cocktail table mix hearthside with newly acquired vintage, floral armchairs from T&T Finds and Century's 1920s-style armchairs to create a warm and inviting ambiance.



ARCHITECT WILLIAM TAYLOR'S CUSTOM-DESIGNED STAIRWAY IN THE ENTRY FEATURES A SIMPLE IRONWORK MOTIF THAT IS ECHOED IN THE SECOND-FLOOR BALCONY OVERLOOKING THE LIVING ROOM.

natural lake. When a 'For Sale' sign unexpectedly appeared; we called the realtor and purchased it the same day."

The couple then commissioned the Taylor & Taylor Partnership — their first choice for the rebuild project. "They envisioned a timeless, gracious, personalized home that would serve as a welcoming gathering place for their children and grandchildren," says architect William Taylor, who took inspiration for the home's classic architectural style from the iconic Mediterranean estates of

old Santa Barbara, Calif. "We wanted a home that suited the historic feel of Coral Gables and felt the two aesthetics were very similar," the husband says. "Bill was very strict about maintaining the integrity of the architecture, both exterior and interior, in every detail."

Upon tear down of the original structure, the site revealed a slight incline that slopes down to the lake and peninsula. The acre-and-a-half plot offered a fortunate and unusual (for South Florida) sense of terrain that was the driving force for the floor plan of interior spaces that unfold with



an angled view to the lake. Taylor positioned the 10,000-square-foot home straight on the property, but with all interior axes angled toward the lake. The house overlooks the finger of the lake, which creates the look and feel of a private lagoon — one that attracts a multitude of water birds and evokes a sense of serenity that carries through to the indoors.

As for the interiors, designer Phyllis Taylor's response to the challenge of including existing furnishings into the decor scheme speaks to the careful consideration of scale and proportion. Accordingly, the decor features a very personalized, un-decorated look that defies typecasting and reflects the owners' reserve and good taste. An eclectic marriage of family heirlooms and repurposed furnishings pairs happily with an assemblage of new pieces that range from contemporary to traditional, with accent pieces collected from the couple's travels to Japan providing a subtle Asian theme as a unifying thread.

A sense of refined, understated elegance initiates from the main entry, where gleaming

LEFT: Fine architectural detailing shapes the dining room articulated in shades of green for continuity with the outdoor view. Here, artwork featuring a scene from Jackson Hole, Wyoming — a favorite vacation spot of the homeowners — dots the wall covered in a subdued bamboo-green grasscloth from Jeffrey Michaels. A 1920s European sideboard adds to the scene.

FOR THE BREAKFAST AREA, THE CHOICE TO FEATURE A DURABLE SUNBRELLA-CLAD CUSTOM BANQUETTE INSTEAD OF THE USUAL DINING GROUPING OFFERS A RELAXING ALTERNATIVE THAT DELIVERS MAXIMUM COMFORT AND PRACTICALITY.

cream and Jerusalem Gold marble done in a frame checkerboard pattern lends a sense of presence. Nearby, a mélange of subtle details adds up to one big effect in the living room. Here, walnut hardwood flooring makes an easy transition from the entry and grounds the space with warm wood tones. An unusually large Oushak area rug in the home's organic palette of gold, orange and green was the designer's starting point. The generous-sized space features two social groupings; the larger of which includes sofas from the owners' previous residence and striped chairs — reproductions of a 1920s style made famous by renowned British architect Edwin Lutyens — clad in bold cinnabar and cream.

Tall windows in the dining room portray a view to the front of the house, but the space opens onto a foyer that affords a rear view towards the patio and lake beyond. From the leafy patterns on the dining chairs and the area rug, to the green grasscloth wall covering, subtle Florida references fill the space. Believing that a simple paint finish on the walls would be too bland, the designer introduced the layer of texture in a leafy bamboo green to balance and reflect the light softly in a way that paint wouldn't.

The kitchen serves as a bridge between the home's formal and informal living spaces and is a warm gathering place on its own, with a large island and sun-drenched breakfast room. The space features





"I've seen many loggias in my day, but none that are as central to the house as this one," the architect says. Deep-seated wicker sofas continue the tropical theme, as does a whimsical, ceramic elephant garden table the owners found while traveling in Vietnam.

Architect William Taylor took inspiration for the home’s classic architectural style from the iconic Mediterranean estates of old Santa Barbara, Calif. “We wanted a home that suited the historic feel of Coral Gables and felt the two aesthetics were very similar,” the homeowner says.



cream marble flooring, and a ceiling articulated in herringbone brick and embedded with uplighting, while a large, oval chandelier with a leafy feel casts a warm glow.

The capacious loggia is a main keystone of the design plan. “This space works so well for entertaining and has great traffic flow for large groups,” the wife says. All of the main areas open onto this space, and it contains multiple seating and dining areas that accommodate large and small groups equally.

“It was a privilege to collaborate with such gracious, design-astute clients in creating a home that speaks to their appreciation of natural beauty,” Bill Taylor says. “This was their first custom home, and even with the husband’s vast experience in residential development, he was often surprised about the challenges inherent in custom building. And the end result ... nothing less than spectacular.”

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SOURCES

LIVING ROOM

Sofas, game table and chairs - Owners’ Collection
Orange accent pillow fabric - Designtex, Miami, FL
Floral print armchairs - T&T Finds, Miami Beach, FL
Striped armchairs - Century Furniture, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table - Tomlinson/Erwin-Lambeth, Thomasville, NC
Chandelier - Paul Ferrante, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
Desk and desk chair - Ebanista, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Chair fabric - Jim Thompson, Jerry Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Floor lamp - Currey & Co, Atlanta, GA

Wall sconces - Haig Lighting, Bart Heikes Assoc., Vero Beach, FL
Drapery fabric - Taffard Fabrics, Nessen Showroom and Osborne & Little, Ammon Hickson, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Sheers - Pindler & Pindler, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Fireplace fabricated by Dutch Master, Inc., Loxahatchee, FL
Area rug - Stark Carpet Corp., Hollywood, FL

FOYER ENTRY

Center table - Ebanista, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Stairway, handrail and screen door fabricated by G Metal Industries, Inc., Miami, FL
Bench - Century Furniture, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Cushion fabric - Scalamandré, Hollywood, FL
Vase - Art & Decor Solutions, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Foyer light fixture - Paul Ferrante, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
Stairway light fixture - E.G. Cody, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Flooring fabricated by Piedras International, Miami, FL

DINING ROOM

Table and chairs - Ebanista, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Seat fabric and drapery sheers - Pindler & Pindler, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Back fabric - Highland Court, Pindler & Pindler, Inc., Dania Beach, FL
Sideboard - T&T Finds, Miami Beach, FL
Chandelier and wall lamps - Chapman Manufacturing Co., Avon, MA
Artwork - Marianne Friedland Gallery, Naples, FL
Wall covering - Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Drapery fabric - Arabel Fabrics, North Miami Beach, FL
Area rug - Jalils Rug Collection, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Wood flooring - Hardwood Design, Inc., Boca Raton, FL

KITCHEN/BREAKFAST AREA

Double oven and refrigerator - Viking, Ferguson Enterprises, Coral Gables, FL
Chandelier - Studio Steel Lighting, John Andrew, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Breakfast table, side chairs and banquette - Century Furniture, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Light fixture - Currey & Co, Atlanta, GA
Drapery fabric - Arabel Fabrics, North Miami Beach, FL

LOGGIA

Sofas - Alfresco Homes, Pottstown, PA
Cocktail table, garden table and area rug - Owners’ Collection
Server - McGuire Furniture Co., San Francisco, CA
Dining table - Artifacts International, Chula Vista, CA
Side chairs - Kreiss Collection, Coral Gables, FL
Flooring fabricated by Piedras International, Miami, FL

THROUGHOUT

Millwork and molding - Peace Millwork Co., Miami, FL
Windows and doors - Weather Shield Windows & Doors, Medford, WI

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