



Bright & Brilliant

FRESH PERSPECTIVE AND THOUGHTFUL
INNOVATIONS BRING LUXURY AND LIVABILITY
TOGETHER IN A UNIQUE FAMILY RETREAT
ON NORTH PALM BEACH.





Between two majestic live oak trees, a parcel of land along a Florida lake completely captivated a Washington, D.C., couple in search of a place to build a second home where their family could reunite for years to come. The location, an established neighborhood in North Palm Beach, was ideal. With a picture of the property in hand, they called upon Muse Architects of Bethesda, Maryland, whom they had worked with before, to help them build a glorious getaway.

Principal designer Stephen Muse joined the family for a scouting visit in the Sunshine State. He says, "We talked about what they liked and didn't like, about ways to make the home fit the site and the neighborhood." In addition to aesthetics, he had to consider the area's zoning regulations and the durability needed for potential hurricanes there. Local materials and sources were also priority, so Muse made another trip to Florida, this time with a Muse staffer, and in a concentrated design effort, they turned the existing one-story home on the property into a makeshift office. He says, "If you want to see a detail, you just walk outside and look at it."

Amid this immersion, the foundational theme developed. "The idea was to foster unity and shape a design that would literally bring them together," says Muse. They determined a large, central room was the key to connecting everyone. In lieu of an entry hall, they opted for an



A departure from the norm in this Florida neighborhood, a single drive replaced the circular one, eliminating concrete and providing space for a garden and loggia with a covered walkway leading to the front door. The angled bay contains the library, which is made of cypress and features two built-in workstations, three walls of books, and a lovely view. Indeed this entire home, a masterpiece of steel and glass, is built with form and function in mind. Says architect Stephen Muse, "You should be able to live in your house during the day without turning the lights on."





Above: In the kitchen, the homeowners opted for a table over an island to vary the vibe from that of their primary residence in D.C. Below left: Designers Don Love and Pamela Black commissioned decorative artist Michael Jeran to paint a life-size mural of tropical plants and flowers in the dining room, using his signature style that mimics the feel of an old blueprint. Below right and opposite: The exquisite staircase helps divide and define the central living space.







Throughout the home, the designers shaped the interiors “to reflect a modern take on classic tradition.” Above: Just off the living room, the sitting room features bold pops of color and a sophisticated mix of textures. This versatile space, with its own entrance and ensuite can easily become a spacious ground-level bedroom.

open concept design with glass doors and windows on both sides. They also chose a singular option for going from the first to the second floor—a sculptural stair made of glass and steel and inspired by a flock of birds flying in alignment over the ocean.

To take the design from concept to completion, Muse worked with a talented team. Owner Randy Webb and project manager Ed Monahan of Webb Builders took on the contractor role, and Mario Williams of Nievera Williams in Palm Beach was the landscape architect.

“We wanted to ensure the family could enjoy the property both indoors and out,” says Muse. They accomplished this by adding a loggia, lawn, and pool, along with covered and uncovered terraces.

“Most of the home’s public and private quarters capture exquisite views, so we wanted to take advantage of every moment from sunrise to sundown,” says Don Love of SLD Interiors in Washington, D.C. He and design partner Pamela Black joined the collaboration to help outfit the spaces in the “soft, sophisticated,

serene” look the couple wanted. Plaster walls, cypress details, stone and wood floors, and an infusion of natural light set the stage for brilliance. The designers worked with a furniture maker in Pennsylvania to design custom pieces. Says Love, “This gave us full reign to define dimensions that fit the space and control color and make it special.”

In the end, every corner of this vacation home was crafted with care in hopes that beauty, artistry, and scenery will ultimately underscore and illuminate one thing: togetherness.



Above: Though the poolside trellis is made of durable metal, it was painted to mimic cypress, thus keeping with the tone of the exterior designs. Below: Two views of the same porch show the stone floors that repeat in the adjacent living room to bring continuity to indoor/outdoor living. Vertical lines in the columns show where Muse cleverly hid storm shutters. He says, "All of the necessities are worked into the design so they don't look like extras."







A unique feature of this room, a raised ceiling in the master suite makes the space seem even larger and more inviting. However, each bedroom has access to a porch with incredible vistas thereby practically making every room a retreat in its own right.

