

FLORIDA DESIGN

the great
OUTDOORS
Life & Design Alfresco



SUMMER SPIRIT
A Vacation Sanctuary
in the Florida Keys



JASON LYNN & ALEXIS VENANZI

The Decorators Unlimited
"Modern Marvel," page 144

Projects like the ones Alexis Venanzi and Jason Lynn recently took on in Hypoluxo Island don't come along very often. The massive residence's design was guided by its homeowner's wish to have something truly special, regardless of price or timeline. Venanzi and Lynn delivered with clean lines, simple geometry, and a minimalist perspective on ornamentation. "A lot of our design intent was to hide the mechanics of the home, which isn't always easy," says Venanzi. "We wanted people to walk in and ask, 'how does *that* work?'"



ALLISON PALADINO & ZITA RUDD

Paladino Rudd Interior Design
"Room to Play," page 156

The Palm Beach residence featured in this volume from Paladino Rudd Interior Design happens to be the fourth house the studio has designed for the clients. This time around, the loyal homeowners wanted something different from the team. The directive was for contemporary and calm, not traditional as had been their preference in the past. To say the designers were game is an understatement. "It was all about clean lines and designing so that most rooms capture the views of the Atlantic Ocean," says Paladino. "It's serene and inviting."



JOHN MCCLAIN

John McClain Interiors
"New Reflections," page 164

From the moment they met, architect Ray Scott knew designer John McClain was the right person to respectfully update his wife's childhood Orlando home. For McClain, the job was a chance to give his clients many more family moments to make cherished memories for years to come. "The before condition of the house, a mid-century modern gem, is almost unrecognizable from the updated yet classic structure we see today," says McClain. "This was a special, perhaps once-in-a-career, opportunity that our team will never forget."



CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN & TOM DIVERIO

Dunagan Diverio Design Group
"Work in Progress," page 174

Designer Charlotte Dunagan met the homeowner of the Miami Beach residence featured in this edition many years ago and has never stopped working with him on this house. That's because the philanthropist continues to amass land on his property and continually calls on Dunagan Diverio Design Group to work their magic. "My close relationship with him is a labor of love that unfolds as his lifestyle progresses," says Dunagan. "The home just keeps evolving." Among the highlights? A wine cellar and degustation room, and a massage cabana.



JUDITH LIEGEOIS

Judith Liegeois Designs
"Cool, Calm & Collected,"
page 184

For some Florida homeowners, the pandemic had its ups along with its many downs. Naples couple Lee and Susan Bairl, for instance, used the Covid-19 downtime to leave their gated community life behind and work with designer Judith Liegeois on their dream home just steps from Vanderbilt Beach. Liegeois was charged with creating a zen residence that would make the most of its 7,000 square feet. "There was much freedom regarding the use of color and the organic elements," says Liegeois. "It was both challenging and incredibly satisfying."



JUDY KING

Judy King Interiors
"Stepping Up," page 192

As Judy King sees it, the best part of her job is "working with open-minded and creative clients who give you license to have fun with a project." That was certainly the case with the residence featured in this issue, a Sarasota penthouse that's all about contemporary living. The key to the space's success was to let its vistas do the talking with a fuss-free aesthetic. "We purposely used a neutral palette in the materials and on the walls," says King, "and we left all the views completely unobstructed." As a result, the penthouse is now used more than previously anticipated.



SANDY MOORE & MEGAN NEWMAN

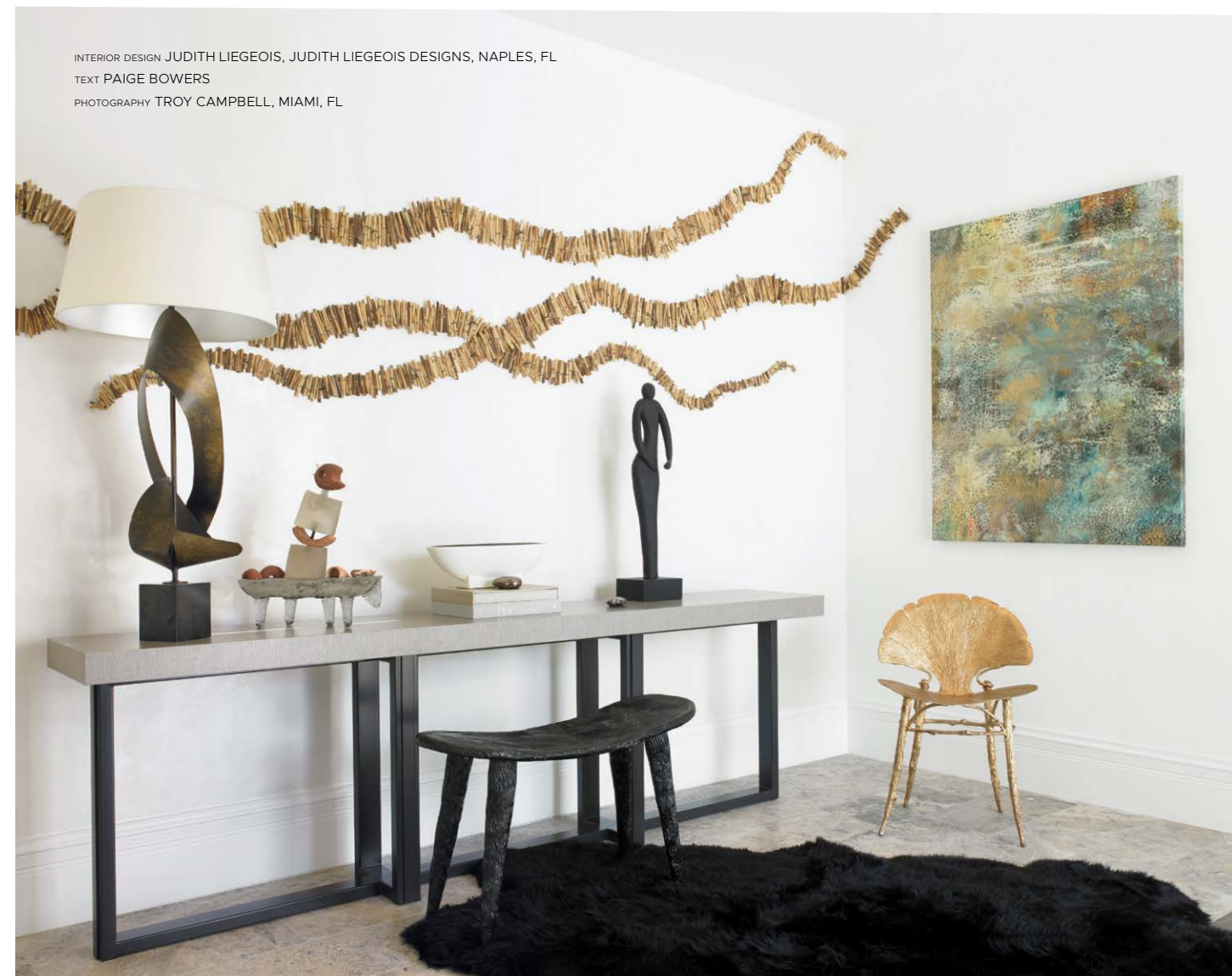
Accentrics Interiors
"Paradise Found," page 198

Adjectives like "massive" and "enormous" come to mind when looking at the Key Haven vacation home of Lori and Michael Kosloske. The Tampa couple enlisted Accentrics Interiors to deliver a vacation estate that was as all about life alfresco. To that end, exterior spaces bursting with personality and amenities like a bocce court, a lazy river underneath the structure, a swim-up pool bar, and an elevated hot tub are part of the equation. Not surprisingly, says interior designer Sandy Moore, the house is "creating its own history as a Key West landmark."



COOL, CALM & COLLECTED

A SEASONED DESIGNER HELPS A
NAPLES COUPLE CUSTOMIZE THEIR
DREAM RETREAT JUST STEPS FROM
VANDERBILT BEACH



INTERIOR DESIGN JUDITH LIEGEOIS, JUDITH LIEGEOIS DESIGNS, NAPLES, FL
TEXT PAIGE BOWERS
PHOTOGRAPHY TROY CAMPBELL, MIAMI, FL

LIKE MANY OTHER PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, Lee and Susan Baierl made some life-altering decisions during the pandemic. Luckily, theirs was for the better. As shut-downs and shelter-in-place orders became the norm, the Naples couple decided they wanted out of their gated community in lieu of an address closer to the beach. Existing residences with their requirements proved hard to come by, but after finding a prime lot just off Gulf Shore Drive with a partly built structure, the two opted to start their new seaside chapter with a new build. And after construction of said 7,000-square-foot residence near Vanderbilt Beach was completed, they turned to designer Judith Liegeois to help them create the tranquil retreat they had envisioned.

“I needed someone who understood how to create a zen home,” says Susan, who had entrusted Liegeois with her previous abode. “To me, that means a balance of harmony and relaxation... I didn’t want too many patterns or heavy furniture. We chose Judith

ABOVE: In the foyer, a wall installation (made up of dried horsetail from the Mississippi River) by Ran Adler, as well as sculptural accessories, art, and furniture impart the zen vibe of the residence.

LEFT: A second-floor alcove reveals a tree sculpture (part of the homeowners’ previous art collection) by Ed Koehler, a painting by Leland Brinkman, and a wall installation depicting birds in mid-flight made from acacia thorns by Adler.



LEFT: A serene black and gray palette dominates the living room, where pops of color come via pillows and accessories. The wall behind the fireplace features a ribbed, hand-painted wallpaper customized by the design team.

BELOW: A white John Hutton sofa is nestled in a seating area near the wine cellar, making it the perfect spot to enjoy a glass. Designer Judith Liegeois' eye for layering is apparent with the varying pillows, the cowhide area rug, and the blue canvas.



because she's easy to work with. She takes her time, thinks things through, and really listens to our needs."

The Baiers' musts were multiple. As they travel often with their 15-year-old son who competes in tennis internationally, they insisted on a comfortable retreat, but one with enough space for entertaining the many friends and Pittsburgh-based family members that are regulars at their annual Christmas party.

As Liegeois began to scour the furniture and art to tell her interior story, she kept

Susan's zen directive front of mind, and one name kept popping up: Ran Adler. The Gulf Coast artist is well-known for his organic installations and spiritual perspective. The designer, who's worked with Adler before, knew his aesthetic would be exactly what the Baiers were looking for, and she was right.

"When Judith showed me an art installation from Ran representing soaring birds, it ticked all the boxes," says Susan. That particular installation (made from acacia thorns), as well as other works by Adler, soon found their way to the home.

In terms of palette, Liegeois knew the art collecting couple would welcome color, but because the west-facing residence receives such intense light throughout the day, the designer dialed back the hues to keep the tone of the home calm and neutral. Color does make an appearance, albeit in more subdued ways via pillows, lighting, a furniture piece or two, and various accessories.

“When you come into the home, it’s welcoming and subdued,” says Liegeois. “There’s a piece made from horsetails by Ran in the foyer that gives a sense of peace, and then as you climb the stairs there’s plenty of color, which adds an element of fun. It’s a good balance.”

All in all, the home’s customization took a little more than a year to complete, largely because design selections were made before supply chain issues became a problem. And because the work was done during the slow days of the pandemic, the Baiers were there every step of the way ensuring their wishes were fulfilled.

“No matter where we go or stay, no place is more comfortable than this home Judith has helped us create,” says Susan. “No other place on Earth feels this good.”



ABOVE: As the homeowners entertain often, the clean, classic kitchen is ideal for informal gatherings. “The island is huge, and I like that we have an area of it that’s done in walnut,” says Liegeois. “That takes away from the magnitude of it, and also designates the space where you have breakfast or coffee.” Mirrored backsplashes and a chandelier amp up the glamour factor.



ABOVE: In the dining room, a lacquered white table is surrounded by chairs and a bright yellow bench, anchoring the room with eclectic charm. A branch lighting fixture custom designed by Liegeois and pendant lights that mimic paper lanterns add color and personality to the space. “The lanterns are so unique, they bring a smile to my heart every time they’re on,” says homeowner Susan Baiert. “The neighbors appreciate them at night as well, telling us how beautiful they look from the windows.”

Because it's rather high up, the family refers to this space as the "cloud room." An extra-large sectional and game table makes the third-floor room an excellent spot for the homeowners' teenage son to hang out with his friends.



SOURCES

FOYER & ALCOVE

Sculpture – *Tree of Life*, Ed Koehler Naples, FL
Wall art – *Iron Air*, Leland Brinkman, Naples, FL
Flying birds – *Swarm of Thorns*, Ran Adler, Naples, FL
Console – Creative Metal and Wood, Thomasville, NC
Woman sculpture – *Mod Lady*, John Serrian, Cape Coral, FL
Ginkgo chair – Ed Koehler, Naples, FL
Wall abstract – *Custom Currents*, Ran Adler, Naples, FL
Artwork on wall – DL Watson, dlwatson.com

Area rug – Auskin, New Zealand

LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Corragio, Bellevue, WA
Pillows – Rubelli Fabric, Designer's Guild, designersguild.com
Club chair – Kravet Furniture, kravet.com
Cocktail ottoman designed by Judith Liegeois Designs, Naples, FL, and fabricated by Michael Schmidt Custom Interiors & Woodworkers, Naples, FL
SEATING AREA
White love seat – Crosby, Hutton Home, Miami, FL
Round pillow – Designer's Guild, designersguild.com

Ottoman – Arteriors, arteriorshome.com
Drink table – Arteriors, arteriorshome.com
Sconce – Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA
Blue wall art – Leland Brinkman, Naples, FL
KITCHEN
Stools – Casa Italia Naples, Naples, FL
Chandelier – Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA
DINING ROOM
Chairs – Corragio, Bellevue, WA
Bench – Rubelli Fabric, Kravet, kravet.com
Branch lighting designed by Judith Liegeois Designs, Naples, FL, and fabricated by Christopher Poehlmann, Philadelphia, PA

Pendant lighting – Aqua Gallery, aquagallery.com
FAMILY ROOM
Sofa – Owner's collection
Round pillow – Evelyn Prelonge, France
Green pillows – Kevin O' Brien Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Face pillow – Designers' Guild, designersguild.com
Cocktail table and ottomans – Kravet Furniture, kravet.com
Artwork – Fragments, DL Watson, dlwatson.com
THROUGHOUT
Builder – Damon Custom Structures, Naples, FL
Furnishings and art – Judith Liegeois Designs, Naples, FL



ABOVE: A stairwell reveals a wall populated by Andy Warhol prints as an homage to the homeowners' hometown of Pittsburgh.

BELOW: After seeing the massive Christopher Guy headboard in a magazine, the homeowners selected it for their so-called VIP guest suite. "It looks like river stone, and it threads this room with the same intention we've used in other parts of the house," says Susan Baierl. "We don't want our guests to feel like guests. We want them to feel at home."

