

High Standards

VOLUME AND SCALE PROVE TO BE PIVOTAL IN A TALL, TWO-LOT ESTATE ON SANIBEL ISLAND

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ABOVE: Architects from WAJ Design Services worked with MAB Homes to create this Sanibel Island residence, which stretches across two lots. A portico connects the 4,300-square-foot main house and 2,100-square-foot guest house.

WHEN FORT MYERS designers Dwayne Bergmann and Robin McGarry first met two new clients building a rather impressive estate on Sanibel Island, they were immediately charged with a tall order—both in terms of the scope of the project and the size accommodations that would be necessary for one of its homeowners to feel comfortable. The husband, you see, stands more than six-and-a-half feet tall, which meant larger furniture, higher-than-usual countertops, and other height adjustments that designers don't usually worry about. There was also the massive footprint of the dwelling itself: 4,300 square feet in the main residence and 2,100 square feet in the adjoining guest house. Plus, soaring ceilings, bigger-than-usual rooms, and extra space in general. This was a grand commission in more ways than one.

RIGHT: One of the wife's favorite colors is "Hermès orange," so designers Dwayne Bergmann and Robin McGarry ensured the hue was prevalent indoors and out.



A dining table and chairs from Janus et Cie occupy a back terrace overlooking the community's golf course.



LEFT: A Hubbardton Forge light fixture hangs over a Chaddock table and upholstered Theodore Alexander chairs in the formal dining room.

RIGHT: The living room's grand feel is balanced with design that welcomes conviviality. Close inspection reveals details like natural stone in a diamond pattern on the foyer floor.



“Scale was a crucial point in all our discussions,” says Bergmann. “The key question was: How do we make these large areas feel comfortable and less overwhelming?”

Because the designers were hired during the architectural development phase, they were able to suggest interior modifications to the builder, which resolved a number of those height-related concerns. “Our involvement was more than what we’re typically used to,” says Bergmann. “We not only addressed issues with scale, but we also had input on the roofing materials, the railing design, the cladding on the columns, and even the crown molding details.”

In terms of décor style, the couple was clear and to the point: high-end luxury and no coastal vibes whatsoever. “They definitely insisted on a comfortable look, but elevated as it related to finishes, furnishings, and appointments,” says Bergmann. “They wanted a sophisticated vacation house where the entire family could get together, especially in the winter.”

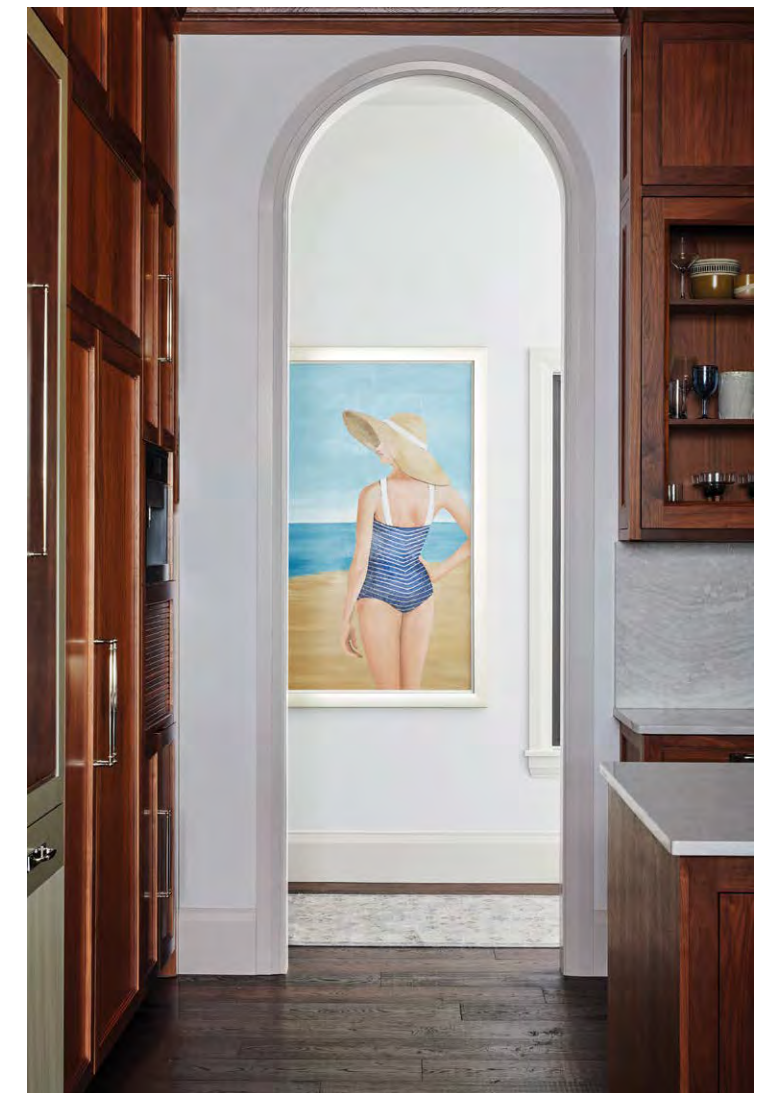
The design crew began in the living room with a stately Fabricut sectional, a substantial area



The design team mixed materials expertly in the kitchen, incorporating walnut, stone, and leather. The glass pendants came from Hammerton Lighting and the custom-designed barstools are from Hammer Fine Furniture.

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BELOW: Arched openings throughout the home unite it with the exteriors. The painting, *South Beach Beauty II*, is by Kari Taylor.



rug from Alix Limited, and a steel-base cocktail table from Robert James Collection to give visual weight to the space. Side tables from Charleston Forge and Theodore Alexander, and geometric table lamps from Visual Comfort complete the desired effect: contemporary elegance with a welcoming aura.

The dining room echoes this convivial spirit with a Chaddock table surrounded by six Theodore Alexander chairs in bright yellow upholstery. Considering other spaces, this one seems downright diminutive, but the homeowners insisted on the type of dining room where those at the head of the table don't have to shout to hear one another.

In the kitchen (the husband's domain), special attention was paid to the cabinetry, crafted

of walnut with hand-stitched leather panels. Cambria Ironsbridge countertops, which the design team installed more than two inches above standard height, brighten the room and provide a counterpoint to the dark walnut floors found throughout the rest of the home.

Once the installation work was done and they were able to put the finishing touches on the residence, Bergmann and McGarry eagerly awaited the homeowners' visit. Hurricane Ian delayed that homecoming but left the property intact. When they did finally make it, the husband marveled at the way his height requests were fulfilled and the wife celebrated the cosmopolitan sentiments from room to room. As for Bergmann and McGarry? They now have yet another satisfied-customer story for their portfolio.



ABOVE: The sinks in the primary bathroom are higher than standard to accommodate the husband's height, while a standard-height vanity was customized to the wife. Dwayne Bergmann Interiors designed and fabricated the oak cabinets and vanity.

RIGHT: A Fortuny chandelier hangs over a poster bed by Ferrell Mittman, bedside chests from Modern History, and a bench by Michael James. Fort Myers-based Fab's Faux Decor hand-painted the mural behind the headboard. "It's very ethereal," says McGarry. "Soft and dreamy."

SOURCES

TERRACE

Table and chairs – Janus et Cie, janusetcie.com
 Lounges – Janus et Cie, janusetcie.com

DINING ROOM

Table – Chaddock Home, chaddockhome.com
 Chairs – Theodore Alexander, theodorealexander.com
 Artwork – Framing Wholesalers, Fort Myers, FL
 Chandelier – Hubbardton Forge, hubbardtonforge.com

LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Fabricut, Tulsa, OK
 Cocktail tables – Robert James Collection, High Point, NC
 Side tables – Charleston Forge, Boone, NC
 Table lamps – Visual Comfort & Co., visualcomfort.com
 Ceiling lighting – Hubbardton Forge, hubbardtonforge.com
 Area rug – Alix Unlimited, Larchmont, NY

KITCHEN

Cabinetry and island designed and fabricated by Dwayne Bergmann Interiors, Fort Myers, FL
 Stools – Hammer Fine Furniture, Bell Gardens, CA
 Pendant lighting – Hubbardton Forge, hubbardtonforge.com

PRIMARY BATHROOM

Cabinetry and vanity designed and fabricated by Dwayne

Bergmann Interiors, Fort Myers, FL
 Chair – Charles Stewart, Hickory, NC
 Mirror – A-Rite Glass, Fort Myers, FL
 Area rug – Carpet Source, Winter Park, FL
 Flooring – Tile Boutique, Fort Myers, FL

PRIMARY BEDROOM

Poster bed – Ferrell Mittman, ferrellmittman.com
 Bedside chests – Modern History, High Point, NC
 Bench – Michael James Furniture, michaeljamesfurniture.com
 Sconces – Decorative Crafts, decorativecrafts.com
 Chandelier – Fortuny, fortuny.us
 Painted wall covering – Fabsfauxdecor, Fort Myers, FL
 Ceiling designed by Robin McGarry, Dwayne Bergmann Interiors, Fort Myers, FL, and fabricated by Conceptual Woodworking & Design, Fort Myers, FL

PRIMARY BEDROOM SITTING AREA

Sofa – Hammer Fine Furniture, Bell Gardens, CA
 Table – Bolier, Decca Home, deccahome.com
 Chandelier – Visual Comfort & Co., visualcomfort.com
 Oval area rug – L&M Custom Carpets, lcustomcarpets.com

