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Mirror Image

With nods to their clients' Norwegian roots, a design team personalizes this spirited new dwelling.

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Architecture: Mitchell E. Miller, Village Architects AIA **Interior Design:** Jackie Armour, Taylor Ehrlund and Eden Tepper, JMA Interior Design
Home Builder: Dan Wilberding, F&D Wilberding, Inc. **Landscape Architecture:** Steve Parker, Parker-Yannette Design Group, Inc.



Framed by Canary Island date palms, the home's exterior features understated nautical details, including a round window and shutters painted Sherwin-Williams' Debonair. Sconces and a hanging lantern, all by Coastal Copper, illuminate the front door.

The most memorable houses convey a strong impression of the people who live within them, reflecting their owners' interests, enthusiasms and heritage in details large and small. So, it's no wonder that this bespoke, newly constructed residence is the talk of its South Florida neighborhood: It perfectly mirrors the lucky couple that calls it home.

This is true beginning from the exterior. Conceived by architect Mitchell E. Miller, the structure, with its extended eaves, sky-blue shutters, creamy façade and shingled roof, projects a coastal sheen that nods to the seaside locale. That impression is underlined by its shipshape construction, courtesy of general contractor Dan Wilberding, who took his clients' wishes for a solar energy system and heated bathroom floors (both typical of homes in their native Norway, but less so for residences in Hobe Sound), and meticulously delivered.

Meanwhile, oversize sliding glass doors chosen to erase the boundary between indoors and out, give way to gardens thoughtfully designed by landscape architect Steve Parker. Catering to the homeowners' active lifestyle, the property boasts a pool, sauna, bocce court and its own putting green. And, in tribute to their favorite colors, Parker emphasized blues and reds in his composition, dotting the hues around the lush landscape via dwarf ixora, red-tipped cocoplum, flame-red bougainvillea and plumbago auriculata, to name a few.

When it came to the interiors, designers Jackie Armour, Taylor Ehrlund and Eden Tepper similarly let the couple's go-to palette lead the way. "They love red, white and blue," echoes Armour, noting that the wife is rarely seen without cerulean polish on her nails. The hurdle was incorporating these colors—which compose Norway's flag as well as the United States'—into the decor without tipping over into Americana territory. The team's solution? Clad the entire intricate living room millwork program (walls; trim; ceilings; built-ins) in the same nuanced shade, thereby avoiding any stars-and-stripes-suggestive contrast. They settled on a tranquil gray-blue that channels the weathered, painted

wood tones seen in traditional Scandinavian interiors in the subtlest of fashions.

This same cool, steely hue envelops the adjoining kitchen, transforming the workhorse space into a perfectly elegant partner for the living room. "Because they made it clear they were not color adverse," Armour says, "at one of our first meetings, I asked if we could be bold and not have a completely white kitchen. And they said, 'Yes, we would prefer it.' That was really the starting point, and our design emerged from there." Adds Ehrlund: "They were very open-minded to almost every idea we suggested. They didn't flinch at anything."

The designers' choice to wash the space in a single, subdued tone also provided the perfect foil for a generous dose of lipstick red as the accent layer. Witness the living room, where crimson threads through the draperies and throw pillows, skips across the accessories displayed in the built-in cabinetry shelves and commands attention in the custom-tinted glass tops of the cocktail tables. At the same time, judicial dollops of dark blue (see: the living room sofa; the painted wood dining table; the husband's office walls), provide additional grounding for even bolder moments of red throughout, like the guest quarter's fire engine-hued spool beds and the powder room's floating vanity replete with ruby lacquer.

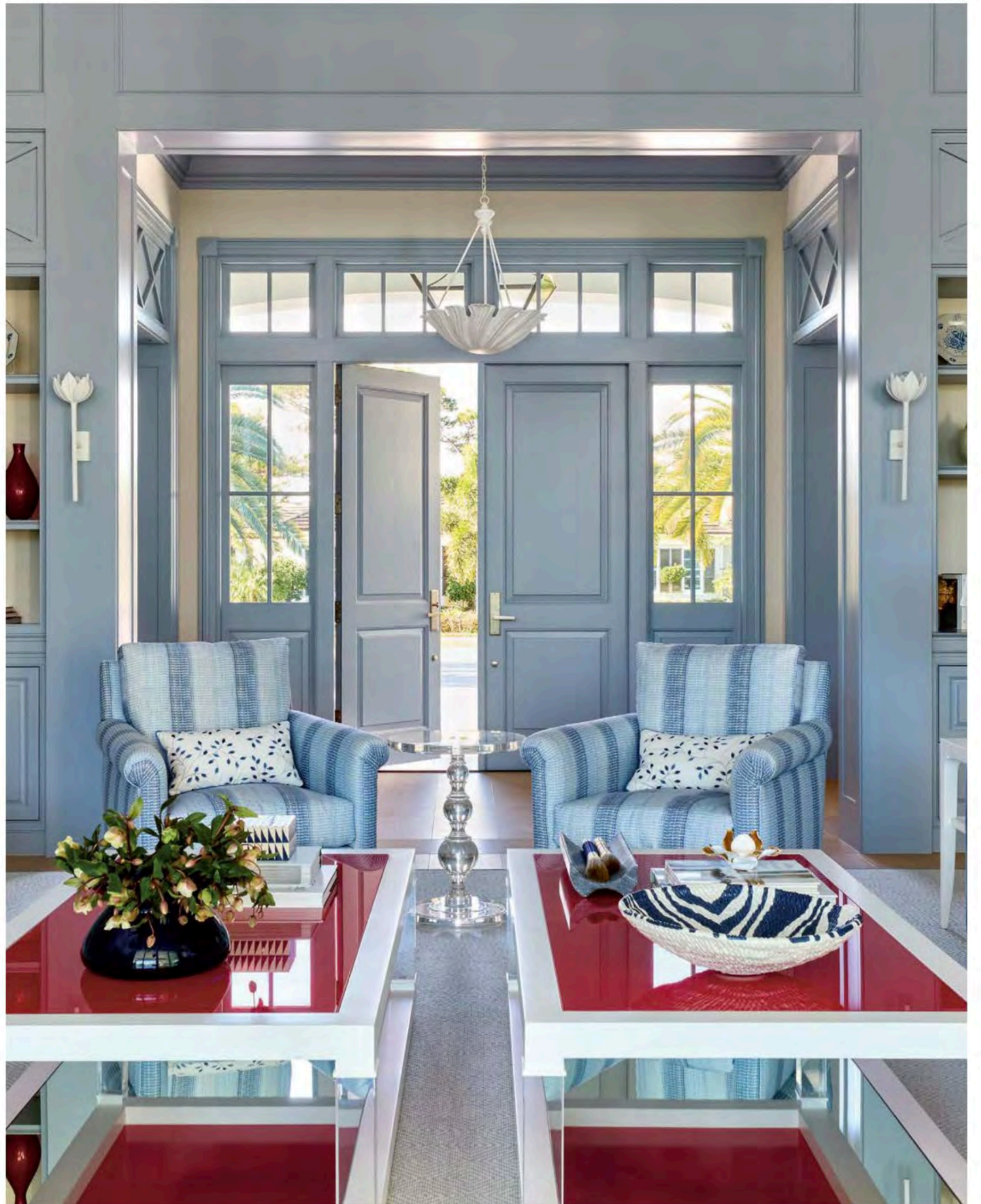
The distinctively vibrant framework also allowed the designers to layer in playful patterns, from exuberant botanicals to whimsical toiles to nostalgic marine scenes. A flurry of small and delicate prints on textured weaves rounds out the mix, offering yet another homage to the couple's roots. "These elements feel artisanal and vaguely Scandinavian," Armour notes, pointing to details like the dining chairs' charming mix of dainty floral and ticking stripe upholstery.

Of course, all of this design wizardry is made possible by the Florida setting, flooded with light, air and tropical foliage. "The views and greenery also work to neutralize what's happening inside," says Armour, who recognizes the precise alchemy required for this thoroughly custom home. "Builders call this kind of project an autobiography in sticks and bricks," reflects Wilberding, adding, "I think that is the real success of this house. It is a true reflection of the owners." ■



Left: Benjamin Moore's Pike's Peak Gray takes a leading role in the design, enveloping the entirety of the living area, as well as its built-in cabinetry. The sconce is from Visual Comfort & Co.

Opposite: A pair of Lexington's Riverdale cocktail tables pop with custom-tinted glass in the living area, where a Caracole drinks table joins Kravet armchairs. The chandelier in the foyer is from Currey & Company.





Above: Donning a custom blue paint color, the dining table partners with Lexington's Alderman side chairs wearing Anna French's Milford floral fabric. Weiland LiftSlide doors open to the backyard and golf course beyond.

Opposite: "The kitchen cabinetry had to read like high-end furniture," general contractor Dan Wilberding says. A glass-fronted cabinet spotlights a collection of Blue Danube china. Artistic Tile's Ava WJ Mosaic covers the backsplash. The countertops are from Pompeii Quartz.





Left: Tucked within the living area's paneling, a built-in desk is paired with Kravet's Twist stool in white, upholstered in Thibaut's Bayside Stripe. Displayed within the open shelving are the clients' beloved porcelain and artworks.

Opposite: The husband's office is drenched in oceanic references, including a compass-inspired side table. Phillip Jeffries' Abaca Harvest wallcovering complements tailored valances of Schumacher's Marine Toile fabric.





Right: Kohler's Imperial Blue vessel sink inspired the powder room's maximalist vibe. Coastal Copper sconces in navy temper Thibaut's Palm Botanical wallpaper and a vanity lacquered in PPG's Rum Runner.

Opposite: Atop a rug from Dash & Albert, Harriet Spindle beds from The Beautiful Bed Company animate a guest room. The quilts and matching shams are Serena & Liliy. Thibaut's Cornwall material was used for the Roman shades.

