

# A TROPICAL MODERN RETREAT

ITS SLEEK LINES SOFTENED TO MELD WITH ITS BEACHY NEIGHBORS,  
THIS HOME IS DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE THE LIGHT, THE BREEZES AND THE VIEW

INTERIOR DESIGN BY CONSTANCE DAVIDSON,  
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"From the street, this looks like a nice contemporary house without being ultra-modern," architect Joyce Owens says. A hipped roof and wide overhangs soften the strictly modern lines. Although the waterfront lot goes through from street to beach, the house maxes out its buildable space.

AS SEEN IN  
NAPLES EDITION  
FLORIDA DESIGN



“PART OF THE JOY OF BEING IN THIS BUSINESS IS GETTING TO KNOW MY CLIENTS AND THEIR STYLES IN ORDER TO FIND SOURCES TO MAKE THEIR HOMES LOOK BETTER THAN THEY COULD EVEN KNOW THEY WANTED,” INTERIOR DESIGNER CONSTANCE DAVIDSON SAYS.

As you drive down the private sandy lane past the beachfront homes, you arrive at this Tropical Modern facade. That’s the style architect Joyce Owens bestowed upon this 4,000-square-foot home with an additional 1,100-square-feet of balconies overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. “Tropical Modern subtly borrows references from historical architecture while at the same time being very contemporary,” Owens says.

Because her European clients appreciate the clean, sleek lines of their residence abroad, they wanted their new Florida vacation home to feel the same. But they also wanted it to be very comfortable to accommodate their quiet lifestyle. With privacy a main concern, the architect selected a front door featuring an aluminum frame and matte aluminum panel. “We chose the aluminum because we knew it would look very sleek, cool and modern,” Owens says. With the living areas on the second floor where there’s a stunning view of beach and water, privacy was less of a concern so she opted for large windows and glass doors that slide open to welcome panoramic water views, plenty of light and cross breezes.

Artist Jeff Schaller’s provocative encaustic wall art combines words and images to add a touch of whimsy in the living room. The designer chose the classic arc floor lamp to continue the movement in this room, while warm and cool colors juxtapose with warm wood and shiny surfaces to help soften the modern decor.







“THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY INTERESTING PROJECT FOR US BECAUSE MY FIRM NOT ONLY DESIGNED THE BUILDING BUT WE WERE ALSO THE INTERIOR ARCHITECTS THAT DESIGNED THE KITCHEN, THE BATHS, THE LIGHTING AND THE STAIRWAY,” ARCHITECT JOYCE OWENS SAYS. “IT LET US KEEP THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND.”

And when it came to the interior scheme, designer Constance Davidson chose neutrals that wouldn’t detract from the views. “But don’t think that I created staid rooms, I always add a touch of whimsy and fun,” Davidson says. “Life is too short to live without it.” That’s why bold orange hues splash across the living room, kitchen and dining area. “Orange is about the only accent color I used because the clients didn’t want too much color ... but they did like this orange,” she says.

Upstairs in the living room shaped with neutral furnishings, the custom-designed wool area rug’s geometry of pattern, scale and color create movement without distraction. And in the kitchen, the orange glass accent wall — a request of the owners — behind the Poliform cabinetry adds a bit of fun in perfect complement to the Bertoria counter stools along with the wire side chairs in the adjacent dining area. Davidson likes this classic modern furniture because its wire construction almost disappears.

**ABOVE LEFT:** The windows at the back of this custom stairway offer a tropical vista as oak treads ascend to the second and third floors. The thick glass panels on view through these treads gracefully rise with the stairway to offer plenty of natural light throughout.

**RIGHT:** An orange accent wall above Poliform cabinets is the focal point in the kitchen. Here, the ceiling is 10-feet-high; that in the dining area is 20 feet. It’s from the double-height ceiling that the “Cityscape” light fixture by Hubbardton Forge hangs over the dining table lined with Bertoria wire chairs from Knoll.







"I LIKE THAT MODERN ARCHITECTURE GIVES YOU MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN TRADITIONAL," THE ARCHITECT SAYS. "YOU CAN PLAY WITH THE FORMS AND SHAPES OF THE BUILDING IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPACE AND THE WAY THE CLIENTS WILL LIVE IN THEIR NEW HOME."

Climb the stairway to the third floor, where a balcony overlooks the living areas. Walk along it to find the master bedroom tucked behind a wood-stained barn door that creates a six-foot-wide entrance to the clients' private quarters. This room is a favorite spot for the couple to enjoy a glass of wine overlooking the beach and the Gulf of Mexico. Davidson selected comfortable pieces to furnish this cozy private space including the custom-designed bed and a pair of Herman Miller chairs upholstered in a cool, water blue. "The custom area rug atop oak wood flooring is designed to create movement like water against sand," the designer says.

The sun, the Gulf breezes and the captivating views blur the boundaries between inside and out. "It doesn't matter where you look when you are in this house ... you know you're in the tropics." Owens says. **N**

**ABOVE:** Shades of blue wash over the cozy master bedroom, where a custom-designed bed rests comfortably and "Striad" lounge chairs from Herman Miller sit center stage. Light emanates from rectangular fixtures around the perimeter of the ceiling. This is a signature lighting style for Owens who prefers the stream of light to bounce off the walls instead of being directed at the floor.