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VERANDA

*Holiday
Warmth*





VILLA PERFECTA

A PALM BEACH REFUGE EMBRACES EVERYDAY ELEGANCE WITH EASE.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY JANE SCHWAB AND CINDY SMITH
ARCHITECTURE BY THOMAS M. KIRCHHOFF ARCHITECT
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 WHEN A CONNECTICUT COUPLE WAS HUNTING DOWN A PALM BEACH RETREAT, THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD THROW A PARTY. THE DUO IS

passionate about entertaining, whether it's hosting a candlelit dinner for 14 or a cocktail reception for 150. They ended up buying a beachfront property with the intention of spending up to half the year there, and meticulously planned an abode that would maximize the scenery and stand up to the demands of their social schedule—without getting fussy.

“We wanted as much light coming into the house as possible, to live outdoors as much as possible, and, since it's right on the ocean, to be able to walk through the living room with sand on our feet and not have to worry about it,” says the wife.

Brought to life by local architect Thomas M. Kirchhoff and designers Jane Schwab and Cindy Smith of Circa Interiors, in Charlotte, North Carolina, the villa they eventually moved into splits the difference between elegant estate and breezy beach escape, with lofty, stone-floored halls, luxe but laid-back furnishings, and plenty of venues where guests feel right at home. (So much so that the residence will be featured in *The Welcoming House: The Art of Living Graciously*, by Schwab and Smith, to be published by Rizzoli next March.)

Taking cues from the Mediterranean Revival style of Addison Mizner—the 1920s society

Plump upholstery softens stately architecture. ABOVE: Sofas in Romo fabric. Lamps, Edgar Reeves. Art, Cleve Gray. OPPOSITE: Swedish 19th-c. bench, Circa Interiors, in Donghia fabric. Lanterns, Dennis & Leen. OPENING PAGES LEFT: Lantern, Paul Ferrante. Antique mirror, Circa Interiors. OPENING PAGES RIGHT: Table, Dennis & Leen. Chairs, Dennis & Leen, in Groves Brothers and Raoul Textiles fabrics. Chandelier, Paul Ferrante. Art, Mary Heilmann.

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Neutrals and pastels subdue bright subtropical light. Louis XV-style chair, Parc Monceau, in Raoul Textiles linen. Coffee table, sideboards, and sconces, Formations. Club chair, Cameron Collection, in Bergamo fabric. Armchair (right), Rose Tarlow Melrose House, in Groves Brothers fabric.



Plaster moldings embellish master bedroom ceilings. ABOVE: Bed, Circa Interiors, with canopy in Sunsilks fabrics. Nightstands, Gregorius Pineo, 19th-c. Directoire-style bench, Parc Monceau, in Lee Jofa stripe. Neoclassical chair in Nancy Corzine linen. Curtains in Mark Alexander and Fabricut fabrics. OPPOSITE: Sofa and chairs, McKinnon and Harris, in Sunbrella fabric. Chandelier, Rose Tarlow Melrose House.

architect who put his stamp on Palm Beach with grand homes featuring romantic details like arches, colonnades, and delicate wrought-iron gates—Kirchhoff designed a long central family room with French doors that let the light stream in, a dining room with large arched windows that look out onto lush, landscaped gardens, and three loggias set around a courtyard protected from ocean breezes. “They really are like outdoor living rooms,” says the husband.

Since many rooms would feature focal points in the form of decorative Mizner-esque ceilings—some molded, some hand-stenciled, and others crafted from pecky cypress—Schwab and Smith kept it simple. “We didn’t want to compete with the architecture,” says Schwab. They selected a quiet palette—soft blues, sea greens, and creams enhanced by frissons of color that reach a crescendo in the cantaloupe-hued dining room. “It’s especially pretty at night when the candles in the windows and the lamps in front of the antique mirrors are lit,” says Smith. Tone-on-tone wool sheers and a handmade Tibetan rug provide further warmth.

“We mixed the old with the new, but nothing is so precious that you can’t put a drink down on it,” says Schwab. In the family room, easy-to-clean natural fabrics on sofas and an iron coffee table with a simple wood top invite guests to put their feet up. “Beautiful is easy to do, but to do beautiful and practical is a little bit more of a challenge,” says Smith.

Still, practicality can only go so far. The kitchen, designed in collaboration with Emily Bourgeois, is dressed up with an oversize copper hood, sparkling glazed tiles, an antique chandelier, and even a fireplace for crisp winter nights. It goes without saying that the owners have already hosted suppers there. “It’s such a great gathering spot,” says Schwab. □



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Tall French doors mirror archway architecture. Table, Formations, with custom top. Chairs, Munder Skiles, in Perennials fabric. Chairs and chaise (left), Brown Jordan, in Giati fabric. Hurricane lamps, Treillage.