

ARCHITECTURE / THOMAS M. KIRCHHOFF,  
KIRCHHOFF & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS  
INTERIOR DESIGN / JUDITH K. KLING AND  
WENDY WOLCOTT, J.K. KLING ASSOCIATES  
HOME BUILDER / DAVE CHESSER,  
WITTMANN BUILDING CORPORATION  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / FERNANDO WONG,  
FERNANDO WONG OUTDOOR LIVING DESIGN



# POINT *of* VIEW

OVERLOOKING THE INTRACOASTAL,  
A PALM BEACH RESIDENCE LETS LUSH SCENERY  
INFORM ITS ISLAND COLONIAL DESIGN.

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When architect Thomas M. Kirchhoff designs a home, he likes to establish a sense of drama early on by driving attention to a stunning sight. Whether oriented toward a window and the verdant landscape beyond or centered on a sparkling chandelier at the end of a corridor, a deliberate view invites a visitor into a dwelling to pause and be captivated. Some call it feng shui; Kirchhoff calls it smart. “Creating that immediate view grounds the space and sets the tone for a welcoming atmosphere,” he says.

An entrancing panorama of the Intracoastal Waterway arrests the gaze of those entering Kirchhoff’s recent project, an Island Colonial-style residence in an exclusive Palm Beach enclave. Designed for Philadelphia area-based clients relocating from a nearby condominium, the seasonal home boasts 135 feet of lake frontage to the west, offering the roughly half-acre lot a wide water view

accentuated by crisp blue skies and majestic sunsets. “This property is magnificent,” Kirchhoff says. “Experiencing its full beauty from inside, throughout the entire space, became the priority.”

The clients shared the architect’s vision and introduced a personal perspective to the concept. During a trip to Capri, Italy, the couple was left awestruck by the entry foyer and staircase at their hotel, the J.K. Place Capri—a four-star luxury stay known for its exquisite Mediterranean-influenced design. With a black and white tile floor and a large table artfully styled with objets and treasures, the foyer welcomes guests like an old friend, greeting them with a pristine view of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The couple asked Kirchhoff to emulate this experience in their home.

The architect partnered with general contractor Dave Chesser, designers Judith K. Kling and Wendy Wolcott and landscape designer Fernando Wong, and the team went about marrying the clients’ vision with their second request:

In the foyer of a Palm Beach home by architect Thomas M. Kirchhoff, Vaughan’s Lincoln Globe lantern illuminates the flooring of Bianco Dolomite tile and Midnight Belgium Bluestone. Near the staircase by JM Custom Woodworking, J.K. Kling Associates designed the bench in material by Claremont Furnishing Fabrics Company. Christopher Spitzmuller lamps accent the Niermann Weeks credenza and mirror.

Kirchhoff devised a coffered ceiling for the living room, which supports a Charles Edwards chandelier above a Stark rug. French doors by Zeluck, painted Benjamin Moore’s Super White, allow the view of the Intracoastal Waterway to take center stage.



A Ferrell Mittman sofa and armchairs, all holding pillows made of Fortuny fabric, gather around Formations coffee tables in the living room. Beneath the Niermann Weeks mirror, the fireplace combines the hearth's Midnight Belgium Bluestone tiles with the surround's Rosal CD limestone, both from Marble Crafters in Trainer, Pennsylvania.



an airy, family-friendly space equally beautiful, comfortable and functional. They wanted specific areas for entertaining and for relaxing—nothing overly pretentious. Hearing this, Kirchhoff pitched the Island Colonial style. “A Mediterranean house was too heavy; Georgian overly formal,” he says. “Island Colonial allowed us to incorporate their casual lifestyle alongside a sophisticated design, all while capturing that light, airy feel.”

To create dual, functional spaces, the architect designed a structure composed of two parts. The primary two-story massing to the east features the entry flanked by two symmetrical wings and contains the living room, dining room and library downstairs, with the bedrooms upstairs. To the south, an adjoining single-story structure running east to west hosts the kitchen, family room, butler’s pantry and exercise room. This arrangement allowed Kirchhoff to separate the formal and informal spaces, prioritizing the direct water view for the former while orienting the latter in proximity to the pool. “The layout allows everyone to have their own space while still being together,” Kling says. “Placing the library on one end and the family room on the opposite makes it easy to find a private moment.”

Inside, the team channeled J.K. Place Capri from the get-go: The foyer’s oversize black and white polished marble tiles punctuate the space’s grandeur, only to be outdone by the breathtaking vista through the living room’s French doors. A refined color palette of soft,



creamy neutrals envelops the home in serenity, allowing the clients' notable art collection to shine. Throughout, a combination of nubby, tweedy fabrics and abundant grass cloth—both in wallpaper and rugs—warms the area with natural textures gritty enough for daily use and traffic. Wood planks and intricate molding adorn many of the ceilings as well. “We consider the ceiling design of each room carefully,” Kirchhoff says. “Traditionally inspired ceilings are defined by the scale and function of each room.”

A western exposure and water view does present a challenge: the glare of the setting sun. In response, the architect designed integrated solar shades in the loggias, while Wong peppered the landscape with carefully selected Canary Island date palms, Medjool date palms, Cuban Laurel trees and Green Island ficus hedges.

Circling the property, palms of varying heights enhance privacy while shrouding the home in an oasis-like escape. “In our office, we often say the architecture is the picture and the landscape is the frame,” Wong says. “Here, we designed a civilized jungle, both relaxed and elegant, to mirror the home’s spectacular aesthetic.”

In the front of the residence, on the east end, an intimate courtyard features a sitting area surrounded in greenery. Neighboring the driveway instead of the water, it may seem a perplexing use of space at first glance. However, Kirchhoff never designs without intention. “The courtyard shields the sight of the driveway and provides the exercise room and butler’s pantry with a lush vista bringing light and beauty into those spaces,” he says. In Kirchhoff’s Palm Beach masterpiece, every room comes with a view. **L**

Kirchhoff & Associates Architects created height in the kitchen by designing a vaulted tongue-and-groove ceiling with exposed rafters. Bolier barstools, upholstered in a Christopher Farr Cloth textile, complement the island by Leeds Custom Design, which also constructed the cabinetry, painted Benjamin Moore’s White Dove. Vaughan pendants hang above.

A Charles Edwards pendant casts a glow in the butler’s pantry, where knobs by Top Knobs and RH pulls accent cabinetry by Leeds Custom Design. Patterson Flynn Martin rugs top the flooring’s honed limestone from Marble Crafters. The sink is by Rohl.





The loggia is crowned by a limed cypress ceiling and grounded by white Dominican coral flooring from Palm Beach Cast Stone. Associated Interior Designer Service covered the pillows and cushions on the Bielecky Brothers furnishings in Quadrille fabrics. Genie House wall sconces and a Charles Edwards pendant provide lighting.

**“THE ISLAND COLONIAL STYLE ALLOWED US TO INCORPORATE THE CLIENTS’ CASUAL LIFESTYLE ALONGSIDE A SOPHISTICATED HOME DESIGN.”**

**-THOMAS M. KIRCHHOFF**



**Above:** A Regina Andrew pendant makes a statement in the master bathroom, which is wrapped in a Phillip Jeffries wallcovering. Waterworks sconces punctuate a mirror above a countertop made of polished Calacatta statuary marble from Marble Crafters.

**Opposite:** Associated Interior Designer Service constructed a guest room's draperies using a Blithfield fabric that also appears on the headboard and skirt of the Oly bed, which is dressed in Matouk linens. A Stephen Gerould lamp, resting on one of the Century nightstands, pops against the Phillip Jeffries grass-cloth wallpaper.