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# *Beach House* SERENITY

HISTORIC OLD NAPLES

A signature MHK design, made more dramatic through the use of LED lighting and the expert construction detail of Big Island Builders.



Twin oak nesting coffee tables are surrounded by four unique sculptural armchairs in an antiqued driftwood finish. A water blue hand-applied ceiling finish complements the vibrant blue accents and the cerulean pool tiles outside. The quartz fireplace supports a glass mosaic tiled wall featuring a photograph by artist Jim Freeman.



Photograph by Randall Perry Photography

In an area as sophisticated and rich in history as Olde Naples, it is a monumental feat for a house to stand out as unique while still remaining perfectly suited to its surroundings; this house accomplishes such a feat. Sitting a few short blocks from the beach this beautiful creation from Matthew Kragh of MHK Architecture & Planning, Jay and Mike Bowerman of Big Island Builders, and designer Kira Krümm of Kira Krümm International Design is an idyllic blend of the fun and flare of a modern beach house with the comfort and subtlety of a coastal cottage.

“Every aspect of this distinctive home was created exclusively for our clients. The collaboration called for the area’s best talent and a very dedicated team,” explains Krümm. Speaking to the active involvement of the homeowners Krümm adds, “Incorporating unique materials was an important part of making this property special as our clients were on a quest for the extraordinary.”

The front of the house is iconic of old Florida, yet still unique and fresh. The landscaping is simple, employing, as Christian Andrea of Architectural Land Design Inc, explains, “a natural approach utilizing meandering beds and plantings that complement the architecture.” The architecture to which Andrea makes reference is that of Kragh’s, and the house is emblematic of his style. He explains the house is “a striking example of work within our wheelhouse and a respect of the past. This home defines Olde Naples with its massing, material palette and texture.” The prominently featured brackets, illustrative of Kragh’s designs, along with the faux gable beams of the entryway, are lit by two inch LED’s creating an impressively dramatic effect.

Brothers Jay and Mike Bowerman of Big Island Builders take great pride in their work on these elements, with Jay explaining, “Craftsmanship is very important to us; the fit and finish of each material and texture is our signature. The architecture of this home really put our unique skill set on display.” This would not be achievable without a high level of collaboration and customization, but as Mike states, “We thrive off of that! What is the point of a custom builder, if you can’t customize?”

The living room is where Kira Krümm’s design style is most pronounced, utilizing a mix of natural materials, glass, and metal. The expert use of a neutral color palette is iconic of her designs, with a splash of a more pronounced accent color—here a cerulean blue. The blue accents used



throughout the living room were inspired by the materials incorporated in the outdoor living area and the stunning water wall feature visible through the sliding doors. The tile for this waterfall was carefully sought out and selected by the homeowner for its color and basket weave-like texture that produces a pleasant sound and rippling flow. The sofa and armchairs are custom-made with a special stain and wear resistant suede, and the sofa is designed with a unique inlaid wood detail that coordinates with the driftwood finished wood frame of the armchairs.

The kitchen is designed to be both highly functional and conducive to social gatherings. The island countertop is cast concrete and inlaid with hand-selected nautical and abalone shells. The stunning backsplash brings together multiple design elements present in the room through its use of glass and metal tiles.

The kitchen features a mix of premium integrated appliances ranging from Sub-Zero and Jenn-Air inside the house, and Lynx Professional series in the outdoor kitchen, all of which were sourced from Ferguson Kitchen, Bath & Lighting Gallery. “The appliances were all specified to be flush with the custom cabinetry. The Jenn-Air gas cooktop features one of the few that has six burners which come in handy for entertaining,” states Gregory Bennett, Builder Sales, Ferguson.

The dining room is perfect for entertaining with an extension dining table that seats ten, made of reclaimed oak (using recycled materials is a passion of Krümm’s). The vaulted tongue-and-groove ceiling in a charcoal gray stain alludes to cottage chic.

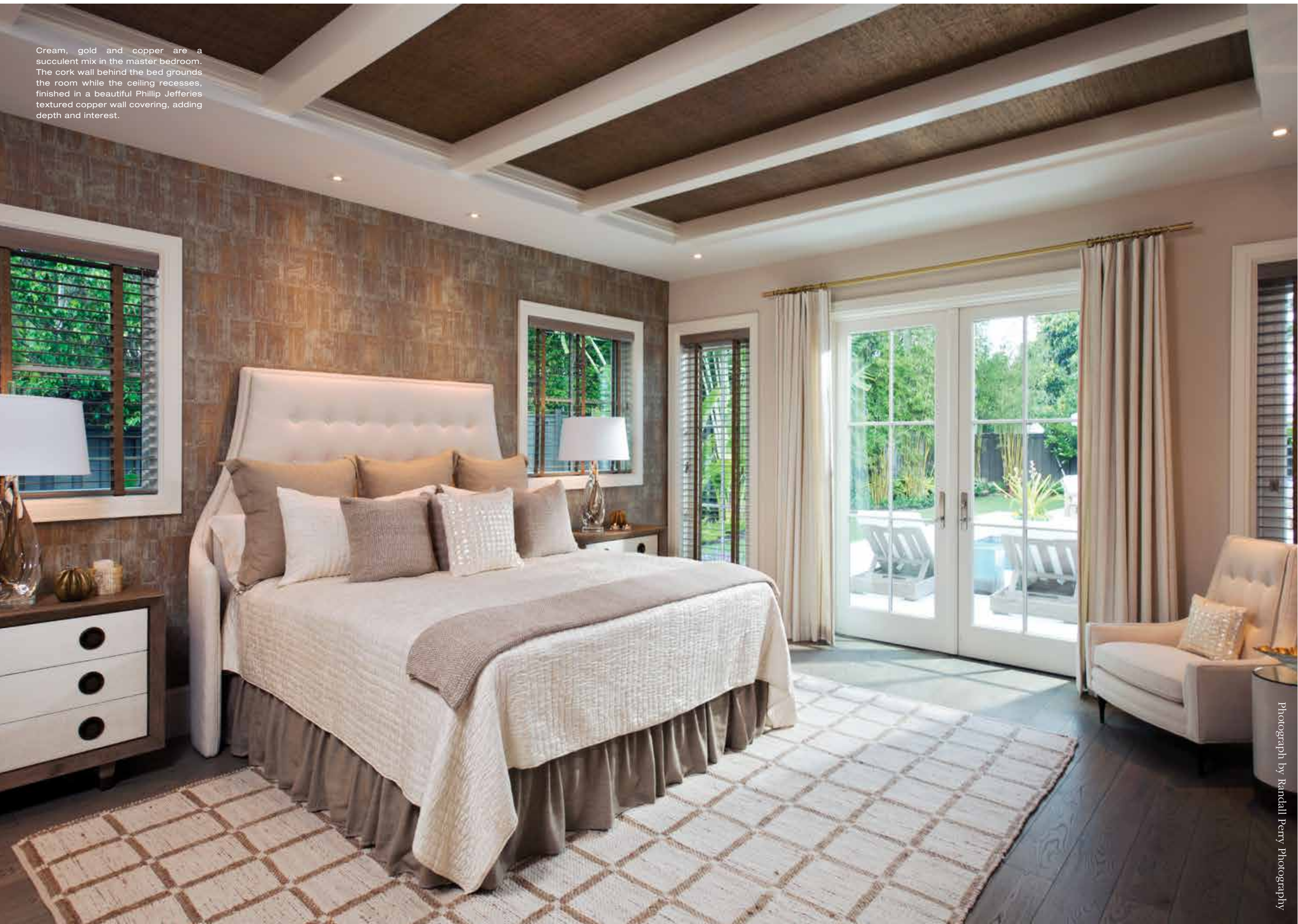
Above the dining table hang three Hubbardton Forge light orbs, two of a larger size and one smaller, cleverly combined to create an elongated fixture. In these two rooms, one can



Photograph by Giovanni Photography

Swivel counter stools with hand-woven seats and metal backs coordinate with the antiqued nickel accents throughout. Light gray custom cabinets are washed in a charcoal glaze. The durable dining room table is made from reclaimed oak with cast iron legs.





Cream, gold and copper are a succulent mix in the master bedroom. The cork wall behind the bed grounds the room while the ceiling recesses, finished in a beautiful Phillip Jeffries textured copper wall covering, adding depth and interest.

Photograph by Randall Perry Photography

see the state-of-the-art LED lighting system that is present throughout the house and the exterior. The integrated whole home lighting system is comprised of two inch LEDs, each with a square trim, and runs through a dimming control system, allowing for preset lifestyle-based lighting schemes.

“This home represents the future of lighting. LEDs have many benefits including long life, less wattage, less heat, smaller aperture, and they are dimmable. My goal is to facilitate and support the designer’s vision throughout the selection process,” states Lynne Stambouly of the Specialty Lighting Division of Lighting First, who was selected as the expert Lighting Consultant.

The master bedroom is a superbly balanced room. The Phillip Jeffries wall coverings incorporated in the patina cork wall behind the bed grounds the room, while the copper metallic textured ceiling recesses, adding depth and richness. The bed illustrates the homeowner’s personal style. “We traveled to find special, unique things and during our trips we came upon this bedroom set that our client fell in love with, and the room evolved from there,” explained Keri Linden, Project Manager, Kira Krümm International Design.

The master bathroom further illustrates Krümm’s expert use of materials. The glass tile mosaic stripe that runs the center of the room and up the wall behind the bathtub, as well as behind the wall sconces, adds visual diversity and the perception of texture to the room.

No luxury home would be complete without his-and-her custom closets. The lady of the home enjoys all the bells and whistles that are available today in the custom closet industry. A beautiful built-in vanity with six drawers and Lucite jewelry organization feature is flanked by Sarasota Shaker-style drawers and door fronts in a white silk finish. “This was





Photograph by Randall Perry Photography

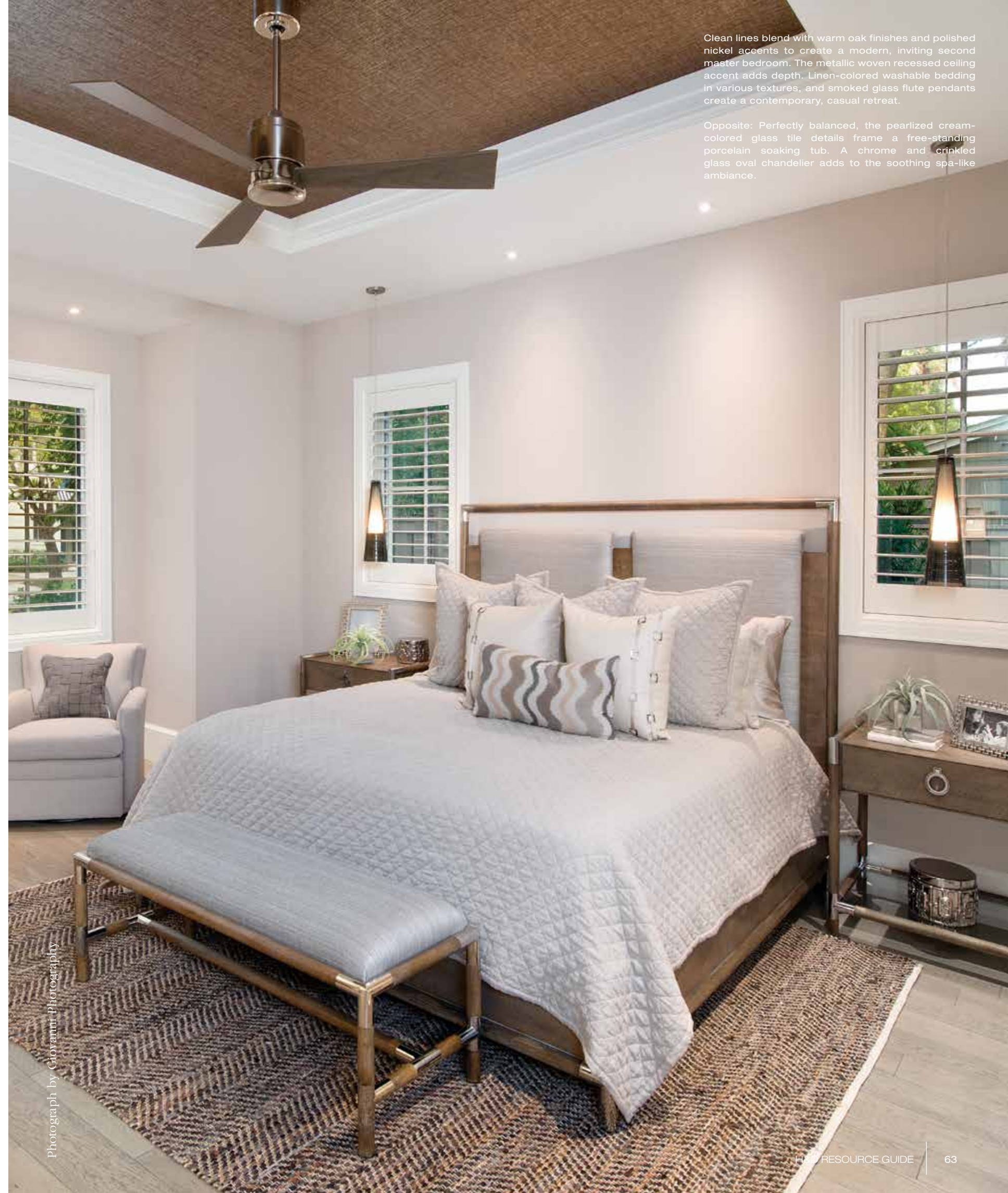
a custom floor-mounted closet system which we always trim out at the bottom with a furniture-base trim,” describes Mary McNulty, Sales and Design, All About Closets.

The second master bedroom, or “flex suite,” provides the lady and gentleman of the house the luxury of equal personal spaces when desired. The furnishings show a great balance between the earthy elements of the wood and the accents of polished nickel. These features, when taken with the smoked glass flute pendant lights, render a contemporary casual retreat.

The detached cabana is connected to the main house by a breezeway making it perfect for guest accommodations and entertaining. Just off the pool, and with access to the fire pit, it is the ideal private retreat for visitors. With warm neutral hues and a blend of textures, this space complements the home’s relaxed, beach cottage décor, yet stands out with a mix of bold, coastal, and industrial inspired accents. The room also contains a wet bar with refrigeration and a full bathroom for the comfort of guests.

The rear pool area is, in many ways, the focal living area of the house. “We consider ‘landscaping’ as the combined effects of the hardscape, waterscape, and planting design which create the space and feeling for a particular area. The site was quite gracious, and allowed us to create some wonderful social spaces, and some great focal features like a wet wall waterfall, and still allowed us to have a comfortable yard,” explains Landscape Architect Christian Andrea of Architectural Land Design.

The rear yard design included an edgeless spa floating in the pool, accessible by floating step stones, a chaise sun shelf, and expanded stairs that provide great seating opportunities. “The exterior living space provides a unique blend of courtyard style home and conventional rear yard design. The outdoor living room is focused on the pool, while the remaining yard opens up to large patios and a fire table environment for an open view of the sky,” concludes Andrea.



Photograph by Giovanni Photography

Clean lines blend with warm oak finishes and polished nickel accents to create a modern, inviting second master bedroom. The metallic woven recessed ceiling accent adds depth. Linen-colored washable bedding in various textures, and smoked glass flute pendants create a contemporary, casual retreat.

Opposite: Perfectly balanced, the pearlized cream-colored glass tile details frame a free-standing porcelain soaking tub. A chrome and crinkled glass oval chandelier adds to the soothing spa-like ambiance.



Overlooking the pool and outdoor fire pit, the cabana is a cozy guesthouse hideaway. The high ceiling is finished in tongue-and-groove and stained in a charcoal gray to contrast the light gray walls, while the floor is a wood look porcelain tile selected for its durability.

Opposite: Tucked away against a lush tropical landscape the pool and outdoor living areas resemble a first class spa resort.



Photograph by Randall Perry Photography



Photograph by Giovanni Photography

“It takes a village to build a house of this caliber and have it turn out as beautifully as it did,” as Stambouly so aptly states.

This house was designed to be the owner's dream home, a serene beach house escape that is both comfortable and elegant. “This home was a labor of love for the homeowners and the dream team assembled. We all worked together to manifest this vision. It remains an unforgettable experience,” concludes Krümm. A sentiment that could not be better stated, as this is a home that could not be more beautifully crafted.

Written by Eric Porteus  
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