

inside DESIGN

Expert Advice from Interior Designer Kira Krümm



Looking out over Florida's brilliant coastal landscape, this breakfast nook is a chic, yet casual space. The sleek custom drapery panels and valance in contrasting fabrics frame the panoramic Inter-coastal Waterway views.

For many Florida homeowners, celebrating the beautiful coastal scenery is just as important as decorative elements, when designing their interiors.

How can I protect my home from the sun without losing the beautiful view?

If there is one thing you can count on in Florida, it is the abundant warmth and sunshine. Letting in the natural light and beautiful views with expansive windows is a must in most Florida homes, and there are numerous treatment options that can minimize sun damage while maximizing the view.

Solar shades are an excellent solution that protect your home from the sun's harmful UVB rays, and reduce heat, which helps with energy costs. When down, they are sheer and do not obstruct the view, and they typically have a small, four inch diameter, so when shades are up they can be concealed by a small cornice or valance. Shades can be manually operated, or motorized for ease and convenience. They can even be programed on an automatic timer, or in conjunction with a sun sensor. You can frame and soften the window with drapery panels that add style, privacy, and insulation.

How can I create a workspace in my home that allows for a stylish, multifunction room?

With a few smart design elements, the home office can serve as a functional workspace that doubles as a casual space for watching TV or accommodating guests. Decide which activity is most important in the space,



then prioritize the floor plan. A sleeper sofa is a great addition as it functions as seating and additional sleeping for overflow company. If most of your time will be spent using the space for work and study, then invest in well-designed built-in furniture. This area can be customized to function according to your needs, and is great for organization and storing away clutter.

This successful room functions as a home office and a den - only the beautiful views will distract you from getting your "homework" done.

What is the best way to incorporate a unique hanging light fixture in my dining room that will not compete with the view?

When selecting a feature light fixture, scale is one of the most important factors to consider. If the piece is too small, it could look out of place; too large and it could overwhelm the space. Determine the type of light that will best fit the function of the space. For dining rooms, soft, white light is best. In most cases, the chandelier should hang approximately 30-32 inches above the table top.

For spacious floor plans, such as pictured in this single-family beach house dining room, keeping a clear line of sight to the water view outside was important. We worked with our Light Lady, Lynne Stambouly, and her team at Lighting First, to custom design this playful chandelier with our client. A collection of retro-style clear glass pendants were hung at various lengths from twelve foot high ceilings, creating a whimsical, unique centerpiece that does not obstruct the beautiful Gulf view.



Set against panoramic views of the Gulf, a custom-made pendant chandelier and ten foot live edge walnut dining table are a striking focal point in this spacious Bonita Beach house.

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Award-winning interior designer, Kira Krümm, has garnered global acclaim securing her position as a visionary at the forefront of modern interior design. With recognition in countless regional and international publications, and a collection of more than 30 industry honors, her brand includes her signature product line, the Kira Krümm Koastal Kollektion, and her interior design firm, Kira Krümm International Design, which specializes in full-service, custom interior design and home décor for luxury residences.

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