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# HOME + DESIGN

FAVORITE THINGS

05.2019



TASTE MASTERS

## WOOD THAT WORKS

Before you plan the décor of your new home, you have to select the right materials to build the background. That's where interior designers like Naples-based Kira Krümm step in. When she's helping her clients pick out new flooring, she advocates for engineered, natural, wide-plank wood. "I consider it the best general flooring decision for the Southwest Florida lifestyle," she says. "It's not only beautiful, warm, organic and coastal, but it's much easier to maintain and softer on your knees and joints than hard stone or porcelain." Engineered wood is different from the hardwood flooring that's common up north, Krümm adds. It's created for this climate, so it withstands Florida humidity and changes in temperature better. Today, homeowners have many different options when it comes to engineered wood-floor finishes, from beachy whitewashed light oak to smoked finishes that look almost like driftwood, Krümm says. "The finishes are quite beautiful—almost like furniture finishes. The palette has expanded a lot with the different processes they're doing to the wood." She adds: "Most of these finishes are matte, and they're conducive to a more casual lifestyle, like coming straight in off the beach with sand on your feet."

**Kira Krümm designed the interior of a Gulfstream Home estate with engineered wide-plank wood flooring from Real Wood Floors. **