

# FLORIDA DESIGN

*the new*  
**RULES**

**TRENDS IN**  
Kitchens,  
Landscaping,  
Lighting & Art



**LOW-KEY CHIC**

A Stylish Retreat on John's Island



Looking toward one of the doors that opens onto the water, the mid-century modern chair, covered in a Pierre Frey chenille, and the equally bright pouf reflect the colors in the piece of art over the fireplace. Above the console table, which has a top made of antique shagreen, hangs a mirror with crisp white discs dancing around its frame.

# AS GOOD AS IT GETS

A VACATION HOME IN JOHN'S ISLAND FUSES UNDERSTATED STYLE WITH COMFORT, AND ENDS UP BEING EVERYTHING A MARYLAND COUPLE ENVISIONED IT COULD BE



INTERIOR DESIGN STEPHANIE BRADSHAW AND BROOKE HOLLINGSWORTH, STEPHANIE BRADSHAW, BALTIMORE, MD  
ARCHITECTURE GREGORY ANDERSON ARCHITECTS, DEERFIELD BEACH, FL  
BUILDER THE FOUNDERS COLLECTION, LLC., VERO BEACH, FL  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SARTAIN & ASSOCIATES, VERO BEACH, FL  
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*UNRESTRICTED BY THE EXPECTATIONS* and traditions of full-time residences, vacation homes tend to bend the rules, and, consequently, end up being a much more organic reflection of its relaxed inhabitants. That was recently the case with a John's Island retreat for a Maryland couple with Florida sun and surf on their minds.

"As soon as we purchased the house, my husband Joe bought a boat, and I bought the painting over the fireplace in the living room," explains homeowner Nancy Hollingsworth. "It is a perfect representation of the clear color palette I envisioned." She is thrilled with how designers Stephanie Bradshaw and Brooke Hollingsworth, who is also their daughter and the lead designer on the project, captured the mood of the painting to create what she describes as "a perfect jewel box."

ABOVE: The color on the shutters, "Favorite Jeans" blue by Sherwin-Williams, brings the front of the home a stylish softness that reflects the sky overhead. The driveway pavers are made of brick in a slate gray.



LEFT: The neutral tones of the upholstery fabric contrast the rug in the living room. "In our original floor plan, we had a rectangular sofa," says designer Stephanie Bradshaw, "but I really wanted to have more movement in the room, so we chose a sofa that leads the eye to the outdoor views, which are spectacular." Said sofa is covered in boucle, while the lavender chair and ottoman are upholstered in chenille.

BELOW: The game table in the great room, surrounded by rattan chairs, is made of solid walnut with a coppered ribbed base. Bradshaw commissioned the work of art by Ariel Vargassal. "We asked for a Baltimore oriole to be perched atop the girl's head as a nod to the homeowners' main residence on the Chesapeake Bay," says Bradshaw. "The painting was meant to be a conversation piece for guests, and it has proven to be just that."



This place near Vero Beach is a departure from the Hollingsworths' main residence on the eastern shore of Maryland, though it equally expresses their sensibilities. "Nancy is a cultivated woman, a retired attorney, who knows what she likes," says Bradshaw. "She and Joe wanted a sophisticated look that moved away from your typical tropical prints, but they wanted the home to still be approachable." Bradshaw celebrates how the couple was open to taking some design risks that bring the interiors a cosmopolitan appeal, such as the dark rug that grounds the space in the living room.

Although the homeowners had already amassed a spirited collection of art, they were delighted that Bradshaw introduced them to new artists. Each of the new pieces are bright accents against pale backdrops, the compositions determining the color palettes for each room. The design team selected fabrics that drew the hues down into the spaces, such as the mid-century-modern-inspired chair and ottoman in the living room. To these playful moments, they added curvy upholstery with soft lines.

The couple has a large family that includes two sons, a daughter, and a fourth



ABOVE: The island countertop in the kitchen is clad in Calacatta ORO marble. Tucked beneath the lip that extends beyond the dark cabinetry are counter stools made of oak with woven backs and linen seats. The pendants hanging above are made of black glass.



ABOVE: The family room is just off the kitchen and is a favorite gathering spot for the grandchildren when they visit. An oversized leather-and-walnut ottoman serves as a coffee table with ample surfaces for games and activities.

LEFT: The dining room table has a top made of walnut in a puma finish that sits on a base finished in bronze. The seats of the chairs, which are made of walnut in a gray wash finish, are covered in a neutral performance fabric. The material on the backs, in a subtle pattern in soft oranges and grays, echo the brighter tones in the art.

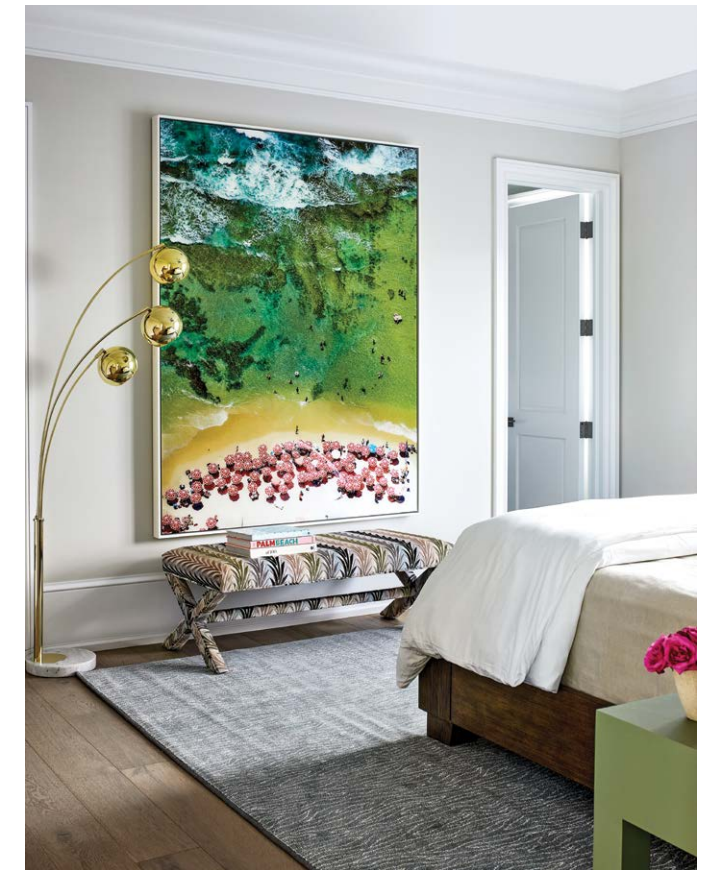


grandchild on the way, so being able to comfortably gather loved ones was a crucial consideration in the home's overall design. The generous size of the dining room table was particularly important for the number of diners it would need to accommodate at mealtimes. Just as important was the location of the kitchen. "Oh, the kitchen," says Nancy. "The kitchen is a dream when we are entertaining. It's across from the family room, and lanai, and has a beautiful view of the [inlet], so I never feel cut off when I'm cooking."

Gathering friends and family without feeling crowded was a mantra all along. "The private nooks Stephanie and Brooke arranged, such as the sitting area in the bedroom, and the seating in front of the fire, are perfect spots for privacy," Nancy remarks. Because she and Joe spend an ample amount of time in the home alone, these smaller areas are go-to



*“We wanted this home to reflect us,” says homeowner Nancy Hollingsworth, “and they achieved that beyond our dreams.”*



ABOVE: The focal point of a guest room is the oversized photograph by Joshua Jensen-Nagle. Beneath it sits a scissor-legged bench covered in a boldly patterned S. Harris fabric.

spots, particularly for enjoying the nature teeming in the beautiful setting. “My favorite thing is to sit in the living room in the morning and look out over the pool to our little slice of John’s Island Sound,” says Nancy. “In the mornings and in the evenings, the dolphins come to visit. It seems they can easily feed here because the channel is so narrow. I truly love watching them; they make me smile every time I see them.”

What also makes the couple beam is how perfectly the design team expressed their sense of style. “We wanted this home to reflect us, and they achieved that beyond our dreams,” says Nancy. “But they also paid attention to another request: we wanted it to be a fun place to spend time.”

It pleases Bradshaw that the couple is so happy with the end result. “Nancy emailed me a few weeks after we had completed the installation and the subject line read ‘Home Run!’” the designer recounts. “It doesn’t get much better than that.”

ABOVE: The sofa in the husband’s home office is covered in a Schumacher velvet. The painting offers a contrasting profusion of color that’s balanced by pieces such as the oak desk, which is brushed in a brown finish.

RIGHT: A four-poster bed commands the primary bedroom. Clad in teak veneer with an abaca-rope wrapped headboard, it’s a warm element in the pale space.



SOURCES

**LIVING AREA**

Sofa – Dmitriy & Co, New York, NY  
Fabric – Larsen, Cowtan and Tout, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Teal chair – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Armchair and ottoman – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Cocktail table – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Black side table – Arteriors, New York Design Center, New York, NY  
Drink table – VB Home LLC, Vero Beach, FL  
Console – Iatesta Studio, Stevensville, MD  
Mirror – Oly Studio, High Point, NC  
Lamp – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX  
Orange stool – Home Goods, Vero Beach, FL  
Chandelier – Moooi, New York Brand Store, New York, NY  
Floor lamp – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX  
Fireplace designed and fabricated by The Founders Collection, LLC., Vero Beach, FL  
Artwork above fireplace – Eric Aho, LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Area rug – Stark, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

**GAME AREA**

Table – Kate Duncan, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Chairs – McGuire, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Artwork of girl with zebra – Ariel Vargassal, Los Angeles, California, Renaissance Fine Arts, Baltimore, MD

**KITCHEN**

Cabinetry and island designed by The Founders Collection, LLC., Vero Beach, FL, and fabricated by Schlabach Wood Design, Baltic, OH  
Stools – McGee and Co., [mcgeandco.com](http://mcgeandco.com)  
Pendant lighting – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

**DINING AREA**

Table – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Chairs – EJ Victor, Morganton, NC  
Fabric – Zimmer and Rohde, New York, NY

**FAMILY ROOM**

Sofa – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.  
Fabric – Pollack, New York, NY  
Club chairs – Bernhardt, Hickory, NC  
Fabric – Mokum, Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Cocktail table – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Side table – Arteriors, New York Design Center, New York, NY

Area rug – Stark, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

**OFFICE**

Sofa – Lee Industries, Conover, North Carolina, American Eye, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Fabric – Schumacher, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Drink table – Holly Hunt, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Side table – West Elm, [westelm.com](http://westelm.com)

Lamp – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Desk and shelving – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

Artwork above sofa – Ronnie Landfield, LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Area rug – Stark, The Washington Design Center,

Washington, D.C.

**GUEST ROOM**

Bed – McGuire, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Side table – Tritter Feefer, LaGrange, GA

Bench – Kravet, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Painting above bench – Joshua Jensen-Nagle, Renaissance Fine Arts, Baltimore, MD

Floor lamp – Home Goods, Vero Beach, FL

Area rug – Patterson Flynn Martin, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

**MASTER BEDROOM**

Poster bed – McGee and Co., [mcgeandco.com](http://mcgeandco.com)

Bench – Bernhardt, Hickory, NC

Bedside table – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

Lamp – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Lounge and ottoman – EJ Victor, Morganton, NC

Fabric – Kravet, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

Area rug – Kravet, The Washington Design Center, Washington, D.C.

**LANAI**

Sofa, club chairs, dining table, and chairs – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

Cocktail table – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

Lounge chairs – Restoration Hardware, [rh.com](http://rh.com)

Pool designed by The Founders Collection, LLC., Vero Beach, FL, and fabricated by Crystal Pools, Vero Beach, FL

ABOVE: Ivory travertine pavers serve as the foundation for the lanai that is peppered with furniture chosen for durability and comfort. The dining table and coffee table are from Restoration Hardware's Parker Collection, while the seating is from RH's Verona Collection.

