

# FLORIDA DESIGN

## *THE PALM BEACH ISSUE*

Interiors, Creatives & Tastemakers from  
Florida's Most Glamorous County

**OVERNIGHT STYLE**  
A Design Dispatch  
on PB's Newest Hotels





# Classic Approach

IN PALM BEACH'S NORTH END,  
AN ELEVATED COASTAL AESTHETIC  
ASSURES FIRST-RATE ELEGANCE IN  
A PHIPPS ESTATES RESIDENCE

INTERIOR DESIGN SARA MCCANN & KAYLA HECHAVARRIA,  
MCCANN DESIGN GROUP, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
PROJECT MANAGER ANN KLOTZ, MCCANN DESIGN GROUP, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
ARCHITECTURE SMITH AND MOORE ARCHITECTS, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE SHELLIE SAQIB, MCCANN DESIGN GROUP, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
DEVELOPER MALASKY HOMES, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AGTLAND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, DELRAY BEACH, FL  
TEXT MALLORY JACOBSON | PHOTOGRAPHY NICKOLAS SARGENT, PALM BEACH, FL

The residence's backyard features an expansive loggia and attached pergola for entertaining. The pool was designed and constructed by AGTLAND Landscape Architecture, which also handled the planting of native palms and greenery along the coquina shell hardscape.





ABOVE: A hand-knotted rug from STARK Carpet grounds the office, where a herringbone-veneered desk from Hickory Chair is positioned opposite a pair of armchairs from Baker Furniture. The pared-down but handsome furnishings allow the lacquered blue walls to dominate the mood here.

*WHAT'S A DESIGNER TO DO* when called on to orchestrate the interiors of a new build on the last redeveloped lot in the storied enclave of Palm Beach's Phipps Estates? If you're designer Sara McCann, head of the Hive Home design empire and founder of McCann Design Group, the surefire route is an upscale coastal aesthetic with classic charm.

Working in conjunction with Smith and Moore Architects, and along with interior designer Kayla Hechevarria, the design and build of the home, which features seven bedrooms and nine-and-a-half bathrooms and spans 11,047-square-feet, was a three-year undertaking. "The Mediterranean style we chose was inspired by the work of Addison Mizner," says McCann. "It combines classic elegance with a modern twist." With a cast-stone façade, dormer windows, and a series of functional balconies, the structural craftsmanship of the house is evident, and its polished exterior hints at what's to come inside.



Earth-toned upholstery was chosen for the sofas and chairs in the living room. The custom bookshelves are filled with color-blocked volumes. The duo of lamps is from Paul Schneider Ceramics and the chandelier is from Neirmann Weeks.



Designer Sara McCann selected a grass cloth wallcovering from Cowtan & Tout to evoke a tranquil feel in the dining room. The table is by Keith Fritz Fine Furniture, sourced through John Roselli & Associates, and is joined by Ferrell Mittman chairs.

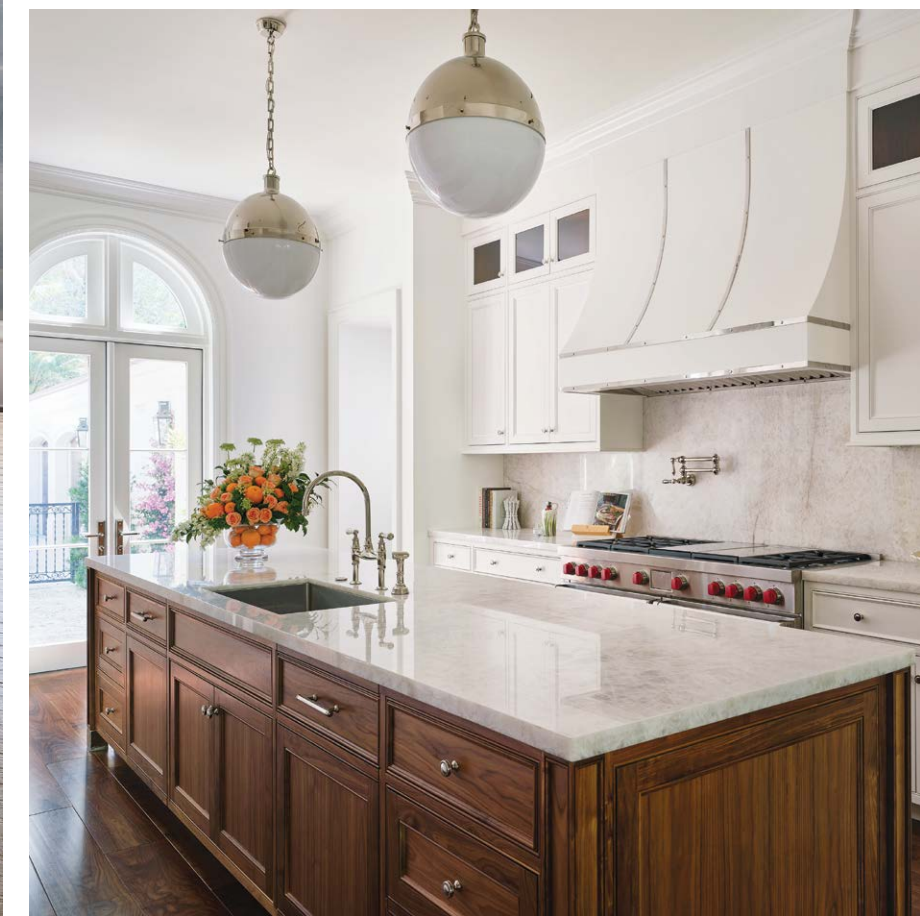


The designer notes that it was her intent to strike a balance between formality and warmth: “With rich finishes and custom millwork, the look nods to the neighborhood’s sophistication, all while bringing in Palm Beach’s relaxed sense of luxury, ensuring both beauty and practicality.”

When asked about her involvement over the course of the home’s design and construction process, McCann promptly replies: “Our hands touched every detail and finish.” Her primary focus was on character-enriching design elements such as groin vaulted ceilings, bespoke wall paneling, and functional lighting layouts.

In the dining room, for instance, a grass cloth wallcovering in a motif reminiscent of bricks introduces an unexpected pop of blue color, and in the office, cerulean lacquered walls create drama. McCann’s emphasis on accent walls continues in the game room with custom oak paneling and finishes that complement it.

BELOW: The kitchen exudes traditional sophistication with an updated approach. The cabinetry and island were fabricated by Jefferson Woodworking, and the spherical pendants are from Visual Comfort.





Jefferson Woodworking orchestrated the installation of the oak paneled millwork in the game room. McCann designed the custom banquette flanked by sconces from Urban Electric. The bar is lined with rattan-backed stools from Baker Furniture.



BELOW: Boasting architectural design that reflects that of the main residence, the poolside guesthouse features two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living room.



Additionally, there was an emphasis on materials that are quintessentially Palm Beach. This entailed the use of patterned textiles, natural fiber rugs, and upholstery in organic hues. To infuse the spaces with a touch of whimsy, McCann sourced several pieces from fine art photographer Nick Mele, who has been acclaimed as a modern-day Slim Aarons. “His work speaks to the time-honored sense of the home, while still being fun,” says McCann.

The backyard, which opens to a covered loggia often used for entertaining, is a continuation of the home’s landmark design, and a poolside guest house mirrors the style of the main house.

Thinking back to her involvement in this project, McCann has nothing but happy memories. “We love it when our clients fully trust our design direction and vision,” she says. “It was truly an honor to work on a home of this scale and quality.”

SOURCES

**LIVING ROOM**

Sofas, armchairs, lounge chairs, and ottoman table – Baker Furniture, [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com)  
Desk lamp – Visual Comfort & Co., [visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com)  
Curved back sofa – Ferrell Mittman, [ferrellmittman.com](http://ferrellmittman.com)  
Fabric – Holland & Sherry, [interiors.hollandandsherry.com/en](http://interiors.hollandandsherry.com/en)  
Side table – Kindel Furniture, [kindelfurniture.com](http://kindelfurniture.com)  
Lamps – Paul Schneider Ceramics, [paulschneiderceramics.com](http://paulschneiderceramics.com)  
Chandelier – Niermann Weeks, [niermannweeks.com](http://niermannweeks.com)  
Area rug designed by McCann Design Group, West Palm Beach, FL, and fabricated by L&M Custom Carpets, [lmcustomcarpets.com](http://lmcustomcarpets.com)  
**OFFICE**  
Desk – Hickory Chair, [hickorychair.com](http://hickorychair.com)

Chair – Bright Chair Company, Jerry Pair, Hollywood, FL  
Chairs – Baker Furniture, [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com)  
Chandelier – Hudson Valley Lighting, [hvlgroup.com](http://hvlgroup.com)  
Desk lamp – Visual Comfort & Co., [visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com)  
Area rug – STARK Carpet, Hollywood, FL  
**DINING ROOM**  
Table – Keith Fritz, John Rosselli, Dania Beach, FL  
Chairs – Ferrell Mittman, [ferrellmittman.com](http://ferrellmittman.com)  
Buffet – Bradley USA, [bradleyusa.com](http://bradleyusa.com)  
Chandelier – Remains Lighting, [remains.com](http://remains.com)  
Sconces – Urban Electric, [urbanelectric.com](http://urbanelectric.com)  
Wallcovering and drapery – Cowtan & Tout, Hive Trade Showroom, West Palm Beach, FL  
Area rug – Designer Carpets International, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
**KITCHEN**  
Cabinetry, island, and hood – Jefferson Woodworking,

[jeffersonwoodworking.com](http://jeffersonwoodworking.com)  
Pendant lighting – Visual Comfort & Co., [visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com)  
**GAME ROOM**  
Game table – Tritter Feefer, [tritterfeefer.com](http://tritterfeefer.com)  
Banquette designed by McCann Design Group, West Palm Beach, FL, and fabricated by Associated Interior Designer Services, [associateddesignerservice.com](http://associateddesignerservice.com)  
Chairs and bar stools – Baker Furniture, [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com)  
Sconces – Urban Electric, [urbanelectric.com](http://urbanelectric.com)  
Billiards table – Boynton Billiards, [boyntonbilliards.com](http://boyntonbilliards.com)  
Millwork – Jefferson Woodworking, [jeffersonwoodworking.com](http://jeffersonwoodworking.com)  
**BACK EXTERIOR**  
Dining table, chairs, and lounges – Janus et Cie, [janusetcie.com](http://janusetcie.com)  
Pool designed by AGTLAND Landscape Architecture, Delray Beach, FL



# SOFT LANDING

SOOTHING COLORS AND TEXTURES INFUSE SERENITY  
IN A WEST PALM BEACH PIED-À-TERRE



WHEN REPEAT CLIENTS ASKED interior designer Ellen Kavanaugh for help with their under-construction penthouse in West Palm Beach, Kavanaugh enthusiastically said yes. “They’re a delightful couple, and they have a really good eye for design and beautiful things,” she says about the two empty-nesters who use the pied-à-terre for their seasonal Palm Beach getaways. “We incorporated a lot of special touches because it brings them such joy.”

As the building went up, Kavanaugh helped make a few limited choices for finishes, but most of her energy went into planning the decor that would transform the three-bedroom, four-bathroom apartment from a series of white boxes to a warm, modern space. The residence faces east, with sweeping views of Palm Beach Island and the sunrise, so when choosing the palette, Kavanaugh was careful not to compete with the vistas, but instead chose soft colors and textures to elevate every room.

ABOVE: With a view of Palm Beach, the east-facing balcony of a newly constructed penthouse provides the perfect space for morning coffee or evening cocktails.

RIGHT: “We found artisans to craft unique pieces that are very much artwork for the home,” says interior designer Ellen Kavanaugh. Case in point: The lounging area off the kitchen includes a buffet with hand-selected colored glass tiles that was custom made in Italy. Contrasting upholstery on the chairs introduces a new pattern to the space.



INTERIOR DESIGN ELLEN KAVANAUGH & LIV TOONE,  
ELLEN KAVANAUGH INTERIORS, PALM BEACH, FL  
TEXT LAURA HINE  
PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEL BRANTLEY, DELRAY BEACH, FL  
STYLIST ROBERT RUFINO



Kavanaugh opted for an embroidered de Gournay wallcovering for the niche above the living room's custom built-ins to give the appearance of an art mural.



LEFT: A master artisan hand-cast and applied each of the organic plaster shapes to the entryway wall.

ABOVE: "Throughout the home, the flooring is stone," says Kavanaugh, "but with so many windows and so much glass, we needed something soft and warm, so we custom-designed the rug in the living room to feel light." Adding to that mood are sofas and chairs by Holly Hunt.



Upon entering, the first glimpse of a plaster relief wall patterned with organic forms sets the tone for the home. "We decided to do a shape almost like a shell or a monstera leaf, but we didn't want it to be identifiable," says Kavanaugh. "The wall gives you that wow factor. We don't have a lot of color or patterns, but we have [eye-catching] sculptural pieces and installations."

In the main living room, that wow factor—aside from the views—comes from the custom-scaled and colored-embroidered de Gournay wallcovering that sits in an alcove above built-ins that Kavanaugh's team added to the room. "I wanted it to feel like a thoughtful art installation," she says. "We added moldings and integrated it into the design of the built-ins, so it feels more intentional than just wallpapering one wall."



The plaster base of the Emmanuel Levet Stenne dining table echoes the organic shapes found in the foyer installation. With its solid oak top, Kavanaugh notes that it has a clean and contemporary design that reads as warm and inviting.



The homeowners use the condo as a base for exploring and enjoying Palm Beach, so the kitchen is mostly used for breakfasts and snacks. Holly Hunt rose stools by the dining end of the island are positioned to enjoy the water views. A driftwood branch sculpture on the wall introduces an organic touch in the room.



Kavanaugh kept these bespoke details—and there are many—feeling light and modern thanks to her eye for accessories and her tasteful use of whimsy. For example, also in the living room are two vintage palm tree torchères made of Murano glass. “They’re very sculptural, so it’s like another art installation,” she says. “But they also bring a bit of levity to the room.”

The wittiness of the design means that the whole apartment reads fresh and lively, which is just as Kavanaugh intended. “When you surround yourself with beautiful things, it elevates the way that you feel,” she explains. “We got to use many artisanal, handcrafted and beautiful pieces with this project, and ultimately that’s what made it so special.”

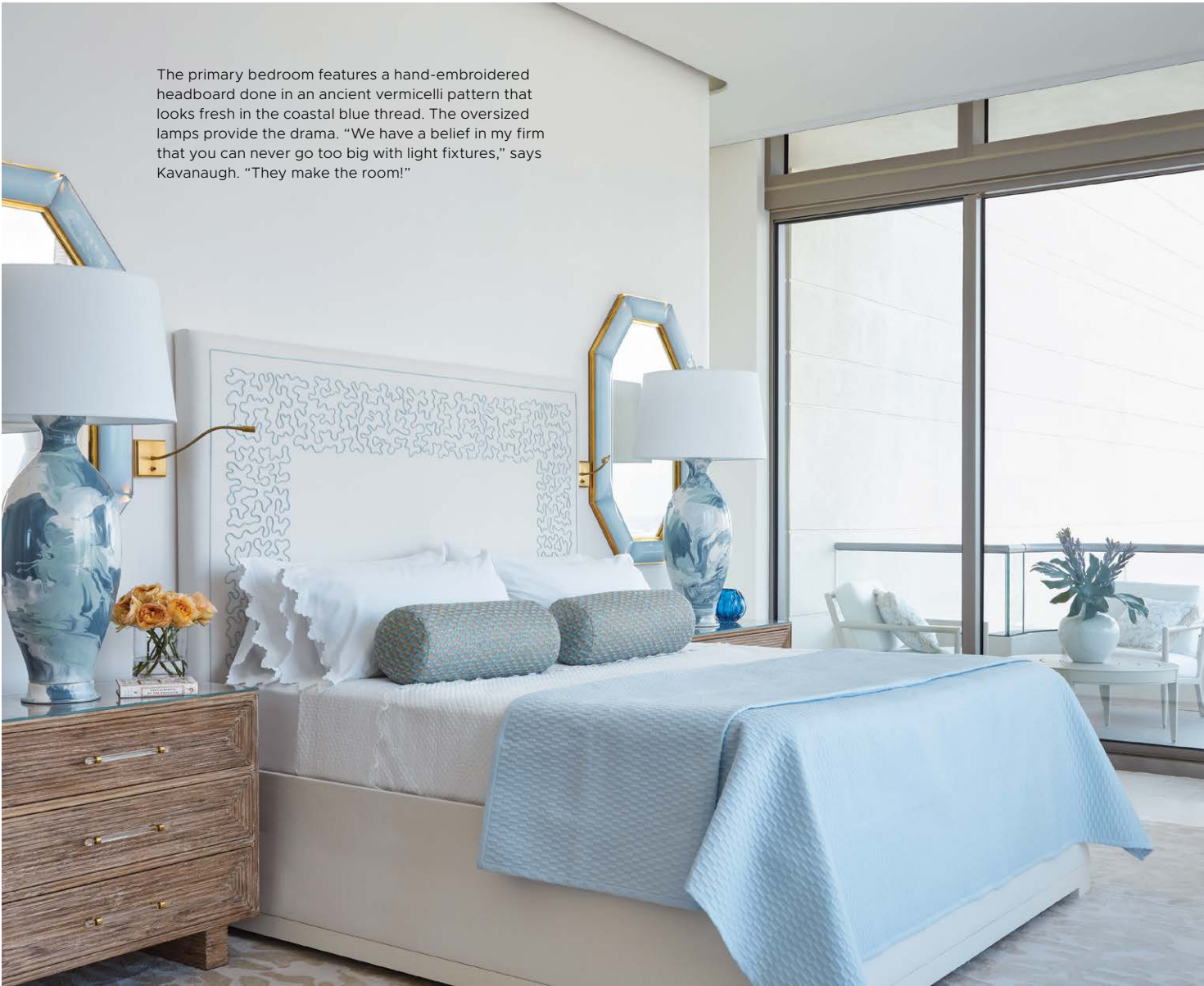
RIGHT: Kavanaugh found most of the condo’s colorful modern art through Brintz Gallery in Palm Beach. On this hallway we see pieces from Sarah Meyohas’ *Liquid Speculation* series.







In the hallway that leads to the primary bedroom suite, Kavanaugh used a silk Pierre Frey wallpaper to incorporate an existing alcove into the gallery of sunset-hued art.



The primary bedroom features a hand-embroidered headboard done in an ancient vermicelli pattern that looks fresh in the coastal blue thread. The oversized lamps provide the drama. “We have a belief in my firm that you can never go too big with light fixtures,” says Kavanaugh. “They make the room!”

SOURCES

**TERRACE**

Chairs, tables, and bar cart – McKinnon and Harris, West Palm Beach, FL

**FAMILY ROOM**

Chairs with fabric backs – Baker | McGuire Furniture, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric – Pierre Frey, Dania Beach, FL

Ottoman – Baker | McGuire Furniture, Dania Beach, FL

Side tables – Patricia’s Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL

Buffet – Transparent Atelier, [transparentatelier.com](http://transparentatelier.com)

Lamps – Iconic Snob Galleries, West Palm Beach, FL

Artwork – Stuart Cantor Fine Art Prints, [stuartcantorphotography.com](http://stuartcantorphotography.com)

Drapery – Cowtan & Tout, Dania Beach, FL

**LIVING ROOM**

Sofas and armchairs – Holly Hunt, Dania Beach, FL

Armchairs – Dmitriy & Co., [dmitriyco.com](http://dmitriyco.com)

Large cocktail table – StudioTwentySeven, [studiotwentyseven.com](http://studiotwentyseven.com)

Small cocktail table – Marbera Studio, [marbera-studio.com](http://marbera-studio.com)

Floor lamps – 1stDibs, [1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)

Table lamps – Jerry Pair & Associates, Hollywood, FL

Artwork – Stanley Casselman, Brintz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

Area rug – Fort Street Studio, [fortstreetstudio.com](http://fortstreetstudio.com)

**FOYER**

Console – StudioTwentySeven, [studiotwentyseven.com](http://studiotwentyseven.com)

Pineapple lamps – Authentic Provence, West Palm Beach, FL

Mirror – Michel Contessa Antiques, Miami, FL

Wallcovering designed by Ellen Kavanaugh Interiors, Palm Beach, FL, with appliques fabrication by Classic Art Mouldings, West Palm Beach, FL

**DINING ROOM**

Table – Emmanuel Levet Stenne, [emmanuel-levet-stenne.com](http://emmanuel-levet-stenne.com)

Chairs – Jerry Pair & Associates, Hollywood, FL

Area rug – STARK Carpet, North Palm Beach, FL

**KITCHEN**

Stools – Holly Hunt, Dania Beach, FL

Driftwood art – Ellen Kavanaugh Interiors, Palm Beach, FL

**PRIMARY HALL**

Lucite chair – Plexi Craft, [plexi-craft.com](http://plexi-craft.com)

Stools – R. Hughes, [r-hughes.com](http://r-hughes.com)

Wallcovering – Pierre Frey, Dania Beach, FL

Artwork – Sarah Meyohas, Brintz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

**PRIMARY BEDROOM**

Bed and headboard – Ellen Kavanaugh Interiors, Palm Beach, FL, and fabricated by Jose Fine Upholstery, West Palm Beach, FL

Bedside tables – The Raj Company, [therajco.com](http://therajco.com)

Mirrors – Michel Contessa Antiques, Miami, FL

Lamps – Paul Schneider, [paulschneiderceramics.com](http://paulschneiderceramics.com)

Sconce – John Rosselli Associates, Dania Beach, FL

Area rug – Mark Inc., [markinccarpets.com](http://markinccarpets.com)