

INTERIOR DESIGN / BRITT TANER, BRITT TANER DESIGN
HOME BUILDER / SCOTT MCCRACKEN, SAWHORSE CONSTRUCTION LLC



SEASIDE ECLECTIC

IN THE IDYLIC WATERFRONT VILLAGE OF WINDSOR, A CHICAGO DESIGNER BRINGS LIGHT AND WHIMSY TO HER FAMILY'S VACATION HOME.

WRITTEN BY **KIMBERLY OLSON** / PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ARIC ATTAS**

Britt Taner has created nearly a decade of fond memories at the vacation home she shares with her husband, Kerim, and their three children in the Windsor community of Vero Beach. “Some of our dearest friends now are from the area,” says Taner, a Chicago-based interior designer. “It’s like summer camp, where the kids see all their friends. We love our house—it’s our happy place.”

Situated on a lush island, the community of Windsor was created by town planners Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk in the New Urbanism style, an innovative design movement that artfully mixes private and public spaces. The family appreciated the home’s Anglo-Caribbean architecture—originally designed by architect Armando Montero, formerly of the Montero Group—but after enjoying their home for several years, they were ready to give the home a bit of a refresh.

The designer began by lightening up the 3,190-square-foot cottage-like abode using fresh white tones throughout, including on the floors and the walls, to emphasize the natural light within the spaces. “The home originally had dark cherrywood floors that were in pretty bad shape because the previous owners had a dog,” Taner says. “So I decided to place sea grass over them, which helped make the rooms feel cozier as well. I then painted the floor in the kitchen and on the landing white to add a fun beachy feeling.” She also painted the millwork, which was powder blue, a crisp white.

To enliven the dwelling’s new clean canvas, Taner added splashes of pattern and tropical hues. “I collected a bunch of fabrics and wallpapers that caught my eye, brought them home, and spread them all out,” she says. “Color makes me happy. My grandmother, who lived in Florida, was an interior designer, so I grew up with all the wonderful colorful chintzes that she had, kind of like growing up in a Brunschwig & Fils showroom.” As an homage to her grandmother, the designer incorporated several of that brand’s wallpapers into the home, including a lively palm tree print in the master bedroom. “It’s pretty and has a sense of humor,” she says. “It’s fun to lay in the bed surrounded by this Florida motif. And as you look through the French doors, there are more [living] palm trees. We’re in Florida, so let’s be in Florida!”

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Throughout the residence, Taner wanted to keep that same sense of whimsy, so she mixed contemporary and vintage pieces to create a more eclectic vibe. An ideal example of that blended aesthetic is the sitting room, which is centered on a vintage kilim rug the designer obtained at Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar, inspiring the vibrant hues and fabrics for the entire space. “I felt that the rug, with its fantastic colors, would be perfect for the house,” she says, adding that the piece also carries special meaning since her husband is Turkish. To round out the room, which also functions as the entry, Taner incorporated two loveseats with a familial history. “They were in my dad’s apartment when he met my mother,” says the designer, who re-covered them in chartreuse linen. “I grew up with those loveseats, so it’s fun to see them in a new setting.” Overall, the room has a more casual feel ideal for the family of five. “That sitting room was the previous owner’s dining room, but we’re not that formal,” Taner says.

The designer aimed to create another intimate and cozy space in the living room. To do so, she covered the walls with a gray grass cloth with a gold metallic backing and added chartreuse draperies and armchairs for splashes of color. She then finished the space with a vintage cocktail table from the family’s primary home in Chicago. “My husband can be watching a game in the living room, and my daughters and I will be reading magazines in the sitting room,” Taner says, explaining how both rooms encourage a relaxed atmosphere. And, since Taner and her husband host impromptu dinner parties, having two conversation spaces comes in handy.

To adjust for the lack of dining space, however, Taner incorporated a table in the kitchen, where builder Scott McCracken helped the designer attain a clean, modern aesthetic. “We put in a new tile backsplash,” Taner says. “We also painted the cabinetry, put on new hardware and redid the island, including all new appliances.”

Out in the yard, the overgrown landscaping also got a transformation. “At the corners of the pool, there were four gigantic palm trees that I’m sure were lovely when they first went in, but they were taking over the property,” the designer says. “So we took out the palms, which created a more open feeling in the pool courtyard.”

While Taner took the design lead, her husband also weighed in. “Thank goodness, we’re on the same page,” she says. “He defers to me on fabrics and wallpapers. But in terms of the art, we always pick it out together.” Meanwhile, the couple’s three daughters each chose the design direction for their bedrooms. “I treat them like little clients, presenting several concepts,” the designer says.

As much as she loves designing for clients, Taner finds a special joy in designing for her family. “I have an idea in my head, and I don’t have to convince anyone else of it—except maybe my husband,” she teases. “We’re so happy to be in such a fun house, and I love that our kids have grown up in it. We have so many memories here.”



A metal table with a verdigris finish, a found piece from Decorative Arts, creates a stylish bar in a butler’s pantry off the kitchen in designer Britt Taner’s Vero Beach vacation home. The porcelain lamp is also from Decorative Arts, and the vintage mirror was discovered at an antiques show in Chicago.

The sunny sitting room includes two vintage loveseats that had belonged to Tamer's father, which were re-covered in a Summer Hill chartreuse linen; the modern Bertioia Diamond lounge chairs and Platner coffee table by Knoll are from Design Within Reach. A kilim rug, obtained at the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, adds vibrant pattern to the space.





Hinson's gray grass cloth with gold metallic backing lends intimacy to the living room, where splashes of chartreuse were added in the form of window treatments in a Schumacher linen, as well as armchairs and an ottoman in Bankers linen by Brunswick & Fils. The sofa is by Baker, the vintage Asian coffee table with a black lacquer finish is from Pagoda Red in Chicago, and the lamps are from Rod Mickley Interiors; the brass sunburst above the mantel is by Jonathan Adler.

Opposite: Taner used Chicago brick in the courtyard and added comfortable outdoor seating in the form of Maybe lounge chairs by Jardin de Ville.

Below: In the airy kitchen, the cabinetry and cherrywood floors were painted white, maximizing the impact of the natural light. The kitchen was also refreshed with new Ann Sacks ceramic subway tile, Corian countertops in Cameo White and a Franke stainless-steel sink with a Dornbracht Elio faucet; the counter stools are from Janus et Cie in Chicago. The vintage French poster from Atlas Gallery, also in Chicago, adds a touch of whimsy.



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The dining area, which offers a view of the lush yard, features a custom cross-extension dining table painted in a blush pink. The Series 7 dining chairs are by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen, and the Nelson Saucer pendant lamp is by Herman Miller. The artwork, a turtle painted on reclaimed teak, is from Rod Mickley Interiors.



Right: Two custom outdoor daybeds from Holland & Sherry in Chicago covered in C&C Milano terry cloth provide an ideal lounging spot with a view on the upper veranda. The house got a fresh coat of white paint, and its shutters were painted Benjamin Moore's Richmond Green.

Opposite: The homeowners simplified the landscaping and opened up the pool courtyard by removing a few palm trees that dominated the area.



Palm House wallpaper by Brunschwig & Fils brings a fun tropical vibe to the master bedroom. The bed's custom headboard is covered in a Sunbrella fabric, and the Linear cherrywood side table is from Room & Board. Sisal on the floor adds warmth and contributes to the bedroom's Florida feel.



Above: Stylish seating in the master bedroom is provided by a pair of white-leather Mies van der Rohe Barcelona chairs by Knoll. The chairs pop against curtains made of Palm House fabric by Brunschwig & Fils and a Linear dresser in cherrywood with a stainless-steel base from Room & Board. Near the window, a Parsons desk in white lacquer from West Elm is paired with a Ghost chair by Philippe Starck from Design Within Reach.

Left: Taner retained the design of the original master bathroom but dressed it up with a Nolan Double sconce with a contemporary Art Deco aesthetic and new faucets, all from RH.