

THE FIRST ❁ THE ONLY

VeroBeach

Magazine®

AUGUST 2019

*For artist Lisa Rose, when one chapter ended
a beautiful new one began*

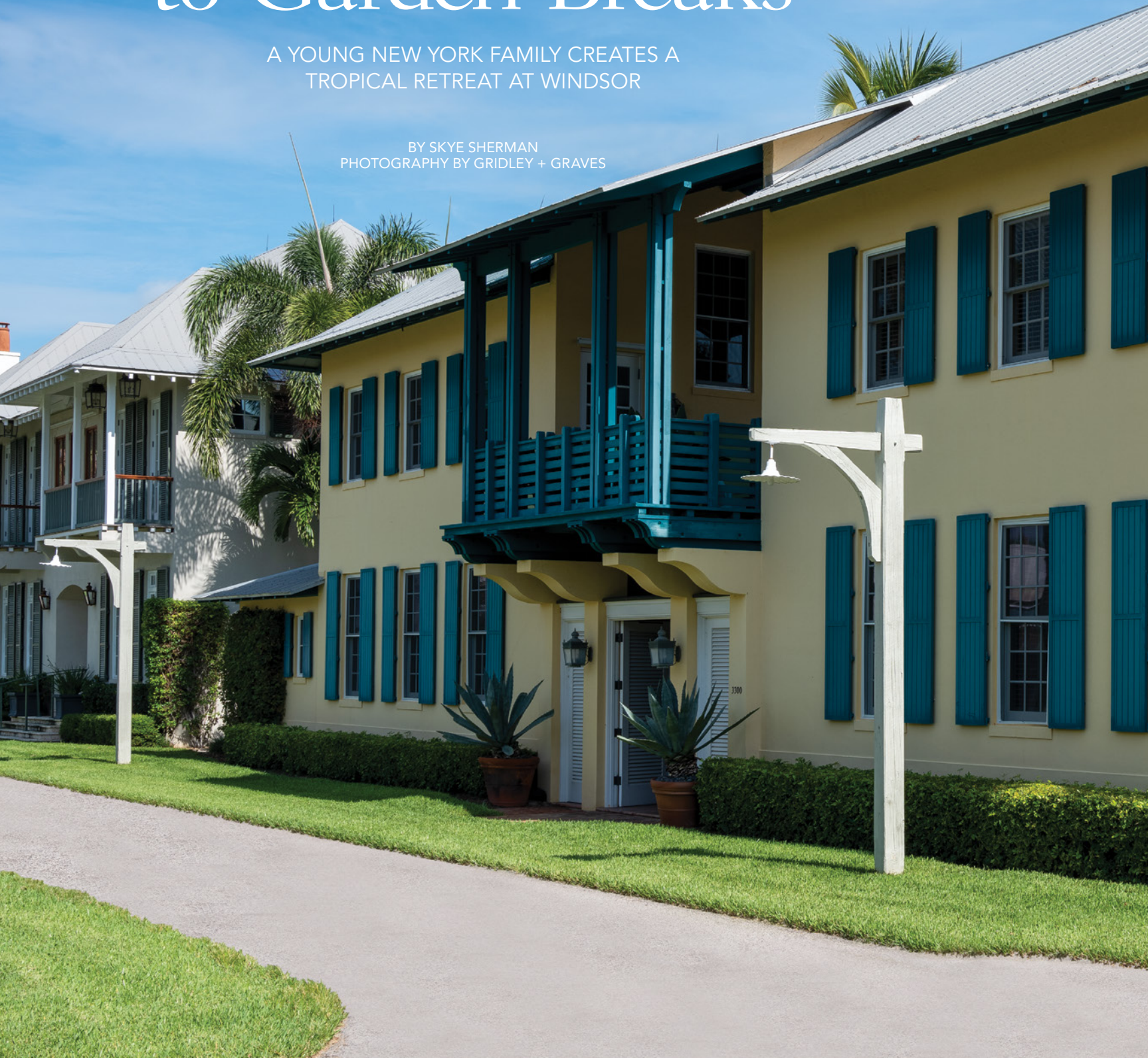
ROSE-COLORED
PASTELS



From Cityscapes to Garden Breaks

A YOUNG NEW YORK FAMILY CREATES A
TROPICAL RETREAT AT WINDSOR

BY SKYE SHERMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRIDLEY + GRAVES





Like many residents of Vero Beach, the Segalas family was drawn to the area for the reprieve it provides from the concrete and chaos of life up North. The New York City-based family finds that regular trips to their renovated home at Windsor seem to cure whatever ails them.

Though their seasonal migration south was not an immediate one — the Segalases were first introduced to Windsor by a relative 20 years ago, yet have owned a home there for only four — the allure of the tropics, coupled with Windsor’s new urbanist approach to resort-style living, eventually proved too strong to resist.

“We found the plan, the architecture — really the whole thing — intriguing, but this was long before we were even thinking of buying a house in Florida,” Lisa Segalas shares. “However, what we saw in the pictures sent to us stuck in our minds for a couple of decades.”

Years later, when the Segalas family had grown to a party of six, Windsor appeared on their radar once again. “One of our sons had baseball camp in the area, so we decided to go take a look at Windsor, and we immediately fell in love,” Segalas says. “We brought three of our four children with us, and seeing them run around outside freely really struck us. We weren’t really in the market, but we decided to take a look at a couple of houses anyway.

“The minute we walked into the one

The Segalas home was intended as a tropical getaway from the family’s life in New York City, so outdoor living is of paramount importance. The spacious loggia is the perfect place for reading, dining and relaxing.







Main rooms such as the dining room have double-height ceilings and complex moldings but remain intimate thanks to Hershner's installation of raffia on the ceilings. The sconces are from Vaughan Designs; the dining table and chairs are British Khaki.

we eventually bought, we sensed it was the right house for us," she continues. "However, we still weren't ready to commit to Florida. We got back to New York and to the craziness of our schedule with our big family and we moved on to other things. Every now and then, we would peek on the internet to see if it was still on the market. When the owner eventually took it off, I was a little disappointed, but kind of relieved. But a couple of years later, I decided to check again and see what was happening with the house, and it was back for sale."

Soon after, the Windsor address the Segalas family had admired for years was finally theirs.

Originally designed by urban planner Andres Duany, the renowned architect of Windsor and founder of the new urbanism movement, the Segalas home was built to embrace the site's existing breeze patterns and natural light sequences. In new urbanism style, the details are devised for optimal living; the aim is to create walkable and diverse mixed-use communities with a range of nearby amenities to ensure an easygoing lifestyle. At Windsor, residents can enjoy such amenities as an 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., a beach club with pool and boardwalk beach access across natural dunes, restaurants, a village store, a post office, an art gallery, a town hall and 10.5 miles of equestrian and exercise trails.

Thrilled to at last own the house of their daydreams, the Segalas family moved on to the next order of business: redesigning the home to fit their lifestyle and intended use.

"Windsor is a vacation home for us," Segalas explains. "We come for long weekends and holidays with our kids, friends, or other family members, so we wanted a space that was inviting and fresh but timeless. When we decorate, I don't anticipate redecorating for a very long time, so I also want something that will age well and still be beautiful as it ages." As much as they admired the

Adding to the unabashedly tropical theme of the house are vibrant color palettes and playful wallpapers, further blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor in this breezy vacation home.





Most of the paint colors used throughout the home are Farrow & Ball. Furnishings are a mix of new, vintage and antique pieces, with nothing too period, in order to ensure a sense of ease and comfort.

house, a refresh was in order to meet the needs of the family.

For that, they engaged Richard Hershner, principal of RJH Design of New York City and Sarasota, Florida. Hershner has a reputation for accomplishing exactly what the Segalases hoped for in their Windsor home: outfitting the interiors in a classic style that befits the period and location of the house while mixing in antiques and, where appropriate, modern pieces that lend a degree of youthfulness.

“Richard had done several other extensive projects for us,” Segalas adds. “I loved working with him and knew he would be able to create a space that my entire family would not only love, but be able to live comfortably in.”

The relationship was a natural fit for Hershner’s style as well. “From the beginning, I’ve understood her taste for natural materials, particularly linen and color, and her love for the warmth of antiques while keeping things fresh, given

her young family,” Hershner says.

For this home — one of the first built at Windsor, and located on the main boulevard with open green spaces on two sides — the vision was to create a relaxing haven that embraces Vero Beach’s tropical setting, a getaway dramatically different from the family’s everyday environment in the city.

“Windsor’s homes mostly have large courtyards with pools and gardens which the houses wrap around to some degree,” Hershner explains. “Here, the house encloses three sides, with a wall to the adjoining house forming the fourth side.”

Bringing the Segalases’ vision to life involved a generous use of color as well as layering in prints, materials and furnishings that have a tropical touch. “Lisa wanted rattan and bamboo and lots of different colors, and a lush tropical garden with lots of flowering plants,” Hershner explains. Thus, all rooms of the home incorporate rattan and bamboo pieces. The rattan chairs in the family room are designed after those on Franklin Roosevelt’s yacht.

“We looked to the Caribbean for inspiration; the natural beauty and spirit of the islands is really transporting, and this is the feeling we were hoping for when we come to our house here,” Segalas says. To imbue the home with the warm welcome of the tropics, Hershner adds, “We devised an intricate color scheme to make each room a special experience.”

Existing features were playfully updated and incorporated into the easygoing yet refined vibe of the home. Herringbone-patterned maple flooring is underfoot throughout the main living spaces, serving as a base for 13-foot ceilings and complex moldings that add a sense of drama. “The tall ceilings were covered with tawny raffia to bring them down, and the substantial millwork in the public rooms was picked out in two Farrow & Ball stone colors,” explains Hershner.



Hand-printed linen fabrics from Raoul Textiles and seaweed prints from Creel and Gow tie together this subtly sea-inspired bedroom.

“I love the raffia wallpaper that Richard put on the ceiling. That was a fun surprise, and it made a huge impact on the living and dining room,” Segalas says. “Actually, we liked it so much that we ended up adding it to the family room as well!”

Hershner and Segalas also added wide louvered plantation shutters inside, which were painted in various colors from Farrow & Ball to enliven the interiors. The vibrant wallpapers found in the dining and powder rooms were sourced from Cole & Son, an esteemed English wallpaper firm whose collections are

stocked in Kravet’s Lee Jofa showrooms.

In furnishing the home, Segalas and Hershner sought a delicate balance of new and old, island vibes and elegance. “I love a mix of formal and informal and am partial to antiques, but I know my family prefers something more modern, so we tried to put together a house that everyone would love,” Segalas says.

As is distinctly Hershner, the final product deftly marries historic with modern and presents clean yet emotive spaces blanketed in color and intrigue. Though the home is striking in appearance, it remains eminently livable, a



Maple flooring in a herringbone pattern provides a stylish base throughout the main living areas. In the office, a collection of colorful woven baskets serves as eye-catching wall art.

comfortable retreat where the family can kick back and enjoy. “As I am prone, various grass carpets cover all the floors,” Hershner adds. He favors these rugs for their understated, natural and affordable qualities, particularly fit for Florida’s climate.

Of course, as thoughtful as the interiors may be, the Segalas family does not travel to Vero Beach to spend their time enclosed indoors. Thus, the real piece de resistance of the home is not inside the home at all: It’s beyond the walls, the outdoor living space.

One of the main goals the family had for their Windsor home was to create an al fresco oasis that would give them a place to embrace their love of Florida’s balmy weather. All ground-floor rooms are enclosed by French doors with pocket screens that open onto a deep, covered loggia, where the family can enjoy a sitting area overlooking a sunny terrace and 20-by-45-foot tiled swimming pool. The sprawling loggia is interspersed with cozy spots for sitting a spell.

“Coming from New York, with our







Fabrics from English firm Bennisson, which specializes in hand-printed fabrics based on 18th- and 19th-century English and French textiles, covers the sofa and chair cushions in the master bedroom, which, like all the other ground-floor rooms, opens onto the loggia via French doors.

long winters, the thought of eating, reading and basically spending our waking hours outdoors was compelling. We spent a lot of time thinking and working on the interior the first year, but I don't think we actually sat in any of the rooms inside or even ate in our dining room at all," Segalas laughs.

Exotic items from local importer Columbus and Cook, which ventures out on yearly expeditions to source antiques, vintage furniture and accessories from far-flung Java and Bali, proved ideal choices for loggia living. "We are absolutely desperate to be outside by the time we get down here," Segalas admits. "When we first put the Balinese daybed

out there, I wondered if it would be one of those things that's beautiful but not really used very much, but it has turned out to be a favorite spot for both my daughter and me. We like to curl up there night and day. It's a wonderful space to read or nap."

Hanging copper lanterns from Bevolo were added to line the loggia — which previously had no lighting other than small downlights along the walls — and gently illuminate another significant element of the outdoor experience: the interior courtyard garden, which also benefited from a breath of new life.

Hershner had successfully designed a garden for the family in the past, but

the limited window of time available to work on the garden led them to enlist the help of Chris Runge, senior consultant at Landscape Concepts, for assistance with the planting schemes.

Runge's landscape design firm takes on projects of every scope, from sets of clay pot gardens to estates and planned communities, with work stretching from the Bahamas to Texas and Colorado. "We like to use varying shades of green and different textures in the landscape, highlighted with focal points of color," he says. Together with Hershner, Runge executed a complete renovation of the interior courtyard at the Segalas home.

"The family wanted a lush tropical garden, as opposed to the formality of their life in New York City," Runge explains. They presented a plan for the geometry of the garden's hardscape and then began to color between the lines. The existing *Bombax ceiba* tree as well as a selection of palms and the Buddha belly bamboo were left as the key anchor plantings.

"Working with the client and designer, we chose a palette of tropical and subtropical foliage plantings as the understory textures to complement the existing specimen trees," Runge reveals. "In addition, a collection of clay pot gardens was added. They are changed out annually by season, with both color and varying shades of green foliage." A fountain Hershner sourced from Authentic Provence in Palm Beach was added to complete the look. Runge continues to oversee maintenance of the garden to this day.

"Their garden is more horticultural than the landscape gardens generally seen around homes in Florida," adds Hershner. "And the tropical plantings almost envelop you as you step down



The revitalized garden sits slightly lower than the pool terrace, creating a private outdoor haven.

into the garden." The garden sits slightly lower than the pool terrace, creating a private outdoor haven for the family, with a patio made of limestone supplied from Paris Ceramics.

"We did the interior of the house first, so when we redid the garden, it really magnified our enjoyment of being outside," says Segalas. "It's a small garden, but it exponentially increased our love for being here at our house in Windsor, and it is definitely the most important element about the house for me. And I am particularly glad we decided to add the little antique French fountain. I can't imagine the garden without it."

"The house is an oasis for them, away from New York and the Northeast, where they can enjoy themselves and revitalize before heading back north," Hershner says. 🌿