

SCENE STEALER

Pimlico Interiors' Melissa Lindsay reimagines a tropical retreat with timeless style

CONVERSATION WITH PIMLICO INTERIORS BY MELISSA LINDSAY ♦ WRITTEN BY MERYL SIEGMAN ♦ IMAGES BY AMY VISCHIO

"It was so important to find vintage pieces for this room to give it soul," says Melissa. "I love the mix of styles and how the curved lines of the furnishings offset the linear architectural of the space."



To conjure up a perfect tropical getaway, close your eyes for a moment: Imagine an immaculately designed private community featuring a diverse array of custom oceanfront, fairway-front and village homes that is committed to sustainability and entrenched in cultural enrichment. Next, add an 18-hole golf course, an equestrian center, a tennis center designed by former tennis pro Stan Smith, and world-class dining. This is Windsor, a private residential community located in Vero Beach, along Florida's Treasure Coast. And this is where a couple from New England purchased a second home for winter breaks and family gatherings.

Facing the links-style championship golf course, this 5,000-square-foot, six-bedroom property immediately appealed to its new buyers, who had been looking for a second home in the community for some time. Originally designed by architect Clem Schaub of The Associates Studio—known throughout Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean for his stunning tropical architecture—this British Colonial-style home was ready for a makeover.

As soon as the closing was complete, the couple hired Melissa Lindsay, owner and principal of Pimlico Interiors, who had worked with them on a complete remodel of their primary home in Connecticut. The award-winning designer is renowned for her diverse and layered aesthetic and a refined, timeless style that lends itself to traditional and modern interiors alike. Melissa was excited to be on board this exciting new project, saying, "I knew the family's style so well from previous work, so I was able to jump right in."

Melissa and her firm were tasked with delivering a complete remodel, while The Associates Studio was brought in to design an additional cabana to connect to the one existing on the site. "Our job was to change the look of the house, which had an Asian influence and a dark, heavy vibe. We wanted to make it feel light and bright," Melissa says. "My clients love color and pattern, so we introduced both in a light palette to align with their aesthetics."

The house itself wraps around a private interior courtyard that opens up onto the golf course, offering lush, tranquil views. In addition to the pair of cabanas, a 60-foot pool makes the peaceful outdoor space seem even more expansive. "What I love about the layout of this home is that it is conducive to bringing in family members," the designer explains. "With the main house separated from the two cabanas and guest suite, and one set of stairs to the main suite and another to the guest bedrooms, it is perfectly designed for having private space for guests and family. And everything is connected outside by a wraparound porch."

"My clients embrace many different styles," Melissa continues. "This project gave me a fabulous opportunity to bring in a sense of whimsy with colors and patterns, in ways that really reflect who they are. Because they like things that are a little edgy, this home does not have a typical 'Florida' look and doesn't feel like a traditional beach house."

Melissa points out two rooms in particular that reflect her interior design approach as well as her clients' style and tastes. The perfectly square dining room with lofty ceilings plays a central role in the ground floor's layout. Serving as a source of inspiration for the designer, it became the starting point of the design scheme. "We didn't want it to be overly formal," she explains. Together with her clients, she selected a delightful hand-painted wallcovering, which, she says, "creates so much in the space by bringing in little bits of pink and teal for saturation of color, making it elegant without being too fussy."

The light fixture, another standout feature of the room, is made from Murano glass. It was chosen by Melissa and her clients early on in the design process.

The designer broke up the oversized living room by creating two distinct spaces, one with soft curves and the other with clean, straight lines. The eye-catching, antique Italian floor lamp connects the two by creating a focal point.



The capricious hand-painted de Gournay wallpaper in the dining room sets the stage for the light, informal design. The designer made the most of a small powder room by choosing a floating vanity, a dramatically veined slab of marble, and bold wallpaper that adds a splash of bright yellow to the space.



"In the primary bedroom," explains Melissa, "we embraced a sepia-toned palm leaf wallcovering to create a serene retreat, offering a nice contrast to the vibrant colors found throughout the rest of the home."

"I love the mix of modern fixtures with the warmth of ceruse oak accents in the primary bathroom," says Melissa. "It's clean, timeless and the perfect backdrop for a punctuation of color in artwork."



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"The Pierre Frey fabric that we used to upholster the headboards feels so old-world Florida to me," notes Melissa. "I love the contrast of the traditional floral/bird print fabric with the geometric design in the adjacent bathroom."



"My client and I both fell in love with this whimsical and playful wallcovering by Brett Design," says Melissa. "To give a little edge to the bedroom, we incorporated mid-century furnishing designs and stronger orange-colored accents."



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Wallcovering and drapery fabric are from La Palma Hollywood by Mokum.

The matching cabanas have contrasting designs, one with strong colors, the other featuring a soft and feminine palette.

Resources: Pimlico Interiors by Melissa Lindsay, 1300 Post Rd. East Westport, CT, 203-972-8166, pimlicointeriors.com
The Associates Studio, 664 Azalea Lane, Vero Beach, FL, 772-231-1484, tas@tas-studio.com, 772-231-1484

She points out that the room, so full of whimsy and happy color, has lots of personality. “It’s usually what guests comment on the most when they come into the house for the first time,” she notes.

“The living room was a tricky space to furnish because it was so massive,” Melissa explains. “We solved the problem by creating two separate, intimate seating areas, each one defined by the type of furniture we chose.” The showstopping Italian floor lamp with a floral design was sourced at an antique store in New York City. “It’s a fabulous piece for the room, not only because it helps differentiate the two separate areas; it actually bridges them together by creating a beautiful focal point,” Melissa continues. “I love its curved organic feel compared to the linear architectural details in the room. The piece makes an incredible statement in the room—in fact, we built the furniture layout from there.” She explains how she chose curved items for one side of the room, with more traditional straight-armed pieces for the other. “I had lots of fun with shapes in the room and introducing some playful patterns and colors,” she says.

The guest suite is completely separate from the main house, giving visitors the luxury of total privacy. Melissa enjoyed designing the two cabanas, each with its own personality and strong aesthetic. “I made them very different from each other,” she explains. “One has strong colors and dramatic wallpaper, the other has a softer palette—it’s more feminine and whimsical.”

With every room telling its own story while reflecting the personality of the owners, Melissa Lindsay’s makeover turns this Vero Beach home into a vibrant tropical masterpiece. Its new owners are thrilled to have a unique beach getaway to welcome family and friends with great style and a dash of playfulness. ♦

