

COURT OF APPEAL



THE DESIGN TEAM:

Interior Design / Dufner Heighes Inc.
Home Builder / Sarkela Corporation
Landscape Architecture / Big Orange Landscaping

THE CHALLENGE: Renovate a Spanish Colonial vacation home in Fort Lauderdale for a couple with four children. Designers Daniel Heighes Wismer and Greg Dufner knew exactly what they were in for. “We’d worked with these same clients on eight or nine homes over the past 15 years, in California, Northern Michigan, Chicago and New York,” recalls Wismer. “This is their Florida incarnation.” **THE WORK:** Situated on a tranquil peninsula along the Intracoastal Waterway, the house was already blessed with striking water views on three sides and established landscaping. Wismer and Dufner slightly modified the exterior, including removing extraneous ornamentation. Along with Big Orange Landscaping, the duo tweaked the existing landscape, keeping it as minimal and natural as possible. “We cleared out the excess foliage and amplified the volume of the healthiest, most vibrant plants,” Dufner says. They also refreshed the courtyard with more uniform stonework and decorative tiles. **THE RESULT:** Overall, the home reflects the owners’ waterside lifestyle as well as the purity of their taste. “It’s contemporary, and with a great connection to the water,” says Wismer. “It really is a family affair.”



SPACE₃

DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL AL FRESCO SPACES THAT EMBRACE A SENSE OF BOTH STYLE AND COMFORT.



IN THE SHADE

THE DESIGN TEAM:

Interior Design / Charlotte Dunagan Design Group
 Architecture / David Wearne Johnson, AIA
 Home Builder / The Mackle Construction Company
 Landscape Architecture / Intuitive Design Group

THE CHALLENGE: Captivated by a lush sprawling lot in South Miami that was dotted with towering old-growth oak trees and an original home that no longer stood, a couple with three daughters set out to build their own sanctuary. “This property has the most incredible trees and foliage, so a priority was having the largest windows possible,” says designer Charlotte Dunagan. “They wanted something that was welcoming, fresh and accessible.” **THE WORK:** Enter architect David Wearne Johnson, who specializes in designing modern homes in the Old Florida style, with prominent front porches and wraparound verandas. He drew up plans for an expansive home that would artfully tuck into the oak trees.

To ensure the foliage would be safe as construction began, landscape architect Michael Sapusek helped site the building. He created a trellised pergola and sitting area by the main swimming pool and spa, and meandering paths on the property, so the kids can tool around on their bicycles. To further enhance the backyard’s tropical feel, Sapusek added plenty of greenery, including date and coconut palms. **THE RESULT:** The site’s existing landscape was supplemented with citrus trees, palms and flowering vines, and the design team experimented with several exterior paint colors to achieve the perfect shade. “There’s no fluff to this home,” notes Dunagan. “It has a very sophisticated and understated elegance.”

PHOTO: MARK ROSKAMS



SHELL GAME

THE DESIGN TEAM:

Architecture / Z.W. Jarosz Architect, P.A.
 Home Builder / Jarosz Development Corporation

THE ASSIGNMENT: A couple looking to downsize from their former 15,000-square-foot mansion on Biscayne Bay’s Star Island were drawn to a patch of land in Miami Beach because of its infinitely charming 1930s coach house, which had been designed by Russell Thorn Pancoast, one of the city’s founding architects. They hired architect and builder Zeb Jarosz to erect a humbler structure that would, nevertheless, retain a certain level of sophistication. **THE WORK:** The arched pool house was built first and set the tone for the Mediterranean Revival structure of the main residence. Inspiration and decisions

flowed naturally from the coach house, which determined materials: stucco, keystone (local coral stone) and pecky cypress. The outdoor area features painted frescoes by Miami-based artist Ruben Marangone, along with Star and Dolphin seating crafted from hand-welded cast aluminum gathered around a shellstone table. Creeping vines and shell motifs abound. **THE RESULT:** “Ornament is simplified and expressed in the Florida vernacular,” says Jarosz. “The minimal monochromatic setting, whose spaces telegraph a kind of monastic hush, are more quiet, more 21st century.”

PHOTO: TRIA GIOVAN