



VENETIAN ISLANDS

THE BONDS *of* HOME

A Charlotte Dunagan-designed house offers connection in more ways than one.

By Riki Altman-Yee

Photography by Mike Butler

Interiors by Charlotte Dunagan Design Group

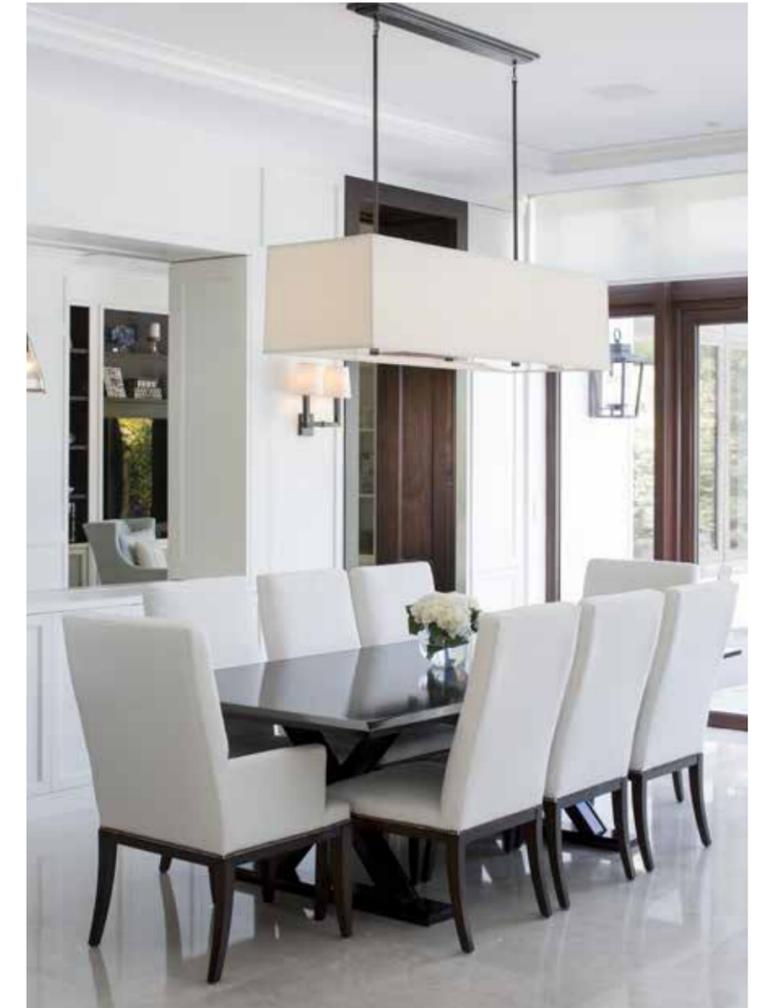
Though the owners of this transitional home on Venetian Island in Miami Beach claimed they did not want their house to be a showpiece, it ended up being just that. “I wanted to create an environment to raise my family,” the husband recalls. “It had to be comfortable, usable and functional—not a museum.” While he, his wife and their two young daughters adore the many features that their 5,700-square-foot new build offers, the magic of this place is somewhat out of eyeshot, thanks in part to their longtime friend and talented designer Charlotte Dunagan.

Right after purchasing the parcel, the owners called on Dunagan to



PALATIALLY PALE

Charlotte Dunagan created the interiors for this 5,700-square-foot new build in Miami Beach. Opposite page: very pale Crema Marfil Extra Honed marble floors allow bold colors and shapes, as seen in the foyer.



MUTED TONES

From left: The brown-and-white open living space highlights custom woodwork by ASR Construction & Interiors—for example, a custom-built walnut bar—and “Giraffe,” a photograph by Greg Lotus; the X dining room table was sourced from J. Alexander.

help brainstorm. “They wanted to be connected,” she recalls. “They also wanted the house to feel very open and simple yet suitable for entertaining. They always have lots of friends around.” The answer, Dunagan decided, was to infuse versatility throughout the common areas. “The doors leading into the kitchen disappear, so you can have a great open space that connects the dining room, great room and bar. Or they can close off any of the rooms. The way it is set up, the father can watch a movie on the couch while his wife is cooking, and the girls can be at the banquette doing homework, and they can all see each other yet do their own thing.” Then she adds, “I bet 99 percent of the time, they have it wide open.”

White furnishings and Crema Marfil Extra



UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE
 With grass-cloth wallcovering from Phillip Jeffries and upholstery by Monica James & Co., the master bedroom achieves serenity. Opposite page: Interior designer Charlotte Dunagan poses in her clients' Venetian Islands home.

Honed marble stone floors unite the spaces, and even the 1,500-square-foot pool deck is surfaced in the same stone, blurring the line between indoors and outdoors. The entire second floor is covered in ipe wood (aka Brazilian walnut) for a similar effect. However, Dunagan used color and texture to differentiate the rooms when they are closed off. For instance, in the living area, solid walls are painted dark brown, matching a dark walnut bar and other built-in wood features, along with occasional colorful molded-ceiling details.

Dunagan worked with ASR Interiors/ASR Construction to create and build custom dark wood pieces throughout, including a large television unit with bookcases in the family room. Otherwise, the furnishings in all four bedrooms and six bathrooms were purchased exclusively for the home, with special consideration given to the durability of fabrics. After all, two of the

residents are kids. "Even the banquette is covered in indoor-outdoor fabric. It's washable," Dunagan says. Yet the designer was still able to achieve what she calls "a very collector look" by shopping all over the globe.

The overall scheme is very muted, with shots of color inspired by "Giraffe," a large Greg Lotus photograph that hangs over the bar. Dunagan says the greenery in the image inspired the "happy" white-and-green textile she used to reupholster a set of antique wingback chairs and the shade of paint she used to highlight a The Urban Electric Co. pendant light. The chairs are set in an extended area of the bar, the husband's favorite room. "It's cozy. And thanks to the ceiling detail, it feels like a separate room," he says.

Dunagan was also asked to ensure that the master bathroom, entirely encased in marble, was a living space within itself. "There's a big couch with a television so they can watch a movie," she says. The strange request makes more sense in context: The husband owns AHT Global, a Miami-based home-automation lifestyle technology company. This house contains an unparalleled amount



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LIGHT & LIVELY
From left: To achieve an indoor-outdoor look, Dunagan used the same marble on the 1,500-square-foot pool deck as for the interior flooring; Dunagan upholstered a pair of antique wingback chairs in a green paisley pattern, which are illuminated by a pendant from The Urban Electric Co.

of high-tech features—virtually everything AHT Global offers—so the owners invite potential clients over to visit what has become the ultimate product showroom. “The technical aspect is more over-the-top than 99 percent of everyone’s houses,” he admits, “but I wanted to show people all the things you can do. It helps them understand the technology if they see it in use in a home.” The window treatments are on a timer, so they are programmed to drop or rise based on the time of day. The air-conditioning units are similarly automatic. House lighting, pool pumps, the security system and all the stereo systems and televisions are controlled by a keypad and a smartphone.

Because of her friendship with the owners and her pride in the finished product, Dunagan often takes potential clients over for a peek inside. “They say it’s a house that feels good: bright, yet warm and approachable,” she says. The husband agrees: “I’ve had billionaires come in and compliment my home,” he says. “Charlotte truly did an amazing job.” Sometimes it’s what someone knows. Sometimes it’s all about your network. ■

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family home

LOCATION
Venetian Islands, Miami Beach

DESIGNER
Charlotte Dunagan Design Group
charlottedunagan.com

ARCHITECT
Thomas Weber, The Weber Studio
weberstudiomiami.com

CONTRACTOR/WOODWORK
ASR Interiors/ASR Construction
asrfi.com

RESOURCES
J. Alexander
X dining table
jalexanderfurniture.com

Mecox
Vintage breakfast table
mecox.com

Monica James & Co.
Upholsterer
monicajames.com

Phillip Jeffries
Bedroom Luxe Dream Grass Roots
wallcovering
phillipjeffries.com

The Urban Electric Co.
Green pendant by Malplaquet
urbanelectricco.com
