

In the dining area, cylindrical brass chandeliers from Solesdi spill rings of LED illumination over a custom, crackled glass-topped table. The chandelier suspends elegantly from the home's original bamboo ceiling created with a dramatic overhang. "Keeping the Mid-century modern elements of functionality, especially the use of deep overhangs and wood, were priorities," architect Tim Slawson says.

A MID-CENTURY BLEND

With Roots In New England, A Couple Embraces A Reimagined Key Largo Retreat Where Modernist Sensibilities Find Pleasure In Florida Tropical Design

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN Gil Walsh with Michelle Scott and Lauryl Guse,
Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL
ARCHITECTURE Timothy James Slawson, AIA Architect, Key Largo, FL
BUILDER Tom Smith, Keys Green Builders, Inc., Key Largo, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Sandy Trezona, Gardenscapes Miami, Homestead, FL
TEXT Marina Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY Kim Sargent, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

In the foyer, a piece by Roy Lichtenstein titled *Landscape With Boats* lends a nod to the sea above a red, antique Asian console. Centered beneath, an organic sisal garden stool from Palecek continues the ethnic feel.



In the living area, the original coquina stone fireplace reaches up to the ceiling. *The Sea*, a bold oil-on-canvas by Miriam Schapiro, adorns the front of the fireplace with color.

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WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER GIL WALSH, AND ARCHITECT Tim Slawson and his project manager Susan Nielsen met with a couple who had acquired a vintage 1978 Key Largo, Fla., home in the community of Ocean Reef, it was a gathering of old friends. Walsh worked with the couple on their homes in Western Pennsylvania and Martha's Vineyard, and Slawson previously helped them with a house in the same Ocean Reef neighborhood. "This tropical, Mid-century modern residence is a departure from the 'Americana' styles of their home in New England," Walsh says. Although Mid-century modern design is experiencing a renaissance, this 3,455-square-foot, 40-year-old home needed attention. "We worked to incorporate the best architectural features of the house to bring it to today's standards of comfort," the designer says.

The owners' contemporary art collection stands on its own next to walls of windows that join the main living spaces, and open to Card Sound bridge and Biscayne Bay beyond. "Making sure that the view was uninterrupted was important," Walsh says. In the dining area, a table designed by glass artist Christopher Reiser is created with a unique crackled-glass top. Surrounded by woven wicker chairs from JANUS et Cie, the glass top gives the illusion of shimmering depth.

In the main living areas, Mid-century modern design's shifting color scheme is reflected in a palette of primary colors to pastels. The foyer, offering a nod to the couple's interest in exotic locales, greets guests with a favorite piece — an antique Asian console renewed in a red tone.

“A BOHEMIAN BLEND OF TRIBAL MOTIFS, COLOR FROM THE OWNERS’ TRAVELS AND A PASSION FOR THE OUTDOORS SEEM TO COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER IN THIS TROPICAL SETTING,” INTERIOR DESIGNER GIL WALSH SAYS.



ABOVE: A Roll & Hill chandelier with interacting wheels of light hangs above vibrant artwork in the stairway. Perched on a Lucite stand at the top of the stairway is an African mask, a personal favorite acquisition from the couple’s travels.

ABOVE RIGHT: The den is arranged with bentwood bamboo furnishings from the 1940s and parchment shaded table lamps from Bamboo & Rattan. John Bradley Storrs art piece, titled *White and Blue Objects in Blue Space*, joins the fun.



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In the living area, a pair of Paolo Buffa armchairs clad in vintage blue woven jacquard suggest a tribal pattern, while a sofa clad in creamy linen is accented with large, plush pink pillows. The glass top on Cassini’s cocktail table appears suspended above a frosted Lucite base. “We wanted the cocktail table to float,” the designer says.

Stairways and hallways are not merely passageways. Instead, the designer envisioned them as display galleries for the couple’s vibrant works of art. A collage series by artist David Rabinowitch ascends the wall of an elegant stairway created with a black aluminum and wood balustrade.

IN A HALLWAY GALLERY, A SINGLE BENCH INSPIRED BY ELONGATED FORMS, AND COVERED IN A BROWN AND WHITE GREEK KEY MOTIF, RESEMBLES A WORK OF ART ITSELF.



The designer's use of organic fabrics in the master bedroom invites the outdoors in. A four-poster bed from Palecek is wrapped in natural rope and custom bedside tables are covered in glazed grasscloth. Ralph Lauren wall lamps from Visual Comfort shimmer with delicate light.

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Enveloped in retro comfort, the den is furnished with 1940s bamboo bentwood armchairs and a sofa covered in Pindler and Pindler linen, along with lamp tables that were once used on a Hollywood movie set.

Personality emerges in a hallway gallery with an abstract piece from artist Ana Sacerdote that adds a pop of red color, and on another wall, William John Kennedy's intriguing black-and-white photographs of Andy Warhol.

In the master bedroom, gazing across a glittering body of water is an everyday pleasure from Palecek's four-poster bed wrapped in natural rope. Perfect for relaxing

or dreaming, Walsh placed a pair of chairs with elegant lines covered in fibrous rope by the scenic window.

Mid-century modern designers Ray Eames and Eero Saarinen are associated with elongated, sculpted furnishings, and architects such as Marcel Breuer and Frank Lloyd Wright are known for incorporating nature into the life of a home. An elegant blend of those two "schools," along with a quest for comfort and the couple's personality and interests, inspired Walsh and Slawson to create this uniquely livable retreat. Mid-century or any century ... this house can be called home.

SOURCES

Dining Area

Dining table top - Custom designed by Reflective Collections, West Palm Beach, FL
Table base - Owners' Collection
Dining chairs - JANUS et Cie, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Sculpture - Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Chandelier - Henge, Solesdi, Miami, FL

Foyer

Red console - Owners' Collection
Stool - Palecek, Atlanta, GA
Artwork - Fine Art & Art Services, Ketchum, ID
Living Area
Sofa - Jonas, New York, NY
Fabric - Romo, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Cocktail table - Cassoni, Miami, FL
Multi-color accent pillow fabric - Old World Weavers, Stark, Hollywood, FL

Pink accent pillow fabric - Rosemary Hallgarten, Holland & Sherry, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Armchairs - Van den Akker Antiques, New York, NY
Cushion fabric - Eskayel, Studio Four NYC, New York, NY
Bench - Julian Chichester, NYDC, New York, NY
Fabric - Peter Fasano, John Rosselli, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Sculpture - Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY
Artwork - Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY

Area rug - Custom designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL
Stairway

Stairs and wall treatment fabricated by Keys Green Builders, Key Largo, FL
Railing - Custom designed by Biscayne Iron Work and Security, Inc., Miami, FL

Artwork - Blumarts, Inc., New York, NY
Chandelier - Roll & Hill, Brooklyn, NY
Den

Sofa, armchairs, cocktail table and accent lamp tables - Bamboo and Rattan, West Palm Beach, FL
Cushions - Pindler and Pindler, Hollywood, FL

Pink pillow fabric and small blue print pillow fabric - Eskayel, Studio Four NYC, New York, NY

Striped accent pillow fabric - Old World Weavers, Stark, Hollywood, FL
Shelving - Peace Millwork Co., Inc., Miami, FL

Artwork - Vallery Carberry Gallery, Chicago, IL
Blue cushions - Perennials, Studio Four NYC, New York, NY

Area rug - Custom designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL
Hallway

Bench - Nomi, Global Views, High Point, NC
Black-and-white photography - The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
Red artwork - LaRuche Galleria, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Master Bedroom
Bed and chair - Palecek, Atlanta, GA
Chair cushion - Manuel Canovas, Cowtan & Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Bedding - Matouk Luxury Linens, Fall River, MA
Bolster pillow fabric - Kerry Joyce Textiles, Los Angeles, CA

Bench - Nomi, Global Views, High Point, NC
Beside tables - Custom designed by Creative Metal and Wood, Thomasville, NC

Accent table - Pierce Martin, Palecek, High Point, NC
Small artwork - Magnan Metz Gallery, New York, NY

Wall lamps - Ralph Lauren, Visual Comfort, Houston, TX
Floor lamp - Holtkoetter Lighting, Saint Paul, MN

Area rug - Custom designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL ♦



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