

PALM BEACH BLISS

A RENOVATION TRANSFORMS AN
HISTORIC ISLAND MANSION INTO A
SOPHISTICATED SHOWPLACE



INTERIOR DESIGN SCOTT SANDERS, SCOTT SANDERS LLC, PALM BEACH, FL
STYLIST SEAN MELLYN, NEW YORK, NY
ARCHITECTURE HAROLD SMITH, SMITH & MOORE ARCHITECTS INC., WEST PALM BEACH, FL
BUILDER JOHN ROGERS, ROGERS GENERAL CONTRACTING CORP., WEST PALM BEACH, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FERNANDO WONG, FERNANDO WONG OUTDOOR LIVING DESIGN,
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PHOTOGRAPHY NICKOLAS SARGENT, WEST PALM BEACH, FL
TEXT PAIGE BOWERS

ABOVE: Architect Harold Smith partnered with Rogers General Contracting to restore the crumbling stucco exterior, painted it a brilliant white, and added black shutters and a black, custom-made, impact-resistant wood door and windows.

RIGHT: The home's existing cabana was expanded to accommodate an exercise room. Smith created a mirror image of the structure on the opposite side of the pool to house a game room, adding symmetry and functionality.





Interior designer Scott Sanders used seventeen layers of pale blue lacquer to give the dining room's paneled walls a fresh, modern look. In the middle of the room, he placed a large brass and glass table, and infused the room with brass accents. The McLean Wiesand dining room chairs are an obvious nod to Palm Beach, Sanders said, "but in a cleaner way with the white and the leather."

A NEW-TO-PALM-BEACH family fell in love with a neglected, 1930s-era residence built by local architecture icon John L. Volk and decided to give it some tender loving care. To realize their vision, they hired interior designer Scott Sanders and architect Harold Smith to take this diamond in the rough and polish it into a bright island gem, perfect for entertaining family and friends.

"Today, so many people are moving to Palm Beach," Sanders said. "They're buying old houses and restoring them, and to me that is wonderful because the architecture here is so incredible. This particular house had not been renovated since a partial update in the late 1990s, and we wanted to be able to integrate modern elements like an open kitchen, game room, wine room, and coffee bar into something that was landmarked and had fixed square footage."

The homeowners knew what they wanted from the start, Smith said, because they had previously restored an historic home in New Jersey. The key was to maintain the integrity of the 11,000-square-foot home's shape, while opening up some of the smaller rooms into grander, more welcoming spaces.

The home had deep potential, a fact that was titillating to both Sanders and Smith. It had a formal hallway with checkerboard marble floors that



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–Scott Sanders

LEFT: Smith, project manager Angie Lehman, and interior architect Angelo Davila teamed up to restore the sunken living room’s original trim and added built-in corner bookshelves. Sanders created a creamy-hued, classic, and comfortable room filled with a mixture of vintage and modern pieces. “We didn’t want it to be one of those rooms you roped off and used for the holidays,” he said.

Smith planned to extend into (and beyond) the perpendicular hallway that ran east to west. There was a grand staircase, plenty of windows to let in the South Florida sunlight, and intricately crafted doors, paneled walls, and finishes. You could envision the bevy of craftsmen at work. You could see Sanders infusing the rooms with the cool, curated American style that he developed at Ralph Lauren. And, you could imagine how open things would feel once Smith got done restructuring the interior.

But first, there was restoration work to do. The foundation was sagging, and the roofs were leaking. Smith and his team tackled the structural repairs and electrical work first before they could even begin to reconfigure the rooms. When that work was complete,

RIGHT: Sanders arranged lounge areas around the perimeter of the living room to provide different conversation spaces. A restored Karl Springer bone chair, some Candida Höfer photographs, and contemporary Bright Group seating stand apart from the rest of the room, yet are tied to it through fabrics and finishes like linen, velvet, brass, and caning.





ABOVE: In a guest room, Sanders created an inviting space with a relacquered, upright desk, a sleek antique chair, and a framed Joan Miro lithograph. "It's a special moment, a sweet vignette," he said. "When you see it, you want to sit there."

BELOW: For Sanders, this sun-kissed room was "a very challenging space" because it was so large and square. To make the soothing pale blue room feel more intimate, he subdivided it into three areas: one for sleeping, another for writing letters, and a third for sitting around the fire and watching television.

he and his teams went about opening up the spaces, and repairing and restoring some of the home's old features. And Sanders launched into designing soothing, comfortable interiors.

"From the beginning, everyone involved was on the same page," Sanders said. "They wanted to create something beautiful. There were incredible craftsmen there, building doorways that had 120 pieces of wood. They were so proud of what they were creating, and it's very satisfying to be a part of a project like this where everyone is so proud of what they do and working really, really hard to do it."

Because the owners wanted to be in the home by a specific deadline, time was of the essence. Smith said his project manager, Angie Lehman, made that possible. The entire project took about a year to complete, after crews received their approvals from the Town of Palm Beach, and the Landmark Preservation Commission, Smith said. The project had six phases, so there were gradual reveals of the work being done, giving the homeowners the chance to fall in love with each stage of the process.

ABOVE: "This was a very fun room to do because it is a perfect example of high-low decorating," Sanders said. He chose blue and white hues because they were soothing, and a nod to the landscape.



“My favorite part of all of this was working with clients who had a vision and wanted an excellent product at the end of the day,” Smith said. “Working with people is what I enjoy most on any project. But there was also tremendous satisfaction in seeing these ideas come to fruition. We took an old house that was in really poor shape, and brought it back to life.”

BELOW: “This was an odd little area just off the dining room, living room, and guest house,” Sanders said. “It was overgrown, and looked like the previous owners had used it for dining, but not on a regular basis.” Sanders reimagined the space, and turned it into an outdoor living room for the guesthouse.



The homeowner likes nautical style, so Sanders went in that direction in the game room—covering the walls in shiplap and maritime art, creating custom banquettes with drink holders, and hanging a vintage boating-inspired nickel lighting fixture over the pool table.

SOURCES

DINING ROOM

Dining table – Paul M Jones, John Boone, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Dining chairs – McLain Wiesand, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Fabric – Jerry Pair Leather, Romo, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Buffet – John Lyle, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Accent chairs – Vintage, Dragonette, 1stDibs
 Pendants – Scott Sanders LLC, Carlos De La Puente, New York, NY
 Sconces and urn – Vintage, Carlos De La Puente, New York, NY
 Mirror –Vintage, John Salibello, New York, NY
 Draperies – Great Plains, Holly Hunt, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Area rug – Sacco Carpet, New York, NY

FORMAL LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Demiurge, Interior Arts Building, New York, NY
 Fabric – Gracie Point, Holland & Sherry, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Pillows – La Regence Inc., New York, NY
 Fabric – Scalamandre, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Armchair – Holly Hunt, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Wicker chair – Kaare Clint, CJ Peters, Interior Arts Building, New York, NY
 Cocktail table – Paul M Jones, John Boone, D&D Building, New York, NY
 End tables – Gerald Ferretti, HM Luther, New York, NY
 Lamps – Vintage, Hickment Fine Arts, London, UK
 Club chairs – Harvey Propper, CJ Peters, Interior Arts Building, New York, NY
 Ottoman – O Henry House, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Floor lamp – Vintage, Neo Studio,

West Palm Beach, FL
 Chandelier – Remains, New York, NY
 Area rug – Stark Carpet, D&D Building, New York, NY
LOUNGE AREA
 Lounge and side chair – Bright Group, 200 Lex, New York, NY
 Fabric – Hermes, Dedar, D&D Building, New York, NY
 White accent chair – Karl Springer, Glen Leroux Antiques, Westport, CT
 Cocktail table – David latesta, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 B/W artwork – Dusseldorf IV and X, Candida Hofer, Sean Kelly, New York, NY
 Sculpture – Vintage, Judy Frankel Antiques, Troy, MI
ROYAL BLUE BEDROOM
 Canopy bed – Serena & Lily, Palm Beach, FL
 Pillows – Brunswick & Fils, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Nightstands – Bamboo & Rattan, West Palm Beach, FL

Table lamps – Christopher Spitzmiller, Mecox, West Palm Beach, FL
 Occasional chair and lounge – Serena & Lily, Palm Beach, FL
 Ottoman – O Henry House, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Wicker chair – Bielecky Brothers, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Parson table – C Bell, West Palm Beach, FL
 Blue artwork – Stroke Drawings, Agnus Barley, Sears Payton Gallery, New York, NY
 Abstract artwork – Louisiana Edition, Alexander Calder, Findlay Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
 Area rug – Patterson Flynn Martin, D&D Building, New York, NY
GUEST SUITE VIGNETTE
 Chest –William Sonoma Home, New York, NY
 Chair – Karl Kemp Antiques, New York, NY
 Fabric – Kravet, D&D Building, New York, NY

Artwork – Cover Page From a Suite of Lithographs “L’Ubu”, 1975, Joan Miró, Patricia’s Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL
LIGHT BLUE BEDROOM SITTING AREA
 Love seats – Lona, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Curved chair – Iliad, New York, NY
 Fabric – Kravet, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Occasional chair – Lona, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Fabric – Scalamandre, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Cocktail table – The Lacquer Company, KRB, New York, NY
 Side table – Ironies, John Rosselli, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Artwork on wall – Spring Tree, Didier Massard, Julie Saul Gallery, New York, NY
 Chandelier – Carlos De La Puente, New York, NY
 Area rug – Stark Carpet, D&D Building,

New York, NY
BACK EXTERIOR
 Outdoor furniture – McKinnon & Harris, New York, NY
 Fabric – Maria Flora, Hines & Company, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Umbrellas – Santa Barbara Umbrella’s, Walter’s Wicker, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Wall lanterns – Remains, New York, NY
GAME ROOM
 Custom seating – Scott Sanders LLC, Palm Beach, FL
 Fabricated by Roger’s General Contracting, West Palm Beach, FL
 Pillows – Ralph Lauren, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Pool, Foosball and Air Hockey tables – Blatt Billiards, New York, NY
 Lighting – Carlos De La Puente, New York, NY
 Flooring custom designed by Scott Sanders LLC, New York, NY
 Fabricated by Master Terrazzo, Levittown, PA