

# Environmental Essence

DESIGN TOUCHES INSPIRED BY THE GULF COAST'S WATERS AND BREEZES EVOKE AN ELEGANT VERSION OF NATURE IN A BONITA SPRINGS PENTHOUSE

INTERIOR DESIGN LANA KNAPP, COLLINS DUPONT  
DESIGN GROUP, BONITA SPRINGS, FL  
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PHOTOGRAPHY VENJHAMIN REYES, MIAMI, FL



Eschewing a predictable palette, designer Lana Knapp of Collins DuPont Design Group in Bonita Springs says she looked to the surrounding environs to inform the materials and shapes that gave this penthouse its elegant flair. Here, she evoked all the natural elements with an ocean blue rug from Stark Carpet, a fireplace surrounded in marble, and wooden ceiling treatments meant to remind us of swaying palm fronds.



*“EVERYTHING IN THIS* residence reflects wind and water,” says Lana Knapp, senior designer at Collins DuPont Design Group in Bonita Springs, about a 3,200-square-foot penthouse that overlooks both Naples Bay and the Gulf. “The ceiling details evoke the feeling of moving water. The beams in the living room emulate swaying palm fronds. The outside border of the ceiling detail in the grand salon looks like waves. Everything refers to the land and the sea.”

And that’s just fine with its residents, all of whom are self-described nature lovers from up north who spend their winters on the Gulf Coast and wanted to ensure their Florida perch was a microcosm of the surroundings right outside their door. “They wanted it to be very natural looking,” says Knapp, “so I chose a very cool color palette that is reminiscent of sand, water and sky, all natural colors that will live well, which means they’re neither too bright nor too dark. They’re right in the middle.”

In all, the penthouse has four bedrooms, two of which were converted into offices, and four bathrooms with a powder room. Since Knapp had previously handled the interior design for another family member’s home, the clients were familiar with her approach. And while they did not come to her with a book of photos or a list of preferences, they did have one caveat: “The place couldn’t just be pretty; it had to be comfortable, and every little

LEFT: Knapp worked with Connor & Gaskins in Naples to turn a drywall eyesore into a chic wine room, and then accessorized the adjoining dining room with a dining table and chairs from Baker Interiors Group. The light fixture by Hammerton merited its own architectural detail on the ceiling.



A structural column in the great room was disguised by wrapping it in epoxy resin panels commissioned from Miami's The Art of Alex. A Stark Carpet helps to visually delineate the space.



Various types of stone were used in the kitchen, including backlit Cambria for the waterfall edge.

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nook and cranny had to perform some type of function,” says Knapp. “Other than that, they didn’t want anything ultra-modern. The phrase we used was ‘contemporary without any harsh lines.’”

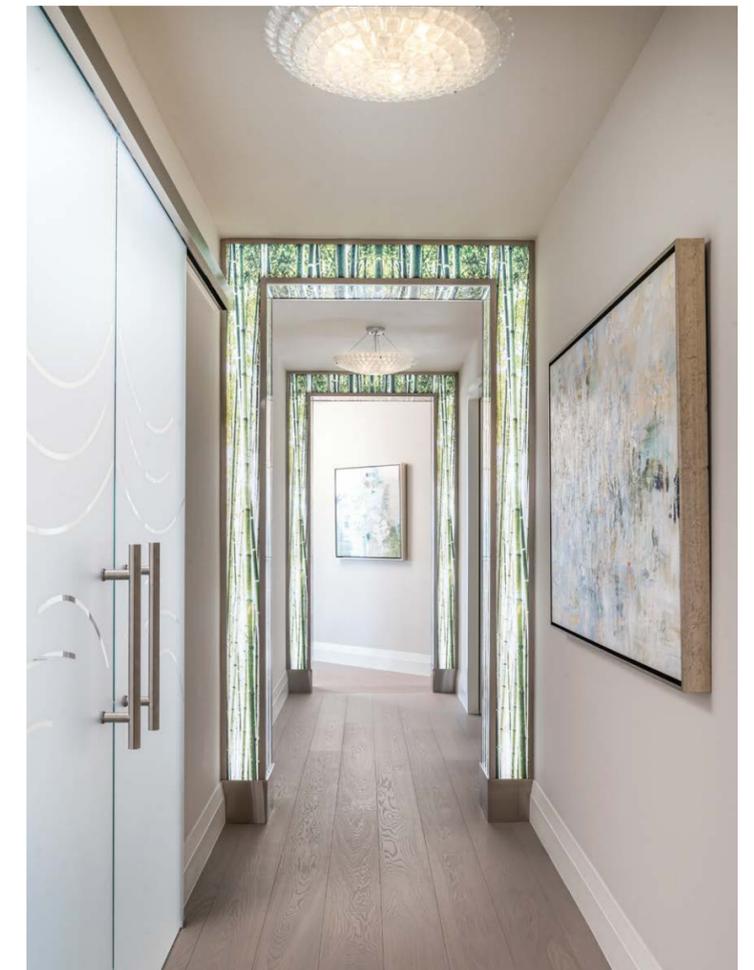
Knapp started the project with an overhaul of the kitchen, which was not entirely functional and adjacent to a drywall buffet that made the dining area awkward. She eliminated the eyesore by turning it into a chic wine cellar. She also designed built-ins with a fireplace in the living room, along with a custom humidor in the bar for a prized cigar collection.

Another design challenge was a structural column in the middle of the great room—“large and round with a 33-inch diameter.” To transform

RIGHT: Glass doors were installed in the family room for privacy and to let natural light filter in and out.



The home office features art that reminds the family of their safari trips to Africa. Knapp incorporated modern elements in the room, such as the glass-topped desk from Connor & Gaskins Unlimited, an angular cocktail table from ST2 Furniture, and a ring light fixture from Hubbardton Forge.



ABOVE: Resin frames with a bamboo motif from The Art of Alex were incorporated into the hallway that leads to the primary bedroom. "It's a beautiful introduction to the fabrics that I use later on in the primary suite," says Knapp.

BELOW: One of the home's two offices is feminine in spirit, albeit in shades of blue.



it, Knapp commissioned Miami-based artist Alex Turco to create epoxy resin panels depicting a sea life scene, then backlit the piece. "They refer to the artful column as 'the aquarium,'" says Knapp. "They love it."

Another custom Turco artistic touch the homeowners are rather fond of is a series of resin frames lit from within that serve as ornamental architectural distractions on the lengthy hallway that leads to the bedrooms. "They glow at night," says Knapp, "and the bamboo imagery on them alludes to nature once again."

Since the designer delivered the project, she hears the family has been extending its Florida stays more and more. We're guessing waking up next to the water in Knapp's version of nature beats a cold northeast morning any day of the week.

RIGHT: The primary bedroom features a Hickory White bed, velvety Vanguard Furniture chairs, and an Innovations bench. Wood veneer wallcoverings from Maya Romanoff complete the scene.

BELOW: Brown Jordan recliners on this terrace make it an ideal spot to take in Naples' stunning sunsets.



#### SOURCES

##### LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Quintus, Jerry Pair Showroom, Hollywood, FL  
 Club chairs and arm chairs – Quintus, Jerry Pair Showroom, Hollywood, FL  
 Cocktail table – EJ Victor, Morgantown, NC  
 Round tables – Robert James Collection, Chula Vista, CA  
 Drink table – Theodore Alexander, High Point, NC  
 Table lamps – Wildwood Lamps, Rocky Mount, NC  
 Fireplace designed by Lana Knapp, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by CGUnlimited, Naples, FL  
 Area rug – Stark Carpet, Stark Showroom, Hollywood, FL

##### BAR AREA

Bar island designed by Lana Knapp, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by Conceptual Woodworking & Design, Fort Myers, FL  
 Stools – Century Furniture, Hickory, NC  
 Pendant lighting – Hubbardton Forge, Castleton, VT

##### DINING ROOM

Table and chairs – Baker Interiors Group, Connelly Springs, NC  
 Lighting – Hammerton, Salt Lake City, UT  
 Wine room designed by Lana Knapp, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by Conceptual Woodworking & Design, Fort Myers, FL

##### MUSIC AREA

Chairs – Quintus, Jerry Pair Showroom, Hollywood, FL  
 Cocktail table – Robert James Collection, Chula Vista, CA  
 Drink table – Century Furniture, Hickory, NC  
 Water column element designed and fabricated by The Art of Alex, Miami, FL  
 Lighting – Hammerton, Salt Lake City, UT  
 Area rug – Stark Carpet, Stark Showroom, Hollywood, FL

##### KITCHEN

Cabinetry and island designed by Lana Knapp, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by Conceptual Woodworking & Design, Fort Myers, FL  
 Stools – Swaim, High Point, NC

Lighting – Hammerton, Salt Lake City, UT

##### DEN/OFFICE

Leather sofa – Hancock & Moore, Hickory, NC  
 Side chairs – Baker Interiors Group, Connelly Springs, NC  
 Cocktail table – ST2 Furniture, Akron, OH  
 Chest – Alfonso Marina, B. Peterson, West Palm Beach, FL  
 Glass desk – CGUnlimited, Naples, FL  
 Lighting – Hubbardton Forge, Castleton, VT  
 Drapery fabric – Opuzen, Ammon Hickson Showroom, Dania Beach, FL  
 Area rug – Stark Carpet, Stark Showroom, Hollywood, FL

##### STUDY

Wall cabinetry and desks designed by Lana Knapp, Collins

DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by Conceptual Woodworking & Design, Fort Myers, FL  
 Round table – EJ Victor, Morgantown, NC  
 Chairs – Roberta Schilling Collection, Miami, FL  
 Chandelier – Wired Custom Lighting, Dania Beach, FL

##### PRIMARY BEDROOM

Bed and headboard – Hickory White, [hickorywhite.com](http://hickorywhite.com)  
 Bench – Gianti Fabrics, Huntingdon Valley, PA; custom fabricated by Innovations, Fort Myers, FL  
 Side tables – Nancy Corzine, Ammon Hickson Showroom, Dania Beach, FL  
 Occasional chairs – Vanguard Furniture, Hickory, NC  
 Lucite table – Interlude Home, Trumbull, CT

Wall coverings – Maya Romanoff, Skokie, IL  
 Drapery fabric – Osborne & Little, Ammon Hickson Showroom, Dania Beach, FL

##### THROUGHOUT

Design team – Colleen Wilson, Sophia Yost and Jennifer Denis, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL  
 Architecture – Curtis Gaines Hall Jones Architects, Inc., Tampa, FL  
 Builder – BCBE Construction, LLC., Naples, FL  
 Interior construction – Conner & Gaskins Unlimited, Naples, FL  
 Ceiling elements designed by Lana Knapp, Collins DuPont Design Group, Bonita Springs, FL, and fabricated by CGUnlimited, Naples, FL