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PARADISE FOUND

**DESIGNER DAVID KLEINBERG
FASHIONS AN OCEANFRONT ESTATE
IN PALM BEACH WITH QUIET GRACE
AND A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR.**

INTERIOR DESIGN BY DAVID KLEINBERG | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES MERRELL
PRODUCED BY DAVID M. MURPHY | WRITTEN BY FRANCES SCHULTZ

The interior courtyard is a sheltered oasis filled with manicured greenery, lush bougainvillea, and a pool for a respite on hot days. Chaise longues, Brown Jordan.

DAVID KLEINBERG'S LONGTIME CLIENT was none too happy. Her husband, she told the New York-based interior designer on the phone, had just informed her that he had decided to sell their beloved Palm Beach house. The news was sudden; an offer out of the blue had been too good to refuse. Perhaps, he told his wife in an attempt to soften the blow, this was their chance to move to the ocean as they had long fancied.

The trouble with oceanfront houses in Palm Beach is that they tend to be huge, but a gargantuan abode did not suit these empty nesters. Then word came of a house that wasn't too big. Alas, when a house languishes on the market, there is usually a reason: The 1980s-era home was a confusing pastiche of mix-and-match architectural motifs.

Flying down to inspect it, Kleinberg looked past the foibles and noticed the good bones. Under an excess of layers lay a lovely Spanish Colonial-style house with a center courtyard and two sets of loggias—one facing an interior pool, the other fronting the ocean. On the inside, the classic and well-conceived floor plan consisted of graciously proportioned rooms.

Kleinberg had previously completed three projects for the couple, and the trio had worked together superbly. This time, the wife insisted upon a condition: The house had to be overhauled in six months. "I'll do it," the designer promised, and he did. "I love motivation."



A coffered ceiling features a contemporary design in bleached and limed cypress. **LEFT:** Herter Brothers chairs in a Larsen fabric, Karl Kemp Antiques; cocktail table, Bernd Goeckler; rug, Patterson Flynn Martin; walls in Vanilla Milkshake, Benjamin Moore. **ABOVE:** Custom sofas in a Pierre Frey fabric, Anthony Lawrence-Belfair; Yves Klein cocktail table; photograms, Thomas Ruff; wall sculpture, Olafur Eliasson.



Architecturally, the major fix was in the entry, where Kleinberg installed a new limestone stairway with an elegant iron banister while honing the existing high-gloss marble floor to a dull sheen. The designer liked the floor's octagonal composition well enough to repeat its design on the rug in the living room. Graphic patterns were carried up to the living and dining room ceilings, too, which Kleinberg ornamented with crisp, geometric designs in bleached and limed cypress. "They are a nod to the coffered ceilings of old Palm Beach houses, but in a contemporary way," he notes.

Fortunately, most of the furnishings from the couple's previous house—which was also designed by Kleinberg—adapted seamlessly to the new one. Gently easing the way was a calming palette of neutrals and blues, ranging from the powdery shades that quietly animate the living room to the soft cornflower that evokes

a tranquil atmosphere in the family room. "It's all in how you deploy color," he says.

To further enliven the rooms, Kleinberg took advantage of the clients' stunning collection of contemporary art. Large photographic works by Hiroshi Sugimoto and Thomas Ruff, a series of Brice Marden lithographs positioned at the top of the stairwell, and a wall sculpture in the living room by Olafur Eliasson create intriguing focal points. "Whereas," notes Kleinberg, "in the old days, you might have used a Chippendale secretary."

Upon completion, the house was deemed such a success that when the real estate agent saw it again, he asked if he might show it to a keen buyer. The owners, grateful to be resettled at last, politely declined. "I think this house," the designer adds with a smile, "is where they're meant to be." □



A black iron banister crisply defines the architecture of the entry hall. Bench, Pryor Callaway; chandelier, Newel. OPPOSITE: The dining room's mahogany table is custom, and the Artistic Frame chairs are in a Dualoy leather. Chandelier, Mathieu Lustrerie; FontanaArte sconces, Bernd Goeckler; curtains in a Holly Hunt stripe; rug, Edward Fields; walls in a Gracie paper; photograph, Hiroshi Sugimoto.



A palette of sandy neutrals and soft blues complements the ocean views. CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Custom sofa in a Hinson fabric, Anthony Lawrence-Belfair; armchairs in a Romo fabric; Edward Wormley side table, Tom Gibbs Studio; chandelier, Coolhouse; curtains in a Holly Hunt fabric; rug, Mitchell Denburg. The view from the oceanfront loggia. In a bedroom, the custom bed is covered in a Hines & Company fabric; bed linens, Matouk; 1960s Carlo Enrico Rava bench in a Donghia fabric; vintage T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings armchair in a Holly Hunt fabric; vintage Mastercraft desk chair in a Lee Jofa fabric; 1940s French mahogany desk; curtains and pillows in a Brunswick & Fils silk; wallcovering, Innovations; carpet, Stark.

A breezy oceanfront loggia is the setting for long, leisurely lunches. Sofa and chairs with cushions in a Perennials fabric, Janus et Cie; pillows in a Holly Hunt canvas with David Sutherland trim; side table, Crate & Barrel. For more details, see Sourcebook.

