

Raising the Bar of Beach Style

Natural Teak, Bamboo, Wicker and Sisal Furnishings Instill A Beach House in New Smyrna With A Peaceful, Easy Feeling

At first sight, Hattie Wolfe and Abigail Rizor, a mother-daughter design team, could see that this New Smyrna Beach condominium had tremendous potential. Surrounded by four balconies with breathtaking ocean views, the second-floor apartment seemed to float just above the dunes. The interior, however, “was 1980s at the beach,” says Rizor, the daughter half of the team.

“It was extremely dated,” Wolfe agrees. “And the client is a charming single man with a wonderful sense of style who entertains a lot. So, it really needed to be completely gutted.”

The client, who lives in Winter Park, plans to relocate eventually

to his beachfront apartment. He envisioned a tranquil, contemporary environment with a modern kitchen to indulge his love of cooking.

To harmonize with the laid-back atmosphere of New Smyrna Beach, Wolfe and Rizor chose natural fabrics such as cotton and linen. They also limited the palette to soothing gray and camel hues, using texture rather than color to create visual interest.

“I grew up here and remember that after you play on the beach all day, you’re worn out, and it feels good when you go inside,” Rizor says. “We wanted to capture that feeling of relaxation throughout the interior.”

The duo began in the living area, where natural teak, bamboo and sisal furnishings raise the bar of beach style to a new level of elegance. Here, a sofa and



bamboo-reed chairs match the simple sophistication of a waxed teak cocktail table and bench. Underfoot, a natural sisal area rug with threads of gray warms the ivory travertine flooring. Nearby, a custom-designed cabinet tucks neatly into a corner.

From the living area, louvered sliding doors open to an adjoining den, which also accesses the master bedroom. When the louvered



doors are closed, the den becomes a private sitting area for the master bedroom. In this cozy space, walnut-stained cabinetry with diamond-shaped cubes provides a striking backdrop for a pair of lounge chairs covered in gray linen. A sisal area rug identical to the one in the living room and a wicker storage cube complete the casual setting.

Since the client loves to cook and entertain guests, the dining area and adjoining kitchen were key components in the redesign. In the dining area, chairs upholstered in gray cotton afford comfortable seating at a teak table with stainless-steel legs. Two teak chests placed against the wall function as buffets.

To retool the outmoded kitchen, Wolfe and Rizor first addressed the critical issue of lighting. “The kitchen had a drop ceiling with fluorescent lighting,” Wolfe recalls. “We took that out, but the ceiling above was



solid concrete and could not accommodate new lighting. “So the designers installed wood ceiling beams with recessed lighting – an inventive solution that added

functionality and architectural interest to the space.



Cherry-wood cabinetry blends with the beams, while a granite-topped island/breakfast bar complements the color scheme of the dining area. Stainless-steel barstools at the island/breakfast bar echo the gleam of the appliances and dining table.

When designing the guestroom, Wolfe and Rizor considered the owner's three sons. "They often come over and bring friends, so we chose twin beds," Wolfe says. Chocolate-brown headboards, white linens and taupe woven bed coverings establish the masculine feel of the room. Golden-yellow accent pillows bring out the yellow tones of the straw-accented Indonesian chest.

For the outdoor terrace, the designers selected white plastic lounge chairs and gray plastic benches that can withstand the elements. When paired side by side, the benches form



a streamlined cocktail table. "The plastic furniture is indestructible but incredibly comfortable, and it has so much style," Rizor says.

Natural materials, such as teak, cotton and woven leather, reappear in the light-filled master bedroom. A more subdued palette instills the space with an air of serenity.

"Part of creating a peaceful, easy feeling is to use the same elements over and over, so you have flow," Wolfe explains. "Everything here is very soft – nothing is jarring or too surprising. It's consistent."

SOURCES

Living Area

Sofa – Duralee Fine Furniture, Interiors Trading Co., Orlando, FL

Fabric – Motif Designs, Interiors Trading, Orlando, FL



Rattan chairs and cushions – Palacek, Richmond, CA
Bench and cocktail table – Verellen Home Collection, High Point, NC

Floor lamps – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Drapery fabrics – Norbar Fabrics, Boca Raton, FL

Throws – Neiman Marcus, Orlando, FL

Den

Doors – Thomas Lumber Co., Winter Park, FL

Chairs – Verellen Home collection, High Point, NC

Wicker Cube – Hold Everything, Orlando, FL

Floor Lamps – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Foyer/Dining Area/Kitchen

Foyer cabinet – Washburn Imports, Winter Park, FL

Foyer mirror – Iron Gate Antiques, Orlando, FL

Dining table and buffets – Verellen Home Collection, High Point, NC

Hostess and side chairs – Custom designed and fabricated by Interiors by Beverly, Orlando, FL

Barstools – Array, Bart Heikes & Associates, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Cabinetry – Custom designed by Wolfe-Rizor Interiors, Winter Park, FL

Fabricated by Creative Kitchen Designs, Altamonte Springs, FL

Countertops – Mystic Granite & Marble, Inc., Orlando, FL

Stainless-steel appliances – Thermador, Ferguson, Orlando, FL

Ceiling beams – Williams Construction & Development, Orlando, FL

Buffet lamp – Lightstyle, Orlando, FL

Guestroom

Headboards – Custom designed by Wolfe-Rizor Interiors, Winter Park, FL

Fabric – Arabel Fabrics, Miami, FL

Fabricated by Interiors by Beverly, Orlando, FL

Taupe bed covering and accent pillows – Ralph Lauren, Interiors Trading, Winter Park, FL

White linens – Restoration Hardware, Winter Park, FL

Chest – Washburn Imports, Winter Park, FL

Artwork – Hospitality Galleries (HG Art and Framing Consultants), Orlando, FL

Terrace

Chairs and occasional table – Kartell, Miami, FL

Accent pillow fabrics – Perennials, Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

Benches – Design Within Reach, San Francisco, CA

Master Bedroom

Headboard – Duralee Fine Furniture, Interiors Trading, Winter Park, FL

Fabric – Greef, Interiors Trading, Winter Park, FL

Bed covering and accent pillows – Ralph Lauren, Interiors Trading, Winter Park, FL

White linens – Restoration Hardware, Winter Park, FL

Chair – Oggetti, Miami, FL

Bench – Verellen Home Collection, High Point, NC

Mirror – Hospitality Galleries (HG Art and Framing Consultants), Orlando, FL

Drapery fabric – Norbar Fabrics, Boca Raton, FL

Throughout

Living area, office and master bedroom cabinetry – Custom designed by Wolfe-Rizor Interiors, Winter Park, FL

Fabricated by Hargis Construction, Inc., Winter Park, FL

Artwork – Hospitality Galleries (HG Art and Framing Consultants), Orlando, FL

Area rugs – Fibreworks Corp., Louisville, KY

Carpet – Shaw Carpet, ProSource of Orlando, Orlando, FL

Marble flooring – Orlando Tile & Marble, Inc., Orlando, FL