

MICHELLE STAHL

"Staying relevant and adaptable is key to good design. Beauty, comfort, details and innovation create spaces with a timeless and functional elegance."

INTERIOR DESIGN BY FAITH FIX AND
MICHELLE STAHL, FREESTYLE INTERIORS,
BONITA SPRINGS, FL
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN BY RICHARD GUZMAN,
RG DESIGNS, BONITA SPRINGS, FL
BUILDER RYAN POTTER AND NATE JOHNSON,
POTTER HOMES, INC., BONITA SPRINGS, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY CHRISTIAN
ANDREA, ARCHITECTURAL LAND DESIGN,
NAPLES, FL
TEXT BY LAUREN CZIPULIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VENJHAMIN REYES, MIAMI, FL

HINTS OF BOHEMIAN chic let loose upon entry and unfold throughout this airy, 5,760-square-foot beachfront home in Bonita Springs. Relaxation and comfort were the guiding force for interior designer Michelle Stahl throughout the design process. "This being Freestyle's 40th beach home on the Gulf of Mexico, we understand the clientele and always strive to create a fresh, new design concept for each project," interior designer Faith Fix says.

"Designing with the warmth of a 'California coastal' feel embraced by bits of boho character was received well and a lot of fun to design," Stahl says. Collaborating with Richard Guzman, the project's residential designer, the design team utilizes the exterior wood features to draw nature indoors, where

RIGHT: Weathered gray teak frames furnishings from Four Hands that shape a comfortable social grouping on the loggia set for alfresco entertaining throughout the year. Loom chaises by Orient Express recline on an adjacent deck as the canopied wings of a free-spirited windsurfer become a dream catcher.





Palecek's tiers of finely
woven abacá rope
circle soft light around
the dining room, where
Vanguard's ash wood
table takes center stage.
Stacked sea fans create
a sense of symmetry
above the stepped
cantilever form of
Theodore Alexander's
console wrapped in a
curly maple veneer.

LEFT: Textural gameplay prevails in the living room, where raw driftwood mingles with Phillip Jeffries' grass cloth to provide the backdrop for Design Works' custom cabinetry and shelving. Open-grained oak wood flooring carries a timeless, casual elegance throughout the home.

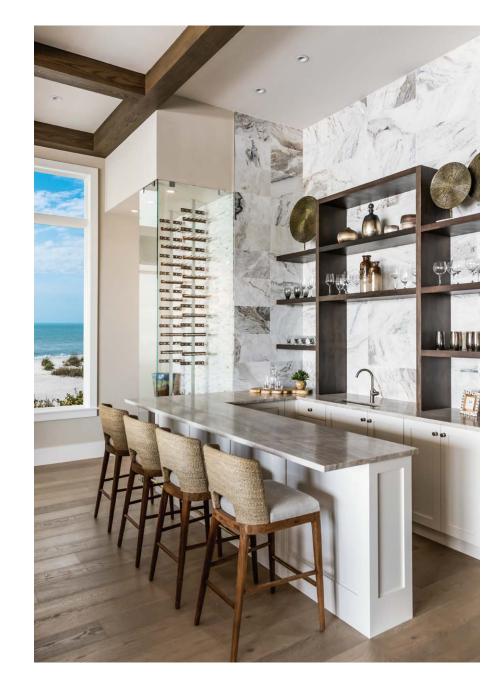
signature fabrics develop the color scheme throughout. Originally staged as a model residence, Stahl embraces the more modest hues of the fabrics that drape each room, inviting elemental tones to lead the way. Doing so easily engages personal touches of the future homeowner.

Echoing a jaw-dropping view, the loggia seduces with furnishings cushioned in shades of sand and accented in ocean blues. Nestled near an outdoor fireplace, this open-air living space creates "a beautiful extension of the interiors," Stahl says. Inspired by its surroundings, an infinity edge pool, lined in Tahoe blue pebbles, is positioned to emulate the coastal horizon.

Earthy and unrefined, the dining room sports a solid wood table set aglow by the organic essence of a seven-tiered chandelier. A strategically placed mirror reflects an abundance of natural light that highlights the use of wood and wicker.



BELOW: A touch of modern washes over the bar area, where a wave of Presario's unpolished Lumen White stone from Hadinger wraps the walls in cool comfort. Pulling up to SunMac's leather-finished quartzite countertop, Brownstone's sand-blasted teak "Beach" barstools bring the warmth with sea grass backs handwoven and bent into shape.





In the bar area, Presario natural stone tile catches the eye as it transitions into elegant stacked stone that wraps the wine wall. With driftwood shelving and leather-finished quartzite countertops, casual luxury steps to the forefront in this social space. Glass-enclosed cable wine racking continues the modern vibe that rings through the open expanse.

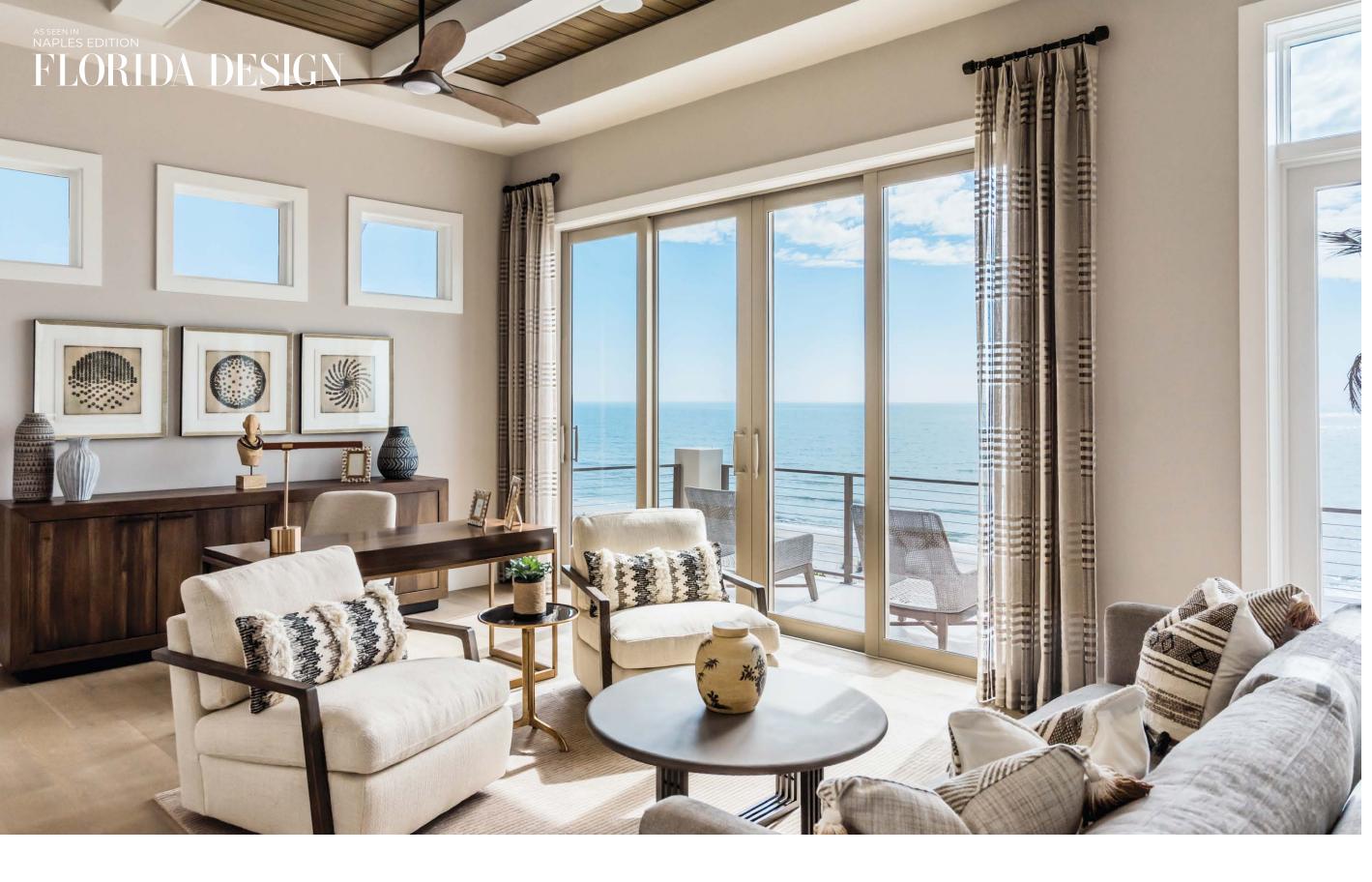
A tinge of international flair accents the custom built-in that lines the living room, where a mix of white cabinetry, raw driftwood and textured grass cloth make up the modern display shelving. A plethora of pillows add a splash of blue to the conversation grouping. Harmony and flow define Stahl's design concept as glass doors slide open to the loggia that steps down to the pristine shoreline beyond.

Upstairs, the study radiates warmth with a dark-stained oak ceiling, and natural light that flows in through clerestory windows and a wall of glass doors. Facing the Gulf of Mexico with a picture-perfect view of lapping waves, a writing desk is positioned for functionality and aesthetics while a lounge space

takes advantage of its central vantage point. Continuing the coastal boho theme, textural fabrics pull from the patterned draperies in complementary contrast to the dot-based visual language of framed giclées — a trio of facets in the "Five Elements" series by Eunice Kim.

At the epicenter of relaxation, the master bedroom is light and fresh with a neutral, tone-on-tone color scheme. Stained wood ceiling beams define the space below, where rattan furnishings mingle with earth-toned pillows, bed coverings and draperies. The sparkling waters of the Gulf are visible from a private, beachfront balcony. The intertwining of natural elements keeps Stahl's vision casual yet elegant, setting the scene for a quintessentially coastal-inspired dream home.

ABOVE: Warmed by beachy tones and kissed by "Royal" blue and Kravet's ocean-hued accents, the living room is delineated by a pair of Theodore Alexander consoles each faced with a trio of leather-wrapped drawers. Nearby, the architectural design of Century's "Otto" armchairs tightly wraps upholstered seating that mimics the "Harlequin" draperies by Casamance.



BELOW: Sandy hues continue the dance in the master bedroom, where Currey & Company's nautical-inspired "Ibiza" chandelier wrapped in abacá rope sets the tone from above. Coastal furnishings and layered texture more than satisfy this private retreat overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.



Four Hands furnishings fashion the study's lounge area atop Kravet's broadloom area rug; while beyond, Safavieh Couture's writing desk is pure poetry in an exotic eucalyptus veneer. Depicting fire, wood and earth, three essentials of the "Five Elements" series from Wendover Art embrace the Taoist principle of living in harmony with nature.

SOURCES

LOGGIA

Sofa, armchairs, cocktail table and wicker baskets - Four Hands, High Point, NC

Fireplace fabricated by Potter Homes, Inc., Bonita Springs, FL Dragon vase - Dragon Vase by Sarried, Ltd., Wilson, NC Wall sconce - Thomas Lighting, Elk Group International, Nesquehoning, PA

Chaise lounges - Orient Express Furniture, Foothill Ranch, CA

Dining Table - Vanguard Furniture, Conover, NC Chairs and chandelier - Palecek, High Point, NC Console -Theodore Alexander, High Point, NC

Custom sea fans - Framing Wholesalers, Fort Myers FL Mirror above console - Uttermost, High Point, NC

Sectional sofa - Lexington Home Brands, Thomasville, NC Armchairs and solid accent pillows - Century Furniture, Hickory, NC Print accent pillows - Kravet, Inc., Naples, FL Consoles - Theodore Alexander, High Point, NC Cabinetry and shelving - Design Works, Naples, FL Fan - Faniimation, Lighting First, Bonita Springs, FL Draperies - Casamance, Suncoast Window Fashions, Naples, FL BAR AREA

Bar and shelving - Design Works, Naples, FL Countertops - Presario, SunMac, Fort Myers, FL Backsplash wall - Presario, Hadinger Flooring, Fort Myers, FL Barstools - Brownstone Furniture, High Point, NC Wine room - Wellington Wine Cellars, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL

Desk - Safavieh, New York, NY Desk chair, sideboard, sofa, lounge chairs, accent pillows and cocktail table - Four Hands, High Point, NC

Table lamp - Surya, White, GA Series of art - Wendover Art Group, Largo, FL

Vase - Sarried, Ltd., Wilson, NC Draperies - Cowtan & Tout, Suncoast Window Fashions,

Fan - Minka-Aire, Lighting First, Naples, FL

Area rug - Kravet, Inc., Naples, FL MASTER BEDROOM

Bed - Century Furniture, Hickory, NC Bedside chest - Brownstone Furniture, High Point, NC Table lamp - Arteriors, Dallas, TX

Chandelier - Currey & Company, Inc., Atlanta, GA Draperies - F. Schumacher, Suncoast Window Fashions.

Lounge chair and cocktail table - Vanguard Furniture, Conover, NC

Naples, FL

Ceiling treatments stained by RVX Painting, Fort Myers, FL Fabricated by Boros Brothers Builders, Fort Myers, FL Flooring - Floorcrafters, Inc., Fort Myers, FL