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Dazzling Homes by Top Design Talents



**Spectacular Views
FLORIDA STYLE**

**Hot International
Trends in Furniture**

WHEN MAGIC HAPPENS

Interior Designer Louis Shuster Channels A Latin Vibrancy To Fulfill One Couple's Wish For Their New Estate In Boca Raton

INTERIOR DESIGN Louis Shuster, Principal, with Gage Hartung and Clayton Weidner, Shuster Design Associates, Inc., Wilton Manors, FL

ARCHITECTURE Jay Colestock and Mark Muir, Colestock + Muir Architects, P.A., Boca Raton, FL

BUILDER Terry Cudmore, Cudmore Builders, Boca Raton, FL

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Kent Wieland, Kent Wieland Design, Inc., Delray Beach, FL

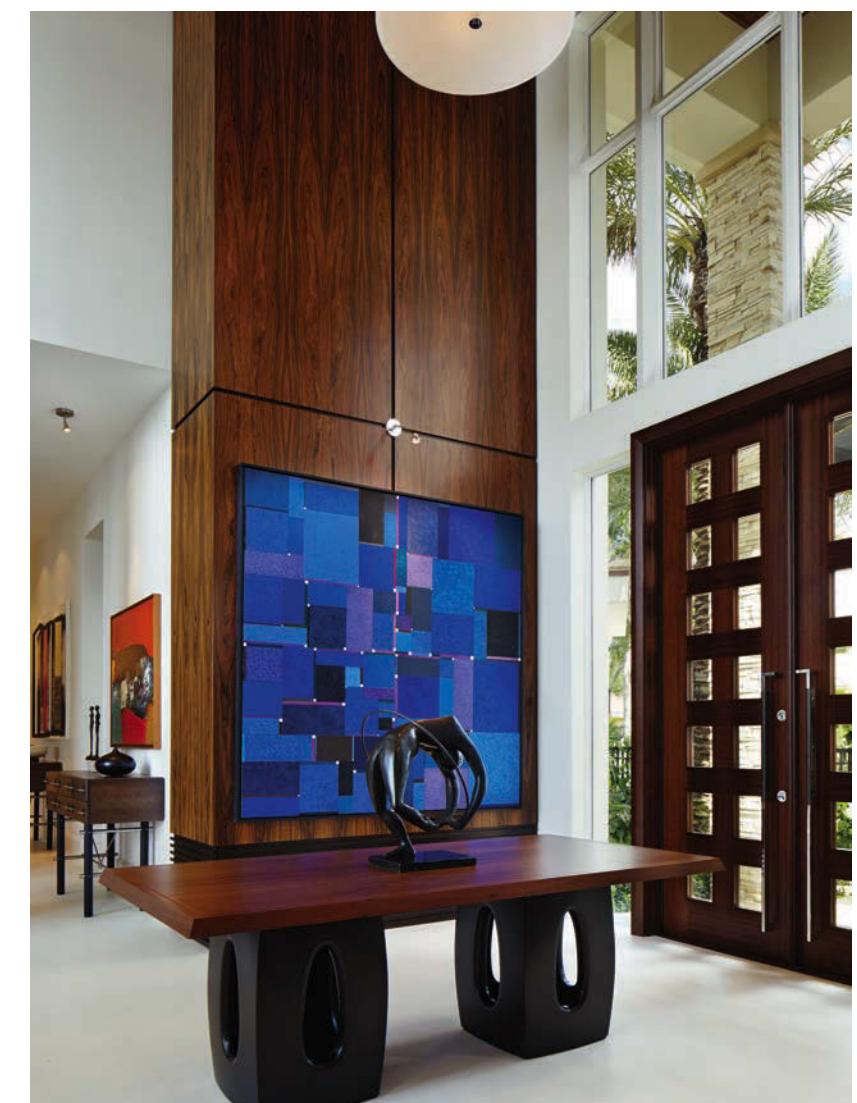
TEXT Marina Brown

PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL



ABOVE: Landscape architect Kent Wieland used four varieties of palms among the hundreds of landscaped plantings. "We had to fly many of them by crane over the two story roof," he says. As if creating a painting, Wieland chose trees that would highlight the contemporary architecture.

"Art is an important part of the clients' lives," interior designer Louis Shuster says. Foyer works by Brazilian painters Manabu Mabe and Gonçalo Ivo announce that aesthetic. In the foreground, the wood console is one of a pair designed by Oscar Niemeyer, while Frans Kracjberg's red wall sculpture catches the eye above a glass-topped console beyond.



INTERIOR DESIGNER LOUIS SHUSTER RECALLS ONE of the first conversations with his client. It took place after the homeowner's wife saw one of the designer's homes featured in *Florida Design* and she watched a video of Shuster describing his work.

"She has a strong intuition that you are to be the one," the husband says. A week later, Shuster began to put together a team to transform an existing estate in the uber-exclusive enclave of St. Andrews in Boca Raton, Fla., into a home for the Brazilian couple, their two young children and several live-in staff. While maintaining a sprawling residence in South America designed by a world-famous architect, the couple wished to bring the same Latin vibrancy and luxury to St. Andrews.

ABOVE: Architects Jay Colestock and Mark Muir designed the square-paneled doors of mahogany that serendipitously echo the painting by Gonçalo Ivo. From Etel Interiores in São Paulo, Brazil, the entry table is designed by Claudia Moreira Salles; its sculpture by artist Alfredo Ceschiatti.



Strength and luminosity are apparent in the soaring living room. From behind a quartz facing, a panel slides to conceal the bar. Across the room, the 10-foot-long high-tech art by Carlos Cruz-Diez seems to vibrate within its niche. Even the zigzag floor lamp from Phillips Collection, and the custom chandelier that designer Gage Hartung created by cobbling together Lucite slatting, rock crystal and linen are works of art.



The designer's first call was to architects Jay Colestock and Mark Muir. "I was totally overwhelmed by the views," Colestock says. "A fan-shaped property set on one-and-a-half acres overlooking sweeping golf course greens ... I couldn't wait to pick up my pencil and paper." But problems were embedded in the 1980s-built existing structure. "It simply could not accommodate what we wanted to build," he says. The owners' quick decision to move forward with a totally new home opened the floodgates of inspiration and the magic began.

Colestock created a thumbnail sketch of a 13,300-square-foot, two-story home situated to embrace the spectacular views. "I kept three principles in mind," the architect says. "The needs of this particular family and how they like to live; the incredible views and setting; and the thing they are passionate about — art. I needed to design around an important contemporary collection."

As Colestock refined his blueprints for the now cleared lot, Shuster and his lead designer, Gage Hartung began the first of two trips to Brazil. "Steeping oneself in the life of the people for whom you are designing a

With entertaining and family living a priority, the homeowners doubled their pleasure with one of two family rooms — this one with walls of glass that pull open to fill the space with soft Florida breezes.



home is a wonderful privilege," Hartung says. "Seeing the colors they love, the textures they treasure, how they move and relax in their spaces is invaluable." Though select pieces of art and furnishings from their current home were chosen for St. Andrews, the São Paulo Design Center offered most of the pieces in the exotic woods the owners loved.

Soon, builder Terry Cudmore and landscape architect Kent Wieland came aboard. "We gave ourselves a 14-month timeline," Cudmore says. In the end, 12 months later, the owners moved in, loving everything they saw.

Throughout the home, natural woods, Ledgerstone-faced columns and slabs of limestone give the feeling of a resort.



Drama intrigues from the first moment. Against the softness of Wieland's date palm oasis, Colestock massed blocks of rectangles, punctured walls with rectilinear shapes, and then settled the tension with a palette of soft grays for the Ledgerstone columns and concrete-tiled roof. Four individual, steel-faced walnut-paneled garages flank the home's central entry styled with a mighty arched trellis that feels as if the curtain is about to go up. And indeed it does.

Just inside, Hartung positions 21-foot-high flat rosewood columns on either side of the entry to narrow the aperture and allow the main social area's impact to dazzle.

And high above, the entry foyer's floated rosewood panel and the living room's 26-foot-high vaulted ceiling make for the majesty of a modern cathedral.

On glowing rosewood panels and gallery-white walls, color splashes from every corner. "Each piece of art was photographed and measured," Hartung says. "We knew where each work would live before it arrived."

Linear striations develop in the living room, where slatted panels lining the bar and a Tai Ping area rug define the motif Hartung uses throughout. Clad in Bergamo's pale linen, the Berman Rossetti sofas join casual armchairs to center a rare Amazonian wood cocktail table designed by Ruy Ohtake that is "shaped like the Shuster 'S,'" the owner quips.

As if pulled from the hues in the dining room's art, the multi-squared area rug from Amir Rug Gallery continues the color-block motif. The table's warm caramels of Brazilian cedar wood resonate in hue with the hand-blown glass "canoes" that suspend, mobile-like, from above.

"For me," Hartung says, "the biggest challenge was positioning furniture and defining usage areas in the outdoor family room." With accordion doors, a massive Viking barbecue, and a fireplace along one side, Hartung floated seating and dining areas in the center of the room. Wicker furnishings by Breton from São Paulo form an open-air social grouping, while Alfio Lisi

ABOVE RIGHT: Deceptively hidden behind rosewood panels, Shuster-designed cabinetry wraps the kitchen's perimeter. Form-hugging chairs from Estudio Lattoog in Brazil float against white quartzite counters.



"There are some properties and some projects that just get the juices flowing — this was one," architect Jay Colestock says. "I was so inspired I couldn't put my pencil down. Every member of the team felt that way."



ABOVE: With an entire wing devoted to the priorities of the master suite, the bedroom is but one. Alder wood doors open to a custom-designed bed atop a striated area rug. In the hall beyond, the "Rhone" light fixture from Wired Custom Lighting enhances José Bechara's artwork that leads the way to massive dressing rooms for both husband and wife, as well as separate baths that are combined with a formal master lounge and vestibule.

barstools pull up to a custom teak-stained bar that allows guests to concentrate on the thick, South American steaks grilling on the barbecue.

Opening out of the white of quartzite and warmth of rosewood, the limestone-floored kitchen merges with a family-sized breakfast area and the family room beyond. A wine wall with room for over 400 labels, hidden cabinetry and a rich Calacatta marble backsplash underline the luxury in each kitchen detail.

The master suite features nearly 600 square feet of private dressing rooms, plus a private sitting room off of the sleeping area. Beneath the stepped and coffered ceiling, the headboard wall is faced with an embrace of red eucalyptus. A Sergio Rodriguez chair and ottoman in creamy leather sit



ABOVE: In the husband's bath, modern technology makes glass doors a thing of the past. A THG rainshower from Miller's Elegant Hardware and a linear drain keeps water where it should be, while art and architecture combine in Marble of the World's onyx arc.

"Sometimes the chemistry is just right for all the members of the team," Wieland says. "In this case, the homeowner, with his wonderful attention to detail, was a key player. Then for everyone — the magic just happened."



ABOVE: An aqua-glass mosaic wall holds the pool like a delicate vessel. Water cascades down stone baffles into bronze containers that spill into the pool. Nearby, Tuuci's "Stingray" umbrella from Brown Jordan guards against the sun.

serenely beneath Cosme Martins' abstract work. For the husband's shower, tiny strips of onyx were milled and matched to form a soft arc worthy of its own artistic status.

As the homeowners now relax around the glass-tiled pool, ingeniously designed to prevent small children or dogs from inadvertent curiosity, their new American home seems complete. With a balcony playground keeping the small ones busy, the couple allows their mind's eye to drift along the marble-faced blade walls of the pool and beyond. Magic becomes tangible it seems ... American-made with a samba beat.