



TROPICAL PUNCH

A DESIGN DUO OUTFITS A FORT LAUDERDALE RESIDENCE WITH WHIMSICAL ISLAND FLAIR.

WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY / PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICK JOHNSON / STYLING BY PEGGY CHASE JORDAO



Palecek's Strings Attached lounge chairs and Orson side table from Judith Norman occupy the family area of a Fort Lauderdale home by designers Ivonne Ronderos and Anahi Carrillo. Coffee tables from Pure Project Home center the Odabashian rug. Expormim's Nautica swing chair from Clima Home and a Casa Dio sofa offer whimsical seating.



Tropical hues are common in South Florida residences, a palette Nicole Johnson Brown embraces, but she knows restraint is key. “I love color, but I wasn’t sure how to express my passion for vibrancy without it overwhelming the spaces,” she says about designing the Fort Lauderdale house she and her husband, Ian, renovated. Considering her effusiveness toward the palette of soft coral, warm teal and gray-tinged navy that now surrounds her, designers Ivonne Ronderos and Anahi Carrillo brilliantly succeeded in setting the right tone. “I often find myself being moved by the emotion of color and texture in the home as I travel from room to room,” Nicole says. “In each room, there is an undertone of serenity, even in the spaces that are bolder.”

That feeling is the result of the designers’ concept for the residence: “Tropical Festival of Life,” an approach that incorporates organic textures and prints as well as abstract island patterns. “The Browns were willing to trust us to create a unique home that reflects their distinctiveness,” Ronderos says. The clients’ directive for a look that embraces their individuality led to decisions such as noteworthy seating, like the family area’s hanging chair and curvy aqua velvet sofa as well as the foyer’s shell-shaped plywood chairs—pieces further influenced by the owners’ love of entertaining. “Just how much the Browns were intent on creating a whimsical and welcoming place



Dining area artwork from Pure Project Home pops against Phillip Jeffries' Side Stepped wallcovering in Navy Sail. Article's Zola chairs, which Grafton Furniture reupholstered with a Kravet textile, surround the owners' table atop an Odabashian rug. The bar's backsplash of Ann Sacks' Context Field tile in Jasper adds a bold presence.

for friends was cemented in our minds when they told us they had bought a pimped-out golf cart to drive to local restaurants," Carrillo says. "After that conversation, we knew it was important to consider the experiential at all times."

Following that lead, Ronderos and Carrillo approached the project in such a way that each space would invite discovery and tell a story. To define the living, family and dining areas, which are all connected and in view of each other, the designers relied on colors, unique pieces and accent moments. A fireplace with a Calacatta gold tile surround is the standout feature in the living area. The hanging chair and eclectic sofa make a statement in the family area. And in the dining area, the duo created a space within a space by outfitting a bar with a rich but playful blue-toned backsplash tile. "We decided that because we were going to go wild, we'd go with color," Ronderos says. "When you walk into the dining area, it's impactful because you see the rich blue on the wall. It was always about finding the perfect spots for color with rich texture."

Substantial work was done in the master bedroom, where Ronderos and Carrillo added wallpaper and wood tones to walls. Transforming the space's open-concept layout, they also created hidden doors that lead to the bathroom and closet. But because of the Browns' penchant for hosting, the guest room was so highly considered that it was given as much weight as their own bedroom. "I told Anahi, 'This is the project to go bold,'



Above: The designers left the master bathroom largely untouched, including preserving the existing tub, but added a European walnut shower screen next to the frosted-glass door. Silver and glass Terzani pendants from Lumens hover above the sink.

Opposite: RH's Modena bed, shagreen Cela nightstand and Luz rug come together in the master bedroom. Bocci's 28.5 five-fixture LED pendant from Luminaire offers an artistic element.