

NAPLES EDITION

FLORIDA DESIGN

art at home

COOL &
COLLECTED

A coastal cottage is
transformed into a
glam gallery





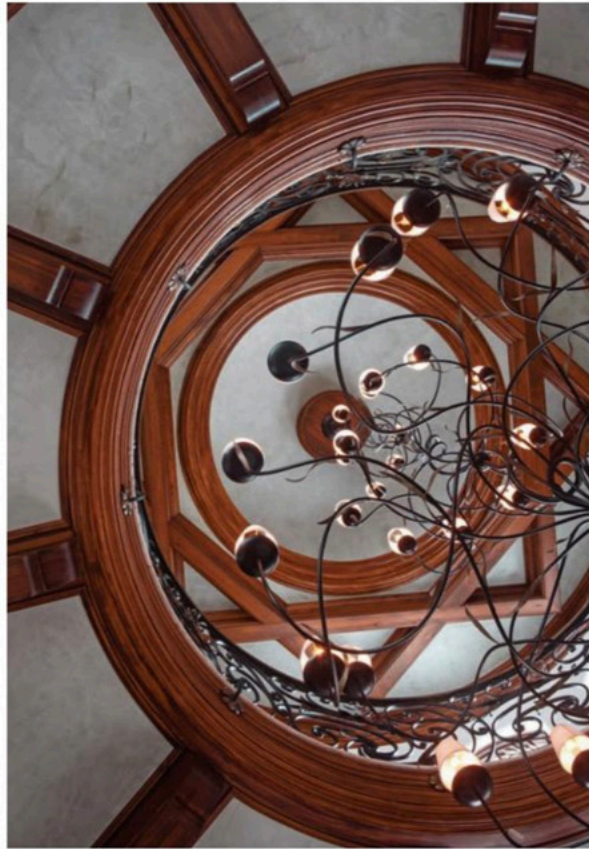
GIL WALSH

"When I work with a new client, I listen to what inspires them. Once we are speaking the same language, the journey begins in designing a space that is beautiful, functional, and reflective of their unique, personal style."

A New Light

COMBINING STYLES AND INFLUENCES, A NAPLES HOME GOES FROM MASSIVELY MEDITERRANEAN TO ECLECTICALLY ELEGANT

interior design GIL WALSH WITH LAURYL GUSE AND MICHELLE SCOTT,
GIL WALSH INTERIORS, WEST PALM BEACH, FL
text MARINA BROWN
photo graphy by JERRY RABINOWITZ, GREENACRES, FL



ABOVE: Soaring nearly three-stories high, the triple-tiered chandelier bathes a grand, round table with light. Designer Gil Walsh painted some of the home's dark wood trim to match the pale hues of the new interiors, but she retained the dramatic wood elements in the entryway.

RIGHT: The living room is set in two subtly specified conversation spaces. Walsh deftly combines Venetian, traditional, and contemporary styling—all awash in tones of blue and green. From wood to glass to metal and bone, no two tables are alike. A Chihuly-esque chandelier hangs above.

IF YOUR DECORATIVE TASTE RUNS French, or if Italianate is your style, or even if the American West Coast is your preferred interior milieu, you and designer Gil Walsh of Gil Walsh Interiors may have a lot in common. Which is to say: Walsh is a master at mashing up design elements in a way that allows each piece to have its say. "As if the client has traveled the world," Walsh explains.

Nowhere is Walsh's amalgam of looks—what she calls "Santa Barbara style"—more evident than in this elegant Naples home. Situated in prestigious Port Royal, it was built six years ago in the then-popular Mediterranean mode. "The woodwork was beautiful, but dark and heavy," Walsh says of the home's before look. "There were heavy brick vaulted ceilings in the kitchen, and much use of iron in the balustrades," she recalls. "It was a mannish house, which we wanted to soften."





Bronze handrails top the Colombian-crafted stair balustrade that leads to the dining room, where a Venetian glass chandelier illuminates Bob Christian's botanical mural. The hand-carved dining table is surrounded by Italianate upholstered chairs with seats in a patterned velvet and backs in a Fortuny fabric.

Walsh was already familiar with the homeowners' tastes after previously partnering with them on the design of a home in Pennsylvania. Working off that experience, Walsh filled their 10,000-square-foot, five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath Florida home with celadon greens, soft blues, and gentle peach hues, merging textures, patterns (and, seemingly, continents) into a home full of comfort and warmth.

Through double entry doors, the home's soaring, circular foyer is ringed with stained oak and Colombian ironwork that coils upward to a vaulted cupola ceiling. A three-tiered custom chandelier lights the space below. Walsh says that despite the perceived weight of the materials, the wrought iron balconies take on an ephemeral feel when paired with her more delicate, spring-like palette.

A large part of the home's grandeur comes in the form of the paintings—murals and framed artwork—of Bob Christian. Found in the dining room, the master bedroom and its adjoining bath, the powder room, and the gallery, Christian's work ties the home's former Mediterranean theme to a sunny Neopolitan lifestyle.

The master bedroom's walls are finished in a blue Venetian plaster adorned with a pale tree-of-life pattern created by Christian, striking the careful balance between heavy and light that is Walsh's signature. "The same balance is important in the juxtaposition of the draperies' small designs and the larger ones of rugs and pillows," she says. For some designers, placing a French Country bed next to a white Chippendale desk chair,

TOP RIGHT: What was once a quartet of dark, neglected niches between the powder room and the family room has been transformed into a dramatically lit passageway featuring Bob Christian's trompe l'oeil murals of Delft vases in springtime.

RIGHT: The powder room's unique shape (which Walsh describes as "one-half of an octagon") called for an equally unique design treatment. Enter Christian's murals, which create a sunny bower of palms and bamboo on the walls. Narrow, gilded sconces and a simple scalloped vanity in painted blue wood add a rustic elegance to the space.





ABOVE: At one end of the master bedroom, an intimate seating area provides a space for relaxation. The patterns in the drapes, rug, wall work, and mirror are balanced by the tranquility of the cream-colored sofa and dusky-blue chair. Walsh creates unity and calm using a repeating rose and blue color palette.



ABOVE: Beneath the illuminated, double tray ceilings of the master bedroom, a Swedish crystal chandelier lights the French Country-style gilded iron bed. Patterns echo around the room, tying the design together: the drapes and small settee, the textured bedspread and lacey wall designs, a tiny gilded desk lamp and the large, elegant bed.



LEFT: Adjacent to the master bedroom, the private sitting room retains a familiar palette, popped by the salmon hues of a three-paneled screen featuring a wreath and vase design created from shells embroidered on fabric.



or topping faux marble bedside tables with washed pine lamps might be unorthodox. For Walsh, they're the very interactions that enliven a room.

With the master suite and one guest bedroom downstairs and three additional guest suites upstairs, the homeowners wanted a respite from entertaining when guests are visiting. Walsh gave them just the spot in a private sitting room. Adjoining the master bedroom, it offers views across the pool and toward an inland waterway and a nature preserve beyond.

Whether relaxing by the pool, playing billiards in the game room, dining alfresco on the veranda, or gazing at nature from the expansive balconies, this former "heavy" house now offers ethereal pleasures warmed by the light of Naples sunshine.

SOURCES

LIVING ROOM

White sofa – Alfonso Marina, B. Peterson, Design Institute, West Palm Beach, FL

Fabric – F. Schumacher & Co., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Green sofa – Dennis & Leen, Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Fabric – Lee Jofa, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Blue club chairs – Jan Showers, Dallas, TX

Fabric – Designers Guild, Ammon Hickson, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Blue armchairs – William Switzer, City of Industry, CA

Fabric – Fatto A Mano, B. Peterson, Design Institute, West Palm Beach, FL

Nesting table and round tables – Theodore Alexander, *theodorealexander.com*

Decorative table – Dennis & Leen, Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Square side tables – J. Alexander, Los Angeles, CA

Marble round side tables – Rose Tarlow, Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Gold drink tables – Made Goods, City of Industry, CA

Chandelier – Wired Custom Lighting, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Area rug – Patterson Flynn Martin, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

DINING ROOM

Table and chairs – Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Chair fabric – Fortuny, B. Peterson, Design Institute, West Palm Beach, FL

Chandelier – Artemest, Milan, Italy

Candle holders – Vintage, Mary Mahoney, Palm Beach, FL

POWDER ROOM

Counter designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL

Vessel sink – Kohler, Wool Supply of Tampa, Tampa, FL

Mirror – Ambella Home Collection, Dallas, TX

Flower sconce – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

MASTER BEDROOM

Bed designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL

Fabricated by Rose Tarlow, Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Side tables – Niermann Weeks, Michael Taylor Designs, Downey, CA

Decorative stool at foot of bed – Oomph, Greenwich, CT

Fabric – Manuel Canovas, Cowtan & Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Desk – J. Alexander, Los Angeles, CA

Desk chair – Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC

Chandelier – Julie Neill Designs, New Orleans, LA

Drapery fabric – Manuel Canovas, Cowtan & Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Area rug – Stark Carpet, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

MASTER BEDROOM SEATING VIGNETTE

Sofa – Lee Jofa Furniture, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Side chair – William Switzer, J. Nelson, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Cocktail table – Century, Hickory, NC

Demilune console table and mirror – Vintage, James & Jeffrey Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL

Floor lamp – Galerie des Lampes, John Rosselli & Associates, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

MASTER BEDROOM LIVING AREA

Sofa – Alfonso Marina, B. Peterson, Design Institute, West Palm Beach, FL

Club chairs – Kravet Furniture, kravet.com

Cocktail table – Woodland Furniture, Idaho Falls, ID

Area rug – Patterson Flynn Martin, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

BACK EXTERIOR

Lounge and seating – Formations, Jerry Pair, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Side table – Client's Collection

THROUGHOUT

Decorative and wall concepts designed by Gil Walsh Interiors, West Palm Beach, FL

Decorative painting by Bob Christian Artistic Design, Savannah, GA

Wall surfaces created and fabricated by Dimensions International, West Palm Beach, FL in collaboration with O'Guin Decorative Finishes, Naples, FL

With a dazzling pool, spa, and fire pits, guests can dine or chat at one of several shady spots beneath the wide outdoor veranda. The upstairs guest suites access private balconies as well as a communal gathering overlook with vistas to the adjacent nature preserve and waterway.

