

Best-Laid Plans

Susan Connor's Royal Resurrection

By Nicole Borgenicht

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This Royal Palm home was created by John D. Conway Architecture Inc., SRD Building Corp. and P&H Interiors.



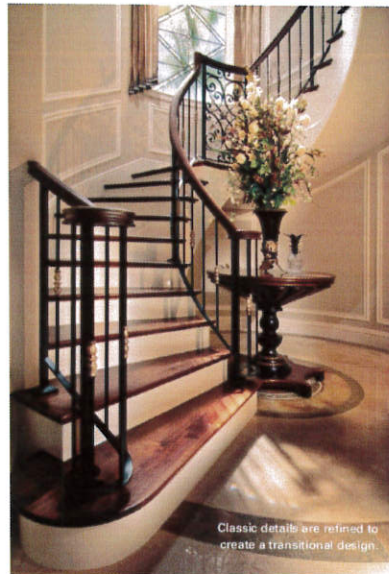
Working closely with John D. Conway Architecture Inc. and SRD Building Corp., P&H Interiors was selected to incorporate light and highlight the waterfront views of this contemporary H-shaped plan. The homeowners from Australia were grateful the expansive house could be designed by finessing the combination of elegance and comfort they sought. The final outcome is a glamorous 8,000-square-foot waterfront home, with five bedrooms, six and a half baths, a club room, libraries and loft each with unique and distinctive characteristics that assimilate in a sophisticated contemporary fashion.

Susan Connor, owner of P&H Interiors, led the design team, first with effective space planning and then with interior architectural detailing intended to maximize the powerful architecture. While the homeowners had been primarily involved with building more modern homes in the San Francisco Bay area, this new plan conveyed a chic edginess and an eclectic mix of regency and traditional touches. "A careful blend of classic and current accents were layered in as the design process progressed to create a look that can't truly be characterized as either, but a genre all its own," Connor says.

SYMMETRICAL STYLING
In addition to the elegant design style that complements this grandiose space through symmetrical detail, fluidity is accomplished by corresponding tones in each area that draw the eye around the home with color and design accents such as floral arrangement motifs or lighting accents. A symmetrical sensibility prevails throughout the home, both in the architect's floor plan and Connor's interior design. A precise palette of color, texture



The home's floor plan is designed around a central axis. Here, living and dining areas flank the entry.



Classic details are refined to create a transitional design.

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Variable counter heights and work surfaces add interest by breaking up large surfaces.

and fabric is incorporated throughout the home in varying degrees, providing a seamless flow between various spaces.

"The core of the home is the central axis, from front to back, flanked on either side by the formal dining and living rooms," Connor says. "An almost metallic luster faux finish in the barrels shimmers in the recessed lighting. Winged back and camel back dining chairs are updated in oversized damask and textured linens. A Regency-style buffet was introduced to balance the classic and newer elements."

CLASSIC DETAILING

Upon entry, a stunning, wood-trimmed, arched glass door reveals the wine vault with multiple sources of light for viewing and tasting. Next, detailed iron railings lead up the circular stairway toward a beveled art glass window that diffuses the natural light while equalizing the light color temperature with the rest of the home. Moldings along the stairway wall, and below it, sculpt the rotund areas with architectural patterns. Iron is utilized

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throughout the home from an ornate balcony railing above the stairway to a patio fireplace hearth gate.

P&H focused on the custom fabrication of elements to convey a consistency in design. For example, marble medallions with similar proportions and material specifications were created to be placed above the stairway, in the foyer and in a master bath. And beautiful silk window treatments in shimmering golden color tones were hung in the main halls for acoustical balance.

Accent color themes in fabrics, picture frames, wall moldings and so forth in beige, black, bronze, gold and silver emit reflective tones and textures. "What we think of as the 'jewelry' of the home is where attention was most paid to finishes: The metal hood and glass tile become the focal point of the kitchen, the silver and bronze light fixtures throughout the home, cut glass window and doors," Connor says. She explains that grounding a color scheme creates a feeling of warmth. Therefore the neutral canvas of rich wood furnishings and warm taupe marble and upholstery tastefully sentimentalize a large

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space. A warmer spectrum is used for the palette in the club room and libraries. According to Connor, the key is beautifully coordinating the combination of different styles, fabrics and textures while allowing each to hold its individuality.

OPPOSITES ATTRACT

In the modern gourmet kitchen, historic home characteristics comprise painted tones of cabinetry and subtle glazing that was then applied to offset a stainless steel stove and double oven.

Complementing the variegated design styles, countertops have either marble or wood tops in the spacious kitchen. "Although the corbels and riser moldings are more traditional in nature, the leaded glass display was kept simple. The antiqued metal hood is contrasted with reflective glass tile backsplash in a classic subway shape and brick joint pattern," Connor says.

The kitchen construction was designed in a perfect shape for entertaining or for cooking and conversing with friends and family. It is said when one entertains, guests always end

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Various light sources, fabrics and china add ambience to the formal dining room.



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up in the kitchen. Whether to share a glass of wine while preparing or serving hors d'oeuvres, or simply tossing a salad among the company of friends, a kitchen with a pull-up bar counter facing the center island is apropos for fortuitous merriment.

COHESIVE STATEMENT

To no surprise in time, the homeowners found what they loved about the house was this sense of continuity, with each space having a fluid comfort and connectivity to the rest of the mansion. In fact, one of the greatest challenges for P&H Interiors was defining each room while maintaining estate cohesion. Ultimately the P&H design team was able to create separate and unique spaces – even in the living room, which has a double-height ceiling. Connor says, “Here we created a ceiling feature that extended wall-to-wall and dropped a massive, yet delicate fixture to help draw the eye up.”

Every room has been approached in a harmonious

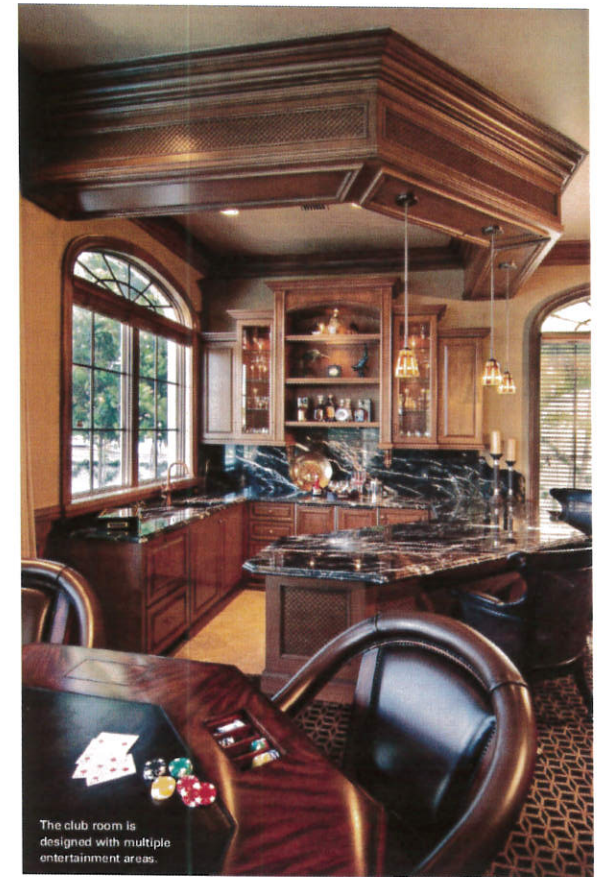
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fashion to agree with the grand scheme. From the center of the home to the exterior, each area falls within color palette themes and abundant, broad comfortable seating that congruently expresses the tone of the home. Yet, the personal touches in secondary rooms and bedroom suites incorporate elements that convey a more personal, unique atmosphere.

CHANGE OF MIND

Where individuality of design begins, innovative alignment with entertainment features follow in the homeowners’ favorite room. “The club room is the client’s absolute favorite room of the house,” Connor says. “It is spacious yet intimate at the same time. They utilize it for everything from watching movies, to entertaining guests, to working on their laptops, to playing board games with the entire family. The rich wood finishes, plush geometric patterned carpet, and oversized leather and upholstered

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The club room is designed with multiple entertainment areas.

seating are inviting and comfortable to all that enter.”

In the same mindset, a series of television screens hung high on the walls are perfectly placed for viewing with friends and associates, or to be enjoyed as personal engaging focus. Altogether the options and subtleties that inspire people into quiet study, celebratory atmosphere or even meditative mindfulness make this home a remarkable palace of preferential selection. Each area signifies sundry moods to acquiesce or excite.

OUTDOOR PARADISE

A spacious walkway to behold the scenery while standing or

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SOURCE LIST

LIVING ROOM

Sofas | Lexington Home Brands, Thomasville, NC
 Sofa Pillow Fabric | Robert Allen Fabrics, Foxboro, MA
 Sofa Table | John Richard Collection, Greenwood, MS
 Cocktail Tables | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Accent Chairs | Lexington Home Brands, Thomasville, NC
 Chairside Tables | Hekman Furniture Company, Zeeland, MI
 Area Rug | Masterpiece Carpet Solutions, Atlanta, GA
 Chests flanking Fireplace | John Richard Collection, Greenwood, MS
 Fireplace Screen | Uttermost Company, Rocky Mount, VA
 Mirror above Fireplace | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Drapery Panels (includes Dining Room & Gallery areas) | Custom Window Treatments, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Fabrics for Drapery Panels | S&S Decorative Fabrics, Miami, FL
 Trim for Drapery Panels | Kravet Fabrics, Bethpage, NY
 Drapery Hardware | Robert Allen Fabrics, Foxboro, MA
 Chandelier | Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA

DINING ROOM

Dining Table | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Arm Chairs | Designmaster Furniture, Hickory, NC
 Fabric for Inside Back of Arm Chairs | Robert Allen Fabrics, Foxboro, MA
 Side Chairs | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Sideboard | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Chandelier | John Richard Collection, High Point, NC

HALLWAY/GALLERY

Stone Pedestal in Hallway | Home Decorators Collection, Hazelwood, MO
 Scroll Pedestals in Gallery | Hallway | Butler Specialty Company, Chicago, IL
 Benches in Gallery | Pearson Company, High Point, NC
 Fabric for Benches | Kravet Fabrics, Bethpage, NY
 Center Table for Stairwell | Maitland-Smith, High Point, NC
 Pedestal for Stairwell Niche | Stein World Inc., Memphis, TN
 Chandeliers and Scones | Currey & Company, Atlanta, GA



KITCHEN

Barstools | Bentley Churchill, High Point, NC
 Backless Counter Stools | Artistic Metal, Ventura, CA
 Desk Chair | Hickory White Company, Hickory, NC
 Chandelier | Metropolitan, Corona, CA

CLUB ROOM

Leather Sofa with Fabric Cushions | Leathercraft, Conover, NC
 Fabric for Seat Cushions on Leather Sofa | Fabric Inc., Tulsa, OK
 Fabric for Back Cushions on Leather Sofa | Robert Allen Fabrics, Foxboro, MA
 Cord for Back Cushions on Leather Sofa | Fabric Inc., Tulsa, OK
 Fabric Sofa | Bentley Churchill, High Point, NC
 Sofa Table | Hooker Furniture, Martinsville, VA
 Cocktail Table | The Bernard Molyneux Collection, Deerfield Beach, FL
 Round Sofa Side Table | Stein World Inc., Memphis, TN
 Lamp on Round Table | Stein World Inc., Memphis, TN
 Rectangular End Table | Butler Specialty Company, Chicago, IL
 Swivel Lounge Chairs | Pearson Company, High Point, NC
 Fabric for Swivel Chairs | Fabric Inc.,

Tulsa, OK

Chairside Table | Hooker Furniture, Martinsville, VA
 Game Table | Cth Sherrill Occasional, Hickory, NC
 Game Chairs | Cth Sherrill Occasional, Hickory, NC
 Bar Chairs | Lexington Home Brands, Charlotte, NC
 Custom Entertainment Unit | Furniture Concepts 2000 Inc., Pompano Beach, FL
 Hardware for Entertainment Unit | Top Knobs, Belle Mead, NJ
 Drapery Panels | Custom Window Treatments, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Fabric for Drapery Panels | Norbar Fabrics Company, Boca Raton, FL
 Trim on Drapery Panels | Fabric Inc., Tulsa, OK
 Wood Blinds | Hunter Douglas, installed by All Custom Creations, Pompano Beach, FL
 Pendants over Bar | Kichler Lighting, Cleveland, Ohio

OUTDOOR

Outdoor Furniture | Pavilion Furniture, Miami, FL
 Summer Room Area Rug | Surya Carpet Inc., Calhoun, GA
 Summer Room Fireplace Screen | Uttermost Company, Rocky Mount, VA
 Ceiling Fans | Quorum International, Fort Worth, TX

Outdoor entertainment features include swimming pool, fireplace, barbecue and outdoor dining, along with gracious seating and lounging areas.

strolling and conversing with guests connects different areas of the spacious outdoor space. Oversized chaise lounges, a large hammock and a plush seating area around an outdoor fireplace provide multiple areas to retreat or entertain. For a full-menu occasion, a large table is set for outdoor dining and a bar with barstools is located near the barbecue, thus providing an array of choices in which to enjoy the pool and garden.

"The key to the outdoor furnishings at this home was to have flexibility in function and types of space," Connor says. The Grenada Collection from Pavilion features Sumbrella® fabrics and light finishes to exalt a tropical water view. As with the interior home, comfortable seating is tastefully orchestrated for meetings, entertaining and relaxing. A perfect outdoor paradise invites entertaining in the tropical Florida lifestyle. □

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