

FAMILIAR TERRITORY

WRITTEN BY **JESSE BRATTER**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GEORGE COTT**

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, JOHN AND DORIS SULLIVAN ENLISTED THE HELP OF CAROLYN MCCARTHY, OF INTERIORS NONPAREIL, TO FASHION THE INSIDE OF THEIR CORAL GABLES HOME. But the successful collaboration was just a stopping point until the owners would one day move to their dream waterfront location and again draw on the Coral Gables designer's creative prowess. "Carolyn was such a great designer and so helpful to us then that I told her, 'When we get that property on the water, you're gonna be it,'" Doris recalls.

The property the couple eventually acquired was situated on a waterway leading into Biscayne Bay, and, before McCarthy could work her magic, architectural design plans needed to get underway. She worked with Miami-based architect Ramon Pacheco, of Ramon Pacheco & Associates, Architect and Planner, from the onset to give the house functionality and finesse. Pacheco designed a classical Mediterranean house that operates on several axes, the main one running from the front entrance to the rear exterior, overlooking the waterway. "The goal was to accommodate the owners' request for as many rooms

ARCHITECTURE Ramon Pacheco, AIA, Ramon Pacheco & Associates,

Architect and Planner

INTERIOR DESIGN Carolyn McCarthy, Interiors Nonpareil, Inc.

HOME BUILDER Jose C. Mendiola Jr., Jomed Construction Corporation

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Jorge Sanchez and Phil Maddux, ASLA, Sanchez & Maddux, Inc.

BEDROOMS 7 **BATHROOMS** 11 **SQUARE FEET** 15,000







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LIVING QUARTERS

Darlyne Chauve's oil-on-canvas, from Cancio Contemporary, makes a statement above the living room sofa from Tui Pranich, covered in Brunswick & Fils fabric. The space is filled with Baker furnishings, including the armless chairs, cocktail table and side tables. The silk pillows are from Lili Alessandra; a rug from Woven Art Specialist grounds the space.

a possible facing the water," Pacheco says, "and to make the house work with all the spaces they wanted." The L-shaped house is designed so that the owners can conveniently access the core rooms, with the family room and adjacent kitchen/breakfast area, upstairs master bedroom and 3,000-bottle wine cellar—collecting is a hobby of John's—in the same wing.

McCarthy imbued the interiors with an inviting ambiance that speaks to the owners' bustling family life, love of the outdoors and penchant for entertaining. To create a transitional scheme, McCarthy repurposed some of the owners' furnishings and searched for new pieces and antiques



GRAND ENTRANCE

A chandelier and sconce light the foyer, both by Dessin Fournir from David Sutherland. Murano glass from NIBA Home rests on a console from Dolce beneath Patricia Schnall Gutierrez's painting. Fort Lauderdale Woodworking did the wall detailing, and Endurance Floor Company provided the floors. Draperies feature Coraggio Textiles fabric and Kravet trim.



ITALIAN TOUCH

An Andromeda Murano chandelier suspends over chairs covered in Jeffrey Michaels & Company fabric and an antique table refinished by Petersen Restorations. Vanessa Kocking's painting hangs above an antique console. Marsh Industries fashioned the draperies with Lee Jofa fabric.



STYLE SELECTION

Seguso Interiors' glass-blowing heritage dates back to 1397, which is evident in this sophisticated Murano glass, eight-light chandelier featuring intricately detailed flowers and leaves. *Albireo*, price available to the trade; segusointeriors.com

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that had clean lines and an elegant appeal without being too formal. In some cases, she made oversized Styrofoam models so the owners could understand the volume of space they were trying to fill. "If we couldn't find the right piece, we'd wait until it revealed itself to us; we only bought things that we were truly happy and excited about," McCarthy says. "This takes time and patience but, in the end, is so worth it. You don't tire of things that you're truly attached to. To me, that is what makes a timeless interior."

Each room contains one item that served as the catalyst for the design in that space, starting with the living room area rug from Woven Rug Specialist that McCarthy and the owners instantly fell for. Soft, understated shades of blue, cream and beige give the large-scaled residence a humbling warmth; this palette echoes in the contemporary art that juxtaposes against the traditional furnishings. "In South Florida," McCarthy says, "we have such a riot of color outside that I don't want the





DOCK OF THE BAY

A view from the canal reveals the façade's Mexican shell stonework and a clay barrel-tiled roof from S & J Roofing Contractors. The abundance of glass is by Marvin Windows and Doors. The 40-foot dock is by Dock & Marine Construction.



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interiors to compete with the views.”

Because these views played such a large role in the design of the Sullivan home, landscape designers Jorge Sanchez and Phil Maddux, and project manager Brian Vertesch, of Palm Beach’s Sanchez & Maddux, treaded lightly when designing the landscape, keeping architectural plantings close to the house and jungle-like tropical materials farther away. “We’re an extension of the interiors and architecture of the house,” Sanchez says. “It’s important that we don’t come up with something contrary to that.” An elevated main terrace allows the owners to soak in the canal views, and a walk down a Dominican shell-stone stairway leads to another water

IN TRANSITION

The family room includes a conversation area of Scalamandré’s wood spindle chairs with cushions covered in Quadrille fabric, a George Smith sofa from Monica James & Co. and O.Henry House lounge chairs in Raoul Textiles fabric, all hugging a Squires Company cocktail table from John Rosselli. Schumacher draperies frame a view of the terrace.



BOUDOIR BEAUTY

The Mokum duvet from Holly Hunt served as the palette inspiration in the master bedroom, where a Thomas Pheasant loveseat for Baker rests at the foot of the bed. Coraggio Textiles fabric drapes the windows and French doors, and a Niermann Weeks chandelier from James & Jeffrey Antiques adds an elegant touch.



UNDER COVER

Century Furniture chairs from Patio & Things circle an Oly cocktail table out on the loggia. A table from Stoneworks of Art separates another conversation area. Lanterns from Fine Art Lamps light the colonnade.



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pool flush with the green grass around it. "The inside of the house transitions through the covered terraces seamlessly, allowing the owners to benefit from all the different areas," says home builder Jose C. Mendiola Jr., president of Jomed Construction Corporation in Miami, who credits the entire design team for making the house and gardens feel as one.

McCarthy and the Sullivans predicted they'd work well together. After knowing one another for so long, McCarthy says she instinctively sensed what the owners would like and what they wouldn't. But, with the way the architect, builder and landscape architects joined in their choreographed dance, as McCarthy calls it, without missing a step, one could easily mistake them all for old friends. **L**