A RELAXED OASIS IN KEY WEST

LUSH LANDSCAPING DEFINES THIS LIGHT AND AIRY 1950S KEY WEST HOME RESTYLED WITH AN ECLECTIC MIX OF CLASSIC-CASUAL FURNISHINGS AND ACCESSORIES

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To keep its 1950s charm, the exterior was painted in a peony peach and trimmed in white. A granite patio with dining and conversation areas, and a second floor balcony, provide the perfect areas to relax and enjoy the tropical gardens and pool.



In the dining room, an eclectic mix of furnishings and accessories create a classic easy atmosphere for entertaining with a glass-topped dining table edged by red leather Parsons chairs.

In love with interior design since the age of 12, it is no mystery why Teresa Long chose to become a designer. Over the years she has studied and read about the profession, and having had the opportunity to live all over the United States, has had plenty of practice decorating her own homes, as well as her clients' homes. Her friends were always asking her for decorating advice — advice that they actually took. "It has always been such a fun adventure," she says. Long's latest design project, her own 2,300-square-foot Key West, Fla., home built in the 1950s, perfectly illustrates her expertise.

Very private and situated behind high walls, the home's sense of mystery attracted the designer and her partner, Steve Hatch, from the moment they first laid eyes on it. "We were bicycling around Key West when we spotted the house for sale in New Town," the designer says. Just past the gate, they were able to glimpse the sparkling pool and part of its lush gardens. They knew right then that they wanted to buy the property.

Outdoors, the landscape had been nicely maintained, but the pool needed refreshing. A new granite waterfall feature designed by landscape architect Craig Reynolds was installed to give the home a more





THE DESIGNER CREATED A HOME THAT IS LIGHT, BRIGHT AND AIRY. "WHEN WE MOVED IN, EVERY PIECE FELT LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR THIS HOUSE AND THAT IT BELONGED … EVERYTHING JUST FITS," DESIGNER TERESA LONG SAYS.

ABOVE: On the balcony, wicker armchairs provide the perfect seats to enjoy a beverage while gazing out towards the gazebo. It serves as a bandstand for parties, and also as an upscale "doghouse" for their bronze greyhound statues.

ABOVE LEFT: The homeowners and their guests thoroughly enjoy the Key West lifestyle while lounging by the pool and gardens. Designed with a granite waterfall, the sparkling pool creates a tranquil ambiance.

contemporary feel. On the other hand, the home had been added onto over the years and called for extensive renovations. To oversee that part of the project, Long hired architect Dar Castillo, who added columns on the outdoor covered spaces to lend a taste of the classical, and horizontal railings on the second floor to give the home more modern flair.

Inside, surprises await. Though the gardens and exterior have a decidedly tropical vibe, the interior design features a classic-casual blend of furnishings and the color scheme feels more like autumn, as touches of Long's signature red can be found in accents throughout. "I utilized more earth tones inside and red is a color that just makes me happy," she says. "I like casual elegance and an arrangement of furnishings that is more eclectic." Rather than reconfigure the home's floor plan, Long kept the original stairway that lends a more open feel. She had the original Mexican tile flooring refinished, and it glows with a lovely warm luster.

A RELAXED OASIS ...

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In the dining room, a glass-topped, coral-stone pedestal table is paired with Parsons chairs clad in red leather. A botanical drawing created on burlap adds texture, and a rope and shell chandelier from Pego Lamps lights the room. "I was looking for a shell chandelier and this one, encrusted in little cone-shaped shells, was perfect," Long says.

Outdoors, there are many areas for the couple to relax. "We especially love having coffee on the upstairs balcony while seated on overstuffed wicker chairs that overlook a small gazebo," Long says. The pool area is updated with a new granite waterfall, and the gazebo, embraced by lush gardens, adds mystery, and that's exactly what attracted Long and Hatch to the property in the first place. It's no wonder the couple thoroughly enjoy this home. "It's just a very comfortable place," the designer says.

SOURCES

EXTERIOR

Pool - Craig Reynolds Landscape Architecture, Key West, FL
Fabricated by Native Builders, Key West, FL
Blue rattan chairs, dining table, dining chairs, stools and sconces - Owners' Collection
Brown rattan chairs - Pier 1 Imports, Key West, FL
Ceiling fans - Home Depot, Key West, FL
Flooring/decking - Island City Tiles, Key West, FL

DINING ROOM

Dining table, cabinetry, small artwork, bowl, tableware and glassware - Owners' Collection
Dining chairs and tapestry - Dominque's House, Roche Harbor, WA
Console and tableware - Pier 1 Imports, Key West, FL
Floral centerpiece - Susane R Lifestyle Boutique, Miami, FL
Large artwork - Nancy Norris Interiors, Sun Valley, ID
Vase on console - Gallery 8, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada
Chandelier - Pego Lamps, Miami, FL
Ceiling treatments - Affiliated Design and Construction Managers, Key West, FL
Recessed lighting - Home Depot, Key West, FL

BALCONY

Brown wicker chairs - Pottery Barn, Coral Gables, FL
White pillows - The Seam Shoppe, Key West, FL
Red pillows - Pier 1 Imports, Key West, FL
Ceiling fans - Home Depot, Key West, FL M