REIMAGINING A KEYS RETREAT

IN THIS IDYLLIC OCEANSIDE HOME IN KEY LARGO, A COOL COLOR PALETTE WITH POPS OF BLUE AND AMETHYST BECOMES THE BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP FOR A BALLET OF ECLECTIC FURNISHINGS, ART AND ACCESSORIES.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY GIL WALSH, GIL WALSH INTERIORS, WEST PALM BEACH, FL
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ABOVE: Guests enter the home through a show-stopping custom mahogany front door that makes a bold first impression. "That is the architectural presence of the home," Gil Walsh explains. "It makes a very large statement."

When homeowner Janet Coughlan phoned a good friend to chat about her and husband Dermot's plans to remodel their Ocean Reef vacation home in Key Largo, Fla., she asked her to recommend an interior designer. Having purchased the 4,000-square-foot home nine years ago, Coughlan and her family were more than ready to remodel. Her friend happily recommended her own interior designer — award-winning designer and author Gil Walsh. "Coughlan had a very clear point



of view and refined taste," Walsh says. After an initial meeting with the couple, the design team was ready to get to work.

Originally from the United Kingdom and based in Toronto, Canada, the Coughlans had fallen in love with The Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo for its privacy and friendly small-town feel. Situated on 2,500 acres on the northern tip of Key Largo, it features 1,700 residences, three golf courses, upscale shops and a host of other amenities perfect for an active family with teenagers.

Lush landscaping and blossoming trees surround the sprawling single-story home. Large bay windows welcome guests inside, where a palette of gray and white hues paired with pops of cool blue and silver tones allow artwork and furnishings to shine through. "The home became a wonderful mix of the old and new with purchased, and existing furnishings and artwork," Walsh says. "The clients brought many of their favorite pieces to the table, making it a challenge to bring all the elements together in a cohesive way," she says.

LEFT: In the comfortable family room, brown stools tuck neatly beneath a rectangular sofa table for extra seating. Centering the space is a cocktail table designed by Gil Walsh that is grounded by an area rug in gray and white tones from the owners' personal collection.







In the family room, a Gil Walsh-designed custom sofa clad in a gray Kravet fabric and the owners' ivory wood-framed armchairs upholstered in a Larson fabric form an inviting conversation space. A linear coral stone fireplace, a nod to the owners' cold weather roots, ties the room together. "There's something about a fireplace, even in Florida where you really don't need it," Coughlan says. "If there's a tiny bit of a chill in the evening, you just pop it on and immediately there is a cozy feel." Creamy limestone flooring flows throughout the home and a wall of windows looks out onto the screened-in pool area.

The kitchen is sleek with clean line cabinetry and a subway tile backsplash in a crisp white color scheme. Glass and chrome accents lend a stylish touch, while French doors that open to the pool area keep things bright and airy. "The use of white keeps the space simple," the designer says.

A luxurious seating lounge in the living room nestles in front of a large bay window with garden views. A plush

ABOVE LEFT: The kitchen, created with a backsplash of white-glass subway tile from Troy Tile and Stone and acrylic counter stools, is fresh, modern and visually uncluttered.

TOP: Blue accent pillows from Designer's Guild adorn a gray sectional by Gil Walsh in the living room. A round cocktail ottoman upholstered in silver Quadrille and Kravet fabrics is flanked by glass-topped metallic accent tables that lend a touch of glam.

WHEN HOMEOWNER JANET COUGHLAN STARTED WORKING WITH INTERIOR DESIGNER GIL WALSH ON HER HOME, SHE HAD A VERY CLEAR DESIGN VISION. "THE COUGHLAN'S WANTED THEIR HOME TO BE AIRY AND COMFORTABLE, SOFT AND CONTEMPORARY WITH ARTWORK THAT STANDS OUT," WALSH SAYS.



Gil Walsh sectional and ottoman curves to the shape of the window. "This is my favorite place to sit and have a chat or just enjoy the view," Coughlan says. Another favorite space is the family room, where a large painting from the owners' personal collection brings the outside in with its spring-like amethyst, green and blue hues.

Outdoors, the cabana pavilion with a roofed lanai is fully screened to protect against the elements. The owners' dining table and rattan chairs are cushioned in blue Sunbrella fabric that mirrors cobalt blue-glass tiles in a custom pool designed by architect Timothy Slawson.

The owners and the design team worked well together. Coughlan never dreamed she would learn so much from Walsh about the subtle nuances of color and how to play with unexpected pairings. The brilliant end product is an inviting vacation retreat that the family can enjoy for years to come.

ABOVE: Lanterns from Visual Comfort surround the lanai area and the custom pool fabricated by Reef Tropical Pools. Cobalt blue-glass tiles line the shimmering pool, where the family enjoys hours of fun in the Florida sunshine.