

INTERIOR DESIGN Katherine Shenaman, Katherine Shenaman Interiors,  
West Palm Beach, FL  
ARCHITECTURE Jeffrey W. Smith, Smith Architectural Group, Palm Beach, FL  
BUILDER Hugh C. Davis, III, Davis General Contracting Corp., West Palm Beach, FL  
PROJECT MANAGER Nevin Bauman, Bauman Group, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Keith Williams, Nievera Williams Landscape  
Architecture, Palm Beach, FL  
TEXT De Schofield  
PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL

## GRACIOUS AND ELEGANT

A Ground-Up, Sensitive Historic Restoration Of A  
Landmark Palm Beach Estate Pays Homage To Its  
Roots With A Fresh Twist On Traditional Charm

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The exterior was kept as original in white brick with deep forest green accents added in the renovation. Among the challenging dictates given by the Landmark Preservation Commission was the requirement to keep the existing red clay roof even though the owner rallied for a slate tile roof.

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HISTORIC RESTORATIONS ARE A common occurrence in Palm Beach, Fla., a city endowed with a rich heritage of venerable homes designed by some of the most renowned names in 20th-century architecture. Among those giants was John L. Volk, considered one of Palm Beach's premier "Society Architects" whose prolific career spanned over 50 years.

There is nothing common, however, about the total restoration process undertaken for this particular, John Volk-designed Colonial-Revival style home. Its gracious, elegant bones, unparalleled oceanfront location and unusually large, 1.3-acre site located at the north end of the island captured the attention of an astute, prospective buyer who was looking to relocate

ABOVE: In one corner of the living room, the restrained style of the 18th-century French commode — a Directoire piece made of mahogany topped with the original white marble, circa 1790s, from Cedric DuPont Antiques — allows the antique, 18th-century English mirror displayed above it to shine.

ABOVE: An antique fauteuil upholstered in a silk and cotton blend by Scalamandré, a cocktail table from Cedric DuPont Antiques and an occasional table from Taillardat form a secondary grouping in the spacious living room.



to Palm Beach as his permanent residence. Almost simultaneously upon purchase, the homeowner, a successful private equity investment specialist who maintains homes in Manhattan and Connecticut, secured the talents of award-winning architect and historic restoration-expert, Jeffrey Smith, and classically-trained, designer and specialist in historic interiors, Katherine Shenaman, to lead a painstaking endeavor of rebuilding the house under the ever watchful eye of Palm Beach's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

"The charge was to turn the home's original L-shape footprint into a perfectly symmetrical U-shape by removing the detached pool house and creating a central courtyard. The new wing expanded the manse to 13,000 square feet," Shenaman says. "The architectural integrity of the home was so gracious that demolition was out of the question. It took a lot of TLC to complete this project, but strong architectural integrity prevailed."



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ABOVE LEFT: In the foyer, the ostrich-leg console topped in green marble is a reproduction piece that originally displayed a gilt finish; interior designer Katherine Shenaman had the piece faux-painted and whitewashed to give it a more relaxed feel.

ABOVE: The crystal chandelier in the dining room casts a glow over a collection of mid-18th-century panels hand-painted in the Chinoiserie fashion. Custom draperies made of Coraggio silk from Italy play off the scenes depicted in the panels.

“This is not an informal home, but it’s elegant without being stuffy,” Shenaman says. “There’s not a plethora of untouchable pieces.”



Taking its cue from the colors in the outdoor landscape, the home’s signature palette initiates in the living room. Shenaman’s starting point for the space was the area rug in soft shades of blue, green, rose and gold that anchors a secondary arrangement near the owner’s Steinway piano. Reclaimed French oak flooring laid in a classic Parquet de Versailles pattern gives the appearance of age and character.

Nearby, the foyer opens onto the reception room, a space Smith acknowledges as “one of the most difficult in the entire house,” in that it was created by a complete reconfiguration of the floor plan and the elimination of doors to provide flow with the adjacent rooms. Hand-painted wall covering from the renowned Gracie studio in New York City — customized in size and coloration to suit this setting — gives an entrée to an intimate seating arrangement grouped around a favorite, 20th-century painting from the owner’s private collection.

ABOVE: In the family room, custom-designed club chairs and two facing English roll-arm style sofas form a relaxed grouping atop a wool area rug from Stark Carpet. A hand sculpture displayed on an original Alberto Giacometti cocktail table adds a touch of whimsy.

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In the reception room, a focal point grouping pairs a painting by artist Robert Natkin with 18th-century French chairs clad in the original, vivid needlepoint upholstery. The golden yellow, teal, fuchsia and rose hues flow seamlessly into the living room.



The addition of an entire north wing with a center courtyard gives symmetry to the exterior view. The land had to be built up several feet to accommodate the new pool, and to level out the footing between the new wing and the south wing.



Designed around a collection of 18th-century French chinoiserie painted panels, the dining room groups an oversized, mahogany, 19th-century French table centered by updated French Rococo-style chairs clad in ocean-blue silk velvet from Clarence House on the front and a Lee Jofa silk plaid on the back.

A more relaxed theme reigns in the family room, where "the walls and artwork by actress and artist Elke Sommer are the focal points," Shenaman says, citing custom-shaded oxblood-red walls offset with custom millwork and doors

painted in an antique strie finish. Seating in the form of English roll-arm sofas and a pair of deep-seated club chairs provide a cozy place to relax.

"For me, this project was the opportunity of a lifetime," Shenaman says. "It was a real privilege to work with a visionary client who was appreciative of the home's integrity as well as the efforts in restoring it." Smith concurs, "I salute the owner for his dedication in restoring a house to exacting details; he never looked back and always believed in doing things right."

## SOURCES

### Front Exterior

Shutters and balcony railings - Miller's Custom Metals, Lake Worth, FL  
Planters - Nievera Williams Landscape Architecture, Palm Beach, FL

### Living Room

Grand piano - Steinway & Sons, New York, NY  
Sofa - Reupholstered by Custom Furniture by Laitamaki, West Palm Beach, FL

Fabric - Zimmer & Rohde, Ammon Hickson, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Accent pillow fabric and drapery fabric - Dolly Fabrics, Inc., New York, NY  
Fauteuil, decorative wall corbel and mirror above chest - G. Sergeant Antiques, Woodbury, CT  
Armchair fabric - Scalamandr , D&D Building, New York, NY  
Table lamp - wshome.com  
Lampshade - Heath & Co., West Palm Beach, FL

Cocktail table and wood chest - Cedric DuPont Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Occasional table - Taillardat, NYDC, New York, NY  
Window treatments - Paul Maybaum, Lake Worth, FL  
Area rug - The Abadjian Collection, New York, NY

### Foyer

Console and mirror - Perlmutter-Freiwald, Inc., Franklin, MI; decorative painting by Helen Kelsey Artifex, Inc., Delray Beach, FL  
Wall treatment - Gracie Inc., New York, NY

### Dining Room

Painted wall panels - Galerie Steinitz, Paris, France; conservation by Jane Haglund Painting Conservation, Tequesta, FL  
Dining table - Cedric DuPont Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Dining chairs - G. Sergeant Antiques, Woodbury, CT  
Chair front fabric - Clarence House, D&D Building, New York, NY  
Chair back fabric - Lee Jofa, D&D Building, New York, NY  
Chandelier - Owner's Collection  
Candelabras on table - Cristofle, Palm Beach, FL  
Linens - Lori Jayne Monogramming & More, Palm Beach, FL  
Drapery fabric - Coraggio Textiles, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

### Family Room

Sofa - Custom Furniture by Laitamaki, West Palm Beach, FL  
Fabric - Highland Court, Duralee Fabrics & Fine Furniture, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Armchair - Cassaro, Jeffrey Michaels & Co., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Cocktail table - Owner's Collection  
Occasional table - Julia Gray, Ltd., D&D Building, New York, NY  
Floor vase - Christie's, New York, NY  
Table lamps - Churchill Galleries, Palm Beach, FL

Sculpture on cocktail table - Brass Scale Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Silver tray on cocktail table - Mecox Gardens, West Palm Beach, FL  
Area rug - Stark Carpet Corp., Hollywood, FL

### Reception Room

Chairs with original upholstery - Galerie Steinitz, Paris, France  
Occasional table - Taillardat, NYDC, New York, NY  
Floral - Peggy Brazzeal Interior Scaping, West Palm Beach, FL

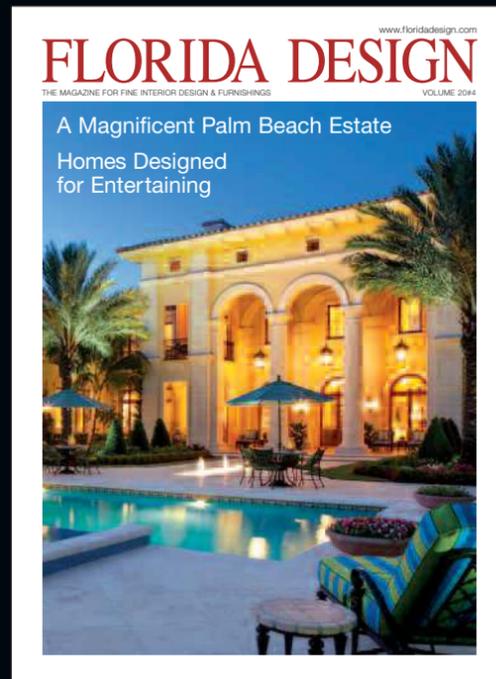
### Throughout

Artwork - Owner's Collection  
Millwork and molding installation by Porath Fine Cabinetry, West Palm Beach, FL  
Windows - Zeluck, Inc., Brooklyn, NY  
Doors - Peetz Windows and Doors, Weston, FL  
Wood flooring - Absolute Hardwood Flooring, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL  
Marble and stone flooring installation by Pacific Stone & Tile, Fort Lauderdale, FL ◆

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