

MODERN RANCH

Built on what was previously a pasture, this high-tech ranch is the pinnacle of modern style and green design

Mark Sultana, the principal architect of DSDG Architects, faces the unique challenge of designing a modern-style home in a farmhouse-style neighborhood. The Polo Club’s design covenant prohibits overt, modern architecture, such as flat-line rooftops, which is precisely what this homeowner prefers. Sultana makes everyone happy with his new ranch-modern style that turns this horse pasture into a high-tech, environmentally responsible, modern ranch.

A long, undulating drive — with sabal palms and minimalistic, native, drought-resistant trees and shrubs — leads to the strong A-frame entrance, reminiscent of the quaint horse barn that once stood on this property. Low-profile pitches and silver aluminum roofs, blocky forms, white stucco, frosted glass, high-definition wood images on aluminum siding, and a rusting steel louver are the perfect elements to create this striking design for the Sarasota Polo Club community. The home — just shy of 14,000 square feet under air — “has every modern bell and whistle,” Sultana shares. The team collaborated with Wicked Smart Homes to make this modern ranch high-tech. “It has an ‘app’ for everything,” — even to control the ground-mounted solar panel array. ►



“We needed to match the existing architecture in the neighborhood. Even though a flat, modern roof is precisely what the client wanted, we couldn’t do it. So we came up with this style that incorporates a standing-seam, metal roof into the architecture,” describes Sultana. Working with Mullet’s Aluminum Products, the team set out to do something original. Essential to the look, there would be no seams, no joining of sides, just one continuous façade. A mock-up was created, proving that this critical, modern A-frame feature was doable. The adjacent COR-TEN® weathering steel louvers are a dynamic, living design element. “They also create a beautiful shadow effect on the wall — an ever-changing visual to the façade on top of the white stucco as shade and shadow are always moving,” shares Sultana.



With an overwhelming desire to be environmentally responsible, this home boasts the “biggest solar array on a residential home in Florida,” Sultana continues. The environmental features also include drought-resistant landscaping, thermally broken windows, water-conserving artificial turf, and more. A screen of sustainable bamboo lines the property’s border to buffer the resort-style, modern-ranch home from the adjacent road.

Mike Voigt, luxury home builder and president of Voigt Brothers Construction, is no stranger to building homes with this environmental mindset. As an award-winning leader in green building, he brings his expertise and experience to this modern ranch. “Oftentimes you generate more energy than you can use, so if you have batteries to harness the extra energy, you can rely on them,” describes Voigt on how current battery technology isn’t yet up to par. “We plan on battery performance improvements soon, so we ran conduit and wiring throughout the home so it will evolve alongside the technology,” he continues. ►

Dining Room: DSDG Architects’ in-house interior designer April Balliette uses a stunning, creamy quartzite slab with golden veining that 301 Granite & Marble fabricated for the custom dining table. She pairs the table with these uber-mod dining chairs from Elite Modern in faux leather for durability. Hanging from the A-frame entry is Modern Forms’ Chaos Pendant from Bee Ridge Lighting. A stunning backdrop of aluminum-framed windows sets off this brushed-aluminum light fixture, a custom stain entry door, and DIZAL’s aluminum siding. This unique, durable, laminated product features high-resolution wood images.





The large-format Mark collection tile by Atlas Concorde from Design Works traverses the interior and exterior with a concrete appearance. Low-profile, comfortable modern furnishings from International Design Source preserve the view to the magnificent pool. Thayer Coggin classic cube lounge chairs in navy with polished chrome create a meaningful impact upon entry. Artful pops of primary yellow and teal meld with the blue, teal, and cream Surya rug.

DSDG Architects' in-house interior designer, April Balliette, listened intently to the homeowners' wishes for a modern interior. With one of the homeowners favoring subtle tones and the other pushing for primary colors, one thing they both agree on is that the home must be teenage-boy-proof! "I've never met anyone who didn't like blue," shares Balliette. From there, she builds a modern-contemporary palette of sleek gray and white, warming it with varying shades of blue, minty green, and tasteful punches of yellow and orange. ►



Kitchen: "These lighting fixtures are the kind where you cross your fingers and hope the client thinks they're perfect, too — luckily they do!" delights Balliette. The delicate but substantial modern pendants from Bee Ridge Lighting offer warmth and contemporary style, showing both wood and polished nickel finishes. Balliette frames the white acrylic cabinets from Campbell Cabinetry Designs in a dark wood tone that she pulls from the DIZAL aluminum siding on the exterior and foyer walls. This streamlined, minimalistic modern kitchen is the perfect balance of light and dark, and the final touch is the gray quartz backsplash that fills the wall.

Living Room: The floor-to-ceiling fireplace meets the roof's angular pitch for a stunning contemporary detail. Balliette vertically stacks porcelain tiles for a modern visual texture and pulls from the dark tones that accent the cool color palette. Blocky, modern forms and clean lines echo in both the coffee table and the fireplace. The coffee table, with a wenge wood base that encompasses a contrasting white onyx slab, is from International Design Source.





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Master Bedroom: Balliette uses Benjamin Moore's Gentleman's Gray for the headboard wall that matches the blue, gray, and cream geometric style area rug. Currey & Company table lamps, in a faux shagreen from International Design Source, sit atop the dark rosewood Hurtado nightstands. With the pandemic disrupting lead-times, Balliette enlists a local cabinet maker to create a custom dresser that complements the nightstands.

Master Bath: This modern, rectilinear, striking white freestanding Jacuzzi tub from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery sits atop the Dwell porcelain tile by Atlas Concorde from Design Works, which also flows into the walk-in shower. Lining the feature walls, Balliette creates a textural design using Wow tiles from Sticks & Stones Flooring. These varying tiles range from ribbed to flat yet work together for a unique, undulating, modern wall aesthetic.

Master Vanity: Balliette uses the dark wood tone of the DIZAL to select the perfect finishes for the rest of the home. "For a time, that aluminum siding sample went with me everywhere to make all these selections," she shares. From Campbell Cabinetry Designs, this floating master vanity in Richelieu's Brillanté Collection offers a modern, glossy look and fits seamlessly into the overall design. Rectilinear forms repeat in the architecture, mirror, sconces, and down to the cabinet pulls for a well-thought-out niche.

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Guest House Bedroom: Elegant-modern defines the guest house master suite. The Surya rug marbled with lapis, teal, and cream offers visual movement to this tranquil design. Vertical lines on the gray Bernhardt bed from Robb & Stucky lift the eye to the cool blue artwork. More Space Place provides the perfect built-in closet for this guest house that has it all.

Guest House Living Room: This contemporary living room houses a comfortable sofa with an attached chaise from American Leather. The crisp white sofa allows the pops of orange and yellow on the throw pillows and the artwork above to stand out. Geometric shapes on the rug echo in the Oggetti cocktail table and the Uttermost Sakana table lamp in a faux shagreen from International Design Source. With the same flooring from Sticks & Stones Flooring as the main house, this fully equipped guest house — with its own front entry — is cohesive with the overall design.



Master Fireplace: This dramatic Napoleon Vector fireplace from Woodland Direct, clad in the 30-by-60-inch Dwell porcelain tile, creatively divides this large master bedroom from the casual office on the other side. The fireplace is tiled in a simple stack for a modern, minimalistic appearance. Balliette shares that its dark tone pulls from the porcelain-wood flooring's knots. Hence, she opts for a contrasting wood-like porcelain slab mantel, which withstands the working fireplace's heat.

Master Office: On the other side of the master bedroom fireplace is a quaint office space with views to the Ipe wood lounging deck. Balliette selects this stunning, Italian-crafted, Flamingo side chair from Robb & Stucky as the perfect mate to the homeowner's existing, clean-line, white desk. "To add a bit of warmth into the bedroom space, so they didn't feel cold modern, we switched to a porcelain wood-like flooring from Design Works," shares Balliette.





Outdoor Shower: A natural Florida landscape lines the walk that leads to the outdoor shower. Nestling between the walk and the greenery are gray-and-white river rocks that create a spa-like sensibility. This nook connects to the fabulous outdoor living and pool in vibe and in color while offering privacy with its dense, lush foliage.

Outdoor Living: This area is functional and elegant with an outdoor kitchen, dining, and conversation areas. Balliette selects durable outdoor seating and brightens the sleek, gray-and-white color scheme with lapis-blue and teal throw pillows. The juxtaposition of the large-format, concrete-gray floor against the warm wood tones of the DIZAL ceiling makes a strong rustic-modern statement.



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Acrylic, aquarium-style partitions hold up the farthest end of the pool and create a tranquil waterfall for a resort-style appeal. The home's U-shape design allows for the perfect delineation of space and connectivity as it wraps around the spectacular, one-of-a-kind pool and outdoor living space. Durable in use and elegant in design, Balliette selects clean-line furnishings that imbue this modern spirit with living comfortably. ■

DSDG Architects, alongside Voigt Brothers Construction, creatively transform this rural, 10-acre parcel, giving these clients the family home of their dreams. With durability, sustainability, and environmental-impact considerations throughout, this unique approach to melding farmhouse and modern make this DSDG Architects' high-tech design the dawn of modern ranch design.

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Rear Elevation: This U-shape home wraps around the fantastic, resort-style pool, featuring a beach entry, fountain, waterfall, and fire pits with blue fire glass that match the cobalt blue pool tile by Sticks & Stones Flooring. Balliette explains the versatility of the Mark collection tile, as she is able to carry it from the interior across the grounds, on the stairs, and surrounding the pool. One Ipe wood lounging deck is situated for a pool view, while the other acts as a diving board. Unique to this home is the guest house connecting to the main home via the veranda. The homeowners love to entertain their guests in their resort-style courtyard, equipped with a full outdoor kitchen that the team outfitted with cabinetry from Progressive Cabinetry and top-notch appliances from Ferguson, Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery.

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