This Shellock paver driveway with an artificial turf inlay leads to the formal arched portico. With a dark charcoal roof, corbels, and shutters, McDonald creates strong contrast against the gray-white exterior. The way the arched shutters close off the arched window opening is practical, yet Residential Studio Director John Orgren from MHK Architecture & Planning shares, "We are giving the feeling of reality and authenticity to this exterior style, and in a whimsical way, the form follows the function." To add some modern flair, Interior Designer Minka McDonald adds these contemporary exterior pendants from Wilson Lighting, custom-sized to fit the space.

AQUATIC SOPHISTICATION

MULTIFACETED DESIGN EVOKES COMMANDING, CONTEMPORARY AQUATIC AMBIANCE WITH LINEAR ELEMENTS

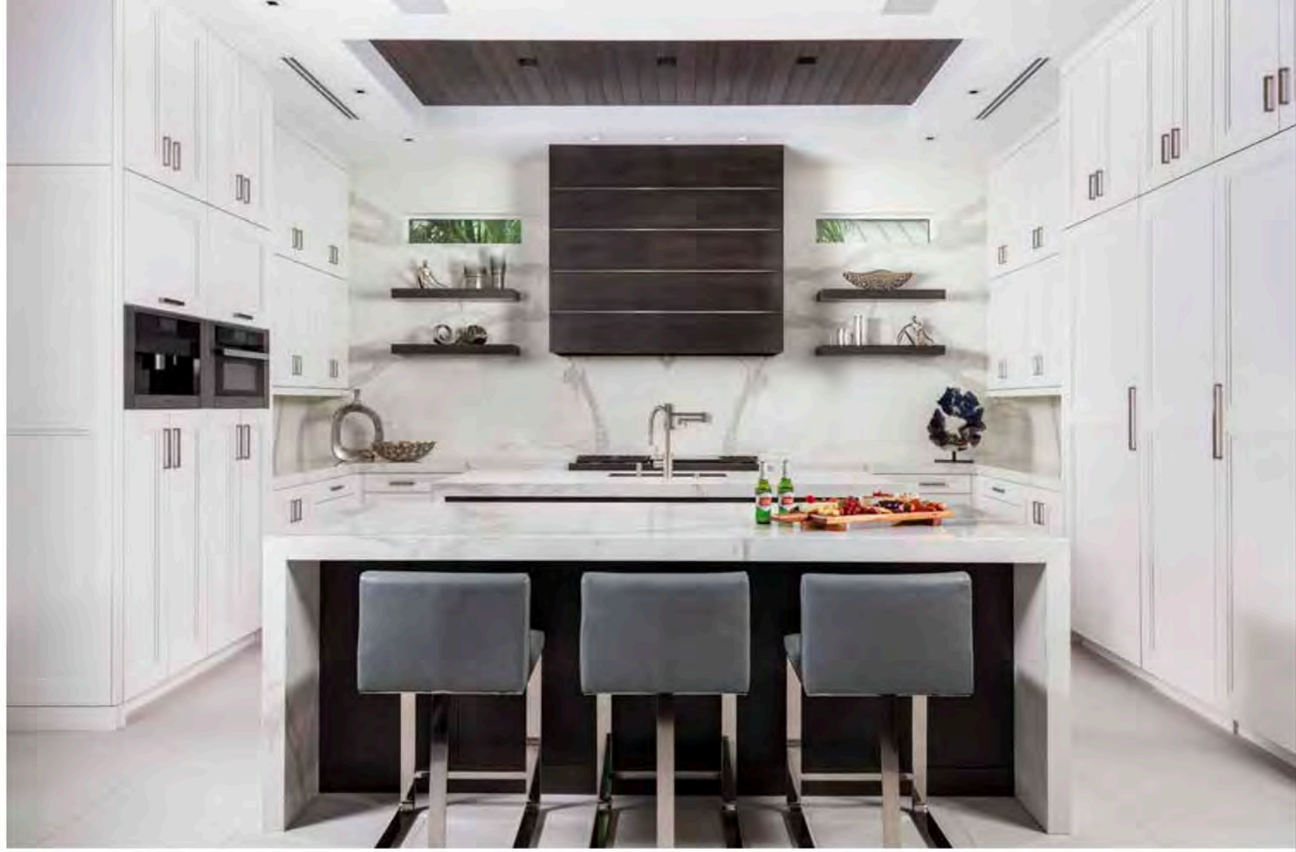
"The driving forces for this design were the feelings we were trying to evoke — a combination of elegance, calm, and strength," shares Minka McDonald, president of Jinx McDonald Interior Designs, who carries this multifaceted design concept to excellence. Centered around this homeowner's love of aquatic life, McDonald curates a contemporary design that imparts both a tranquil and commanding spirit by drawing from micro-concepts, such as intersecting geometry, linear and wrapping forms, and coastal elements — tuning each one to the right impression.

Matthew Kragh, president of MHK Architecture & Planning designs this British West Indies style home to encapsulate the dynamic interior. Residential Studio Director John Orgren reflects on the exterior style, highlighting the symmetrical layout, arched forms, and classical features that give this home the look. "Despite the historic appearance of the exterior, the interior is a very open plan with a contemporary layout," shares Orgren, with MHK Architecture & Planning. ▶

Great Room: The foyer pendant lights and the coffee and console tables all strongly represent the concept of intersecting geometry and wrapping forms. The horizontal fabric pattern on the Massoud swivel chairs draws the eye across the room to view a rather robust focal feature — the aquarium. McDonald designs two 5-foot-long, silver wood finish end tables, manufactured by Old Biscayne Designs from Jinx McDonald Interior Designs, to service the back-to-back Massoud sofas.

Fireplace Feature Wall: The contemporary elements seen throughout the great room all share a custom stain that McDonald repeats on the fireplace feature wall. By spacing the dark oak panels on the fireplace, a banding effect is created that reinforces the linear vibe. Flanked by backlit shelving units with the same wood stain and a contrasting light wood backing, this focal wall provides a warm glow over the seating area with ample space for entertaining or cozying up by the fire.

Dining Room: The freeform crystal chandelier from Fine Art is uniquely suspended from the dark-stain nickel gap planking in the ceiling tray over a live edge, exotic Guanacaste wood table from Century Furniture at International Design Source. Surrounding the long table are a series of cool gray and dark-stain chairs, balancing the lively yet understated fabric of the host chairs by Century Furniture. The built-in sideboard shares the same dark stain wraparound and white opal marble as the great room feature wall.



The peaceful ambiance is set by the contemporary palette of soft grays and silvers, while the expression of strength resides in the use of deep charcoal. This soothing colorway is the perfect backdrop for the homeowner's high-impact, vibrant art pieces that inject the design with colorful energy. Interior Designer Beth Walker Fenton and Design Associate Lucy Warren assist McDonald with creating this harmonious atmosphere by way of repetition in the finishes. From the beginning, McDonald knew that there would be an extravagant aquarium to design around. This beloved feature commands attention, but so does the stunning fireplace wall. McDonald gets creative with the furniture layout and places identical sofas back-to-back, creating a place to watch the relaxing aquarium and have a full living room.

"We kept a linear vibe throughout the home," says McDonald, who partners with MHK Architecture & Planning to reinvent the focal wall in the kitchen. This redesign brings in sleeker transom-style windows, allowing McDonald to broaden the linear concept with floating shelves. The two-story-high wall of windows in the stairwell engages and locks in the tropical view, while the open, modern-style staircase creates a powerful architectural impact in the home. ▶

Kitchen: "I felt daring taking the cabinets up to ceiling height," expresses McDonald, "but since we went with white, we knew it would not feel overwhelming." McDonald's bold use of this vast, bright hue on the cabinets is uplifting and airy, drawing the eye upward to the deep stain nickel gap ceiling treatment. The dark charcoal hood pays homage to the fireplace with the same banding effect above the SapienStone slab backsplash that flows seamlessly down to the countertops.

The staircase is a stunning modern element that McDonald dresses with a dark charcoal handrail and treads and horizontal cable rails. The jellyfish-like pendant from Fine Art provides an air of whimsy. Atop the concrete-like porcelain tile is an oversized custom bench upholstered in a sleek gray Wesley Hall performance fabric. The window trim is finished in bright white against the Sherwin-Williams wall color First Star and frames the pristine water view.

"The infinity edge on the pool brings the water in even closer because you're looking over a horizon of water at water," delights Orgren. This view reinforces tranquility and ties in the importance of water to this design. McDonald and her team select furniture pieces that have subtle wave forms and light fixtures that embody the movement of sea life to drive home the connection to this Florida landscape. The high-contrast ceiling accents do a lot to bring in a strong coastal presence while preserving the contemporary style. ▶

Loft: The contrast between the pure white nickel gap ceiling and the dark wood beams of this second-floor loft adds bold formality. Behind the plush sofa is a remarkable pool table that embraces the colorway with dark wood veneer and a luscious gray felt atop pewter finish wooden legs. Hanging above the shuffleboard table is a superb piece of art that punctuates this cool, linear space with fluidic shapes, vibrant acid-orange, and iridescent hues — framed by Aldecor Custom Framing & Gallery.

Loft Bathroom: McDonald employs muted hues befitting the contemporary concept, while also achieving a sense of soothing contrast in this upstairs bathroom. Bright white, large format, glass Thassos floor tiles offer the space a light and airy feeling, while the silver-gray cabinets provide just enough sophistication and contrast to complement the nearby loft. The bright white in the art is reflected in the rounded-off rectilinear mirror and pops against the Thassos quartz countertop and cool gray paint on the surrounding walls.

"We are very proud of how this home fits into its coastal setting, yet is not overt and expresses the masculine serenity we were aiming for," delights McDonald. This design is a complex integration of elements that gives the home its distinctive character. ■

Master Bedroom: McDonald creates a mellow master bedroom by orienting the furniture layout to take advantage of the view that is mimicked in the aquatic cerulean art above the bed. The contemporary glass bubble chandelier from Visual Comfort offers an organic element against the linear ceiling beams. At the end of this regal wing-back bed is a custom-made, pop-up television cabinet from Old Biscayne Designs with a swivel feature. A pair of John-Richard chaise lounges flank a cascading side table while above it hangs a multi-colored art piece.

Master Bathroom: This heavily built-out vanity provides the weighted feel of masculinity, yet it is uplifted by delicate features, such as the LED light-channels beside each sink, the ripple-design pulls, and the white Thassos countertop. Beneath the lush tropical view sits this elegant MTI bathtub and platinum Rohl tub filler — together this trio creates a peaceful niche in this master bath. The bright white and charcoal hues on the Regal Square mosaic floor tile from Abbey Carpet & Floor marries the whole color scheme.

Putting Green: This lengthy waterside lot is set on a graceful curve. "From one corner to the other, along the water, we try to create events and places along the way," says Orgren, who delights in this playful putting green that adds a layer of complexity to the rich nature scape, or on the opposite end to the boat dock, which is another way to engage this home with the Cocohatchee River and reinforce the connectivity to the water.

Outdoor Living & Kitchen: Stainless-steel cabinets give this outdoor kitchen a slight modern edge, yet McDonald softens the look by using this Carrarra marble-like Dekton material on the counter and backsplash. This well-equipped outdoor kitchen features a high-end propane Alfresco grill and a Perlick Kegerator and beverage center from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery. The outdoor living conversation space hosts four comfortable upholstered chairs in front of the fireplace, which is clad in a natural shellstone with a gray mantel.

Pool: The lengthy pool offers unique ways to engage with the lush and aquatic landscape from the sun shelf to the pool. The sunken seating area is level with the infinity edge of the pool, ensuring a whimsical, immersive experience. To make this space even more comfortable, McDonald adorns it with royal blue cushions topped with navy and ivory striped pillows that tie into the varying shades of blue on the pool accent tile.

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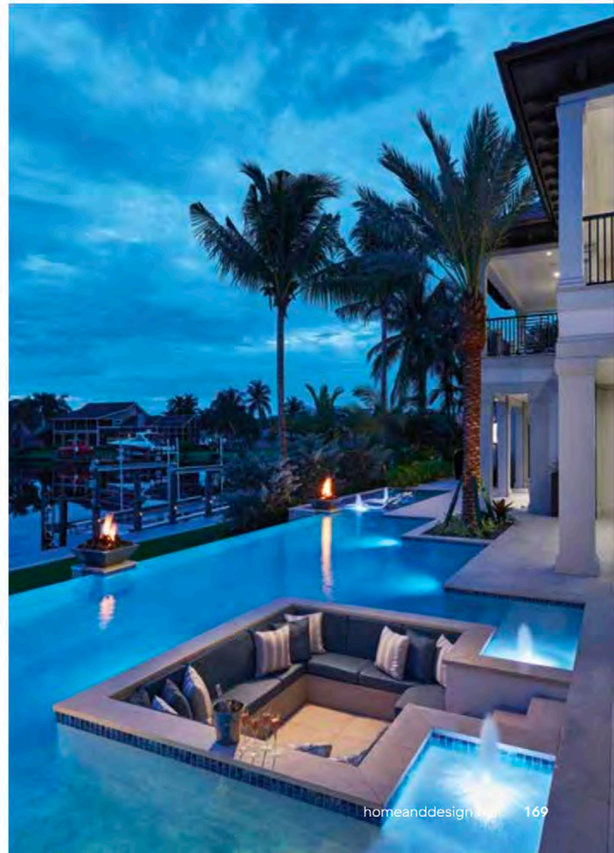
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