



# COASTAL LIVING IN BLUE

## THE GULF INSPIRES BOLD COASTAL DESIGN DETAILS

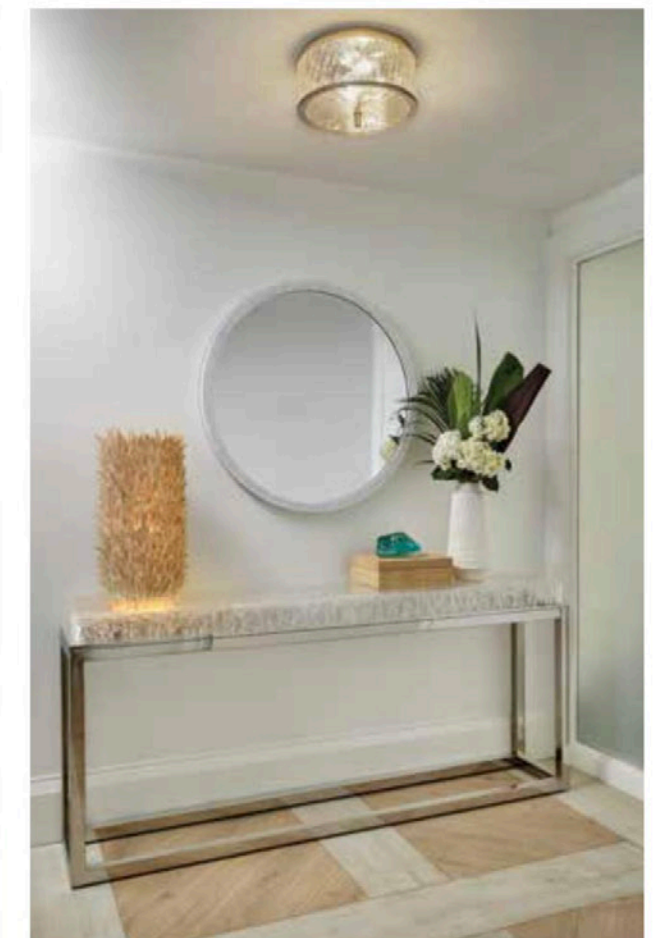
The whole-home renovation of a Naples condo reveals how the finer details in design define the big picture, creating an ineffable aesthetic that's more visceral than visual. Informed by the Gulf of Mexico's ever-changing blues, the design whispers its coastal intentions subtly — sea spray nuanced in glass bubbles cascading from a chandelier, wood flooring the color of sand, patterns echoing the ripples of water and beach shores.

It also unabashedly proclaims its intrinsic connection to the coast — hello, cobalt blue!

“Water plays an important part in this remodel,” says Lisa Guild, Interior Designer and Principal of LMG Design Consulting, who guided the down-to-the-studs project, including space planning and interior design. “My clients wanted an upscale coastal look that's not so literal in its interpretation. This gorgeous blue is front and center.” ▶

**Entry:** “The flooring has a great grain, and laying it on the diagonal creates a unique shape,” interior designer Lisa Guild says of the wide-planked, sand-hued white oak from Hadinger Flooring. The cerused white inlays frame it in the foyer. An oiled finish reduces sheen and adds texture, complementing the organic qualities of the stone-topped console and a wispy lamp. A custom cobalt-cloaked bench punches up the intensity of the more subdued shades in the artwork.

**Living Room:** The bright cobalt and the artwork are the impetus for matching bookshelves, the bar's Cristallo blue quartzite, and the colorful Century fabric of accent pillows which also introduce vibrant fuchsia and tangerine. Crisp white — in the performance upholstery of the Vanguard Furniture sofa, armchairs, and a floating custom TV console against a shiplap wall — allows the blue hue to have its moment. Guild substitutes a traditional coffee table for two leather-like ottomans featuring “bridges” as multifunctional tables.







A former closet, notes O'Brien, was also reimagined as a statement-making bar. The bar is the ultimate closet transformation, its lit-from-within quartzite illustrating "the impact of spending more on details that make the most impact," states Guild. Inspired Closets crafted the redesigned closets.

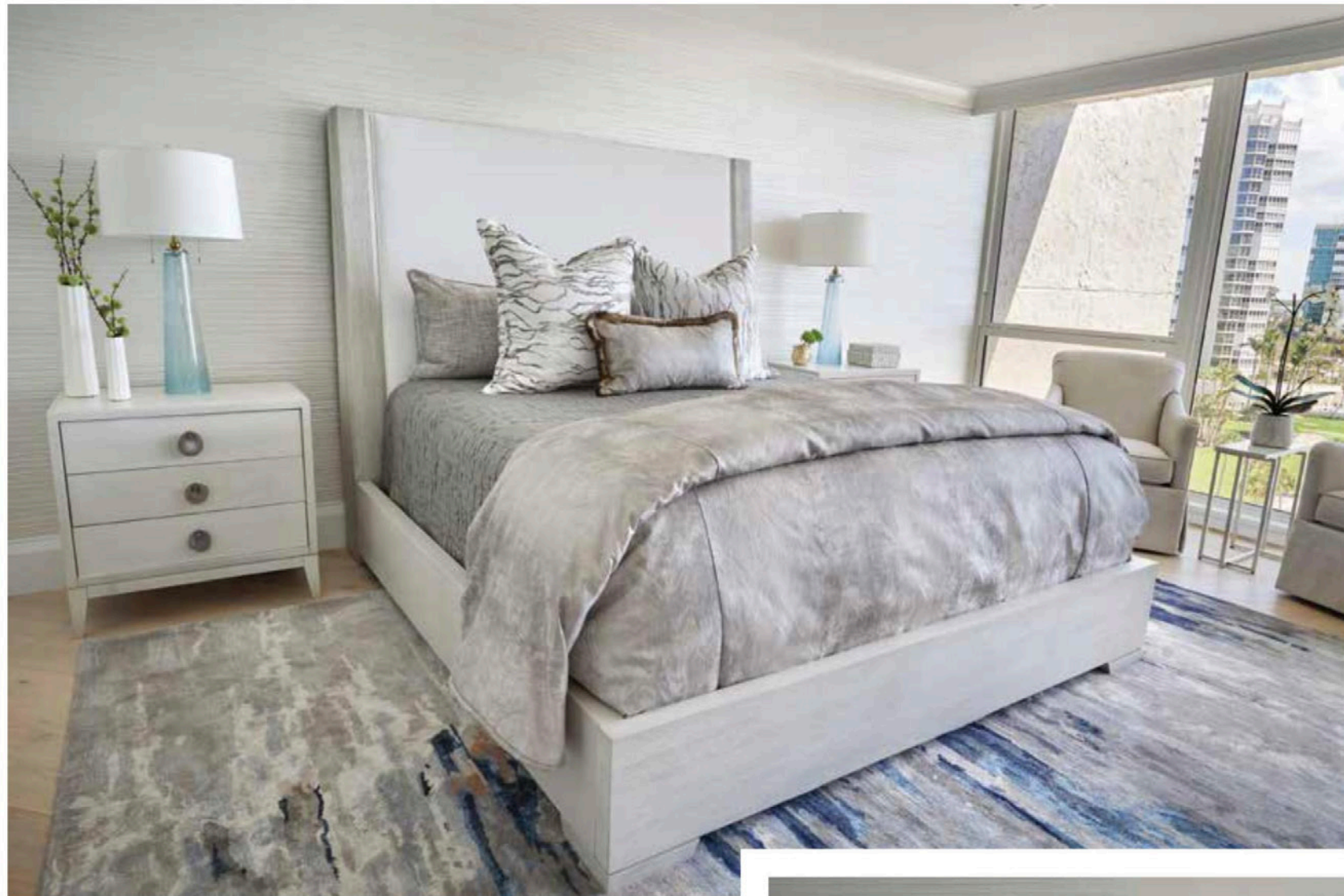
One look at the new clients' personal art collection told Guild they were not color shy. Vivid cobalt, tangerine, coral, and scarlet splashed across paintings, inspiring custom-made bookshelves, fabric and tile selections, and exotic seldom-seen Cristallo blue quartzite.

"We like color, and we like to add color in all projects," explains Guild. "We always try to help clients introduce more color in different spaces with different ideas, so it's cohesive but not too matchy. These clients have great art, and cobalt was already represented in their collection. It provided a jumping off point." ►

**Dining Room:** "The art in the dining room is displayed prominently," explains Guild. "It's a very important piece and important to the clients." Its brilliant blues echo views inside and out. The designer lends a subtle coastal style to the chandeliers with glass bubbles reminiscent of sea spray, and to the simple details of the ceiling's floating beams and white shiplap. The clients' cracked glass-topped table with an unexpected chrome base is surrounded by new chairs from Vanguard Furniture, upholstered in white and royal blue.

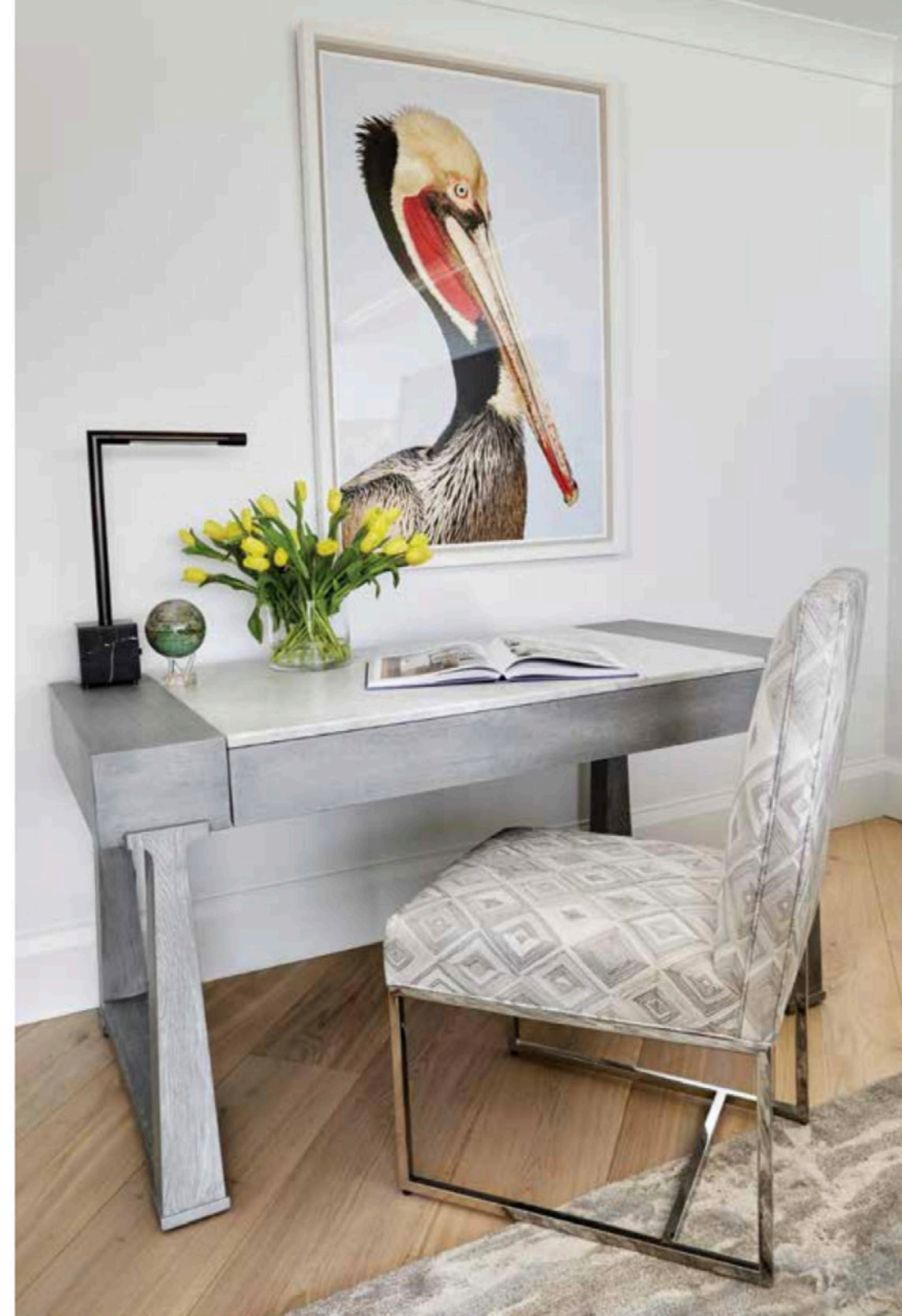
**Kitchen:** Guild and O'Brien renovated the kitchen to maximize storage and openness without sacrificing Gulf vistas. The mission was achieved by installing wall ovens, extending cabinets to the ceiling, relocating the cooktop to a large center island, and omitting pendant lights that hinder the view. The island's cantilevered Mystero white quartz countertop is accompanied by acrylic and vinyl stools, creating a cozy atmosphere. According to Guild, the custom blended matte glass backsplash in sea glass tones is a prime example of investing money for maximum impact.





Bold brushstrokes of cobalt appear in the living room's custom-designed bookshelves and accent pillow fabrics, introducing and foreshadowing vibrant fuchsias and tangerines used in various iterations throughout the three-bedroom home. The playful beach ball-inspired upholstery colors, nightstands dipped in coral, a denim-finished bathroom vanity, and pale sea glass tones add varying intensities. ►

*“The condo was really cut up with lots of small rooms,” Guild recalls. “Now it lives very large.”*



**Primary Bedroom:** The color cobalt briefly shows up in the vivid strokes of the rug in the primary bedroom before gracefully blending with the subdued sandy hues, soft sea glass blues, and silver tones of the bedding. The wallpaper also adds a subtle iridescent sheen with its crinkled texture. “The clients wanted a more formal space,” notes Guild. The Vanguard Furniture night tables are adorned with agate pulls that feature subtle dark and light blue hints. A pelican portrait from the client’s collection proudly hangs above the desk as the centerpiece.

**Guest Bathroom:** Extending the geometric white, blue, and blue-gray mosaic marble flooring to a full wall above the vanity shows how spending more in smaller doses elevates a room. Lighting under the gray vanity enhances the ambiance, its glow reflected by hammered pulls inset with glass. The shower (not pictured) is clad in Apollo white vertical porcelain mimicking the bright white of the vanity quartz top and finished with a matte gray recycled glass mosaic floor. Details like an opalescent shell box are a “metaphor for water and sea life,” exclaims Guild.





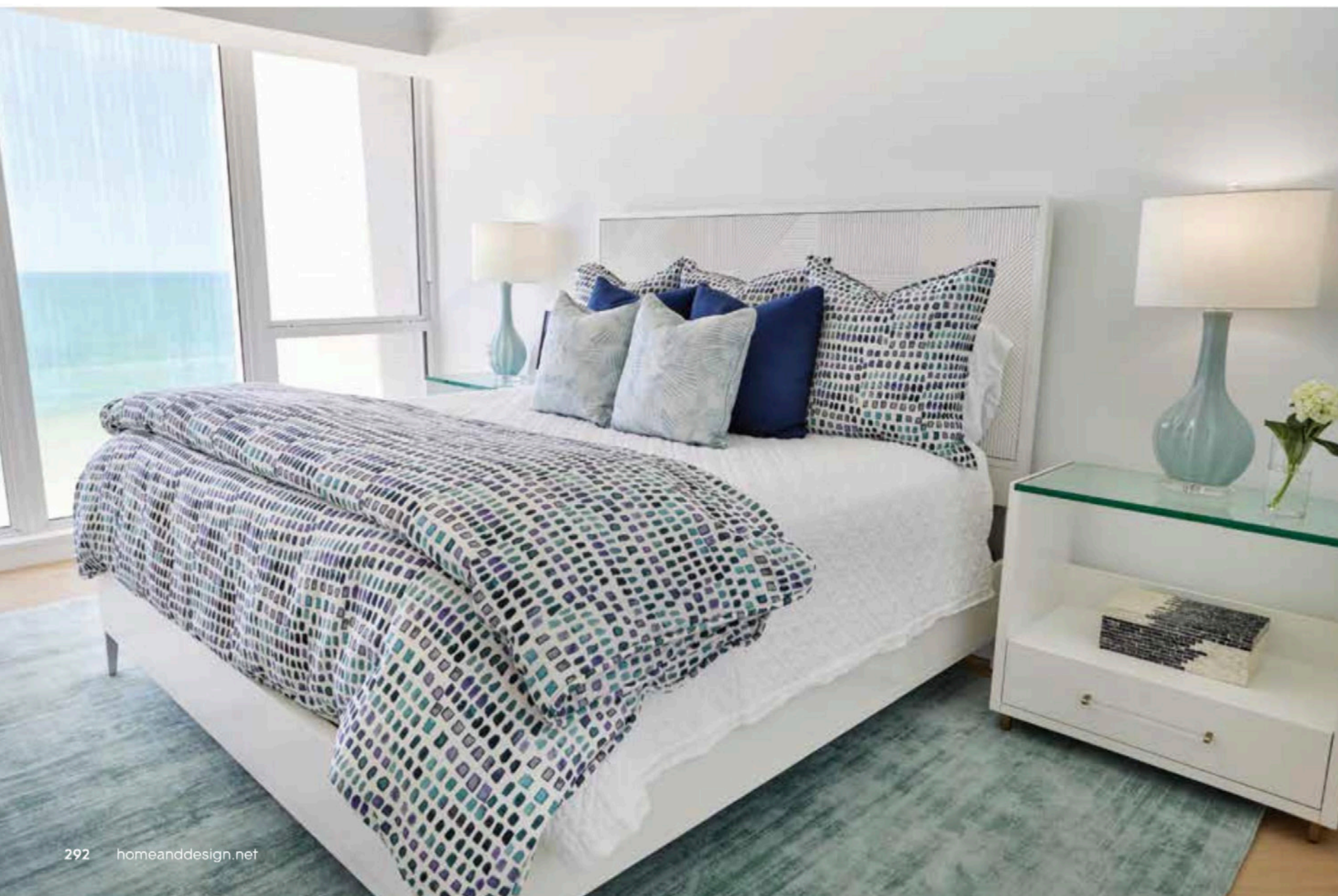


The crisp whites of upholstered furniture, the finish of a floating TV console, kitchen cabinetry, shiplap walls, and ceilings sing, conveying a crystalline countenance against the cobalt. Formerly flat ceilings were dropped, stepped, and adorned with beams, shiplap, and ambient lighting to create architectural interest.

Water takes on many different moods and hues, expressing itself in gradients of blues. In all its vivid glory, the Gulf of Mexico — displayed throughout the renovated condo in Naples — reveals its true blue, magnificent cobalt, and is a catalyst for this interior palette. ■

**Guest Bathroom:** The bold whites of the quartz countertop, porcelain tile flooring, and smoked mirror pulls complement the denim paint of the underlit floating vanity. The vintage denim look is emulated in the 3D textured glass subway tile framing the vanity's inlaid mirror, which is also repeated in the decorative Listello bands of the shower. "My design philosophy is to achieve the best use of materials without overspending, using a high-low approach," says Guild.

**Guest Bedroom:** The condo's second guest room features restful shades of blue and aqua, and the bedding hints to jewelry-toned versions of water underscored with rich navy. Accent pillows take their cues from the kitchen's sea glass tile, alluding to shells, while the reeded chevron pattern of the Braxton Culler headboard adds texture. The soft water ripples of the area rug are reflected in the glass tops of the nightstands and lighting, creating a cohesive aesthetic with shades of aqua.



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International Design Source  
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**Guest Bedroom:** This guest room is designed explicitly for visiting grandchildren and is decorated with splashes of color and stripes in muted shades of fuchsia, tangerine, and cobalt. "The fabric of pillows on the two navy blue twin beds and an upholstered chair is a playful nod to a beach ball," explains O'Brien. Coral woven bedside tables represent the hue of the primary bedroom's pelican art. A beautiful lapis blue shell lamp, cabana-striped seagrass-look rug, and accessories from International Design Source embellish the coastal ambiance.

