

Design Evolution

A WATERFRONT ESTATE IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH EMERGES AS A TRUE FAMILY RETREAT AFTER A SEASONED DESIGN TEAM TACKLES IT A SECOND TIME

In the tall foyer, the marble inlay floor with its classic compass rose pattern was retained from the original 2005 design of the home by Julie Schulte. The rather formal tone of the foyer does not indicate the design agenda in the rest of the home, which is more reflective of its beach setting.



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LEFT: In a seating area in the foyer, an oversized Century mirror brings a modern touch to more traditional furnishings. It is here where the home's beachside locale begins to reveal itself with nods to blue shades and sea life.

DESIGN PROJECTS can come and go... and then come back again. In 2005, when a gregarious couple tapped Julie Schulte to spearhead the design of their Mediterranean-style oceanside home in Ponte Vedra Beach, the designer never imagined the commission would bounce her way again two decades later. This time around, Schulte was joined by her daughter Kendall Hannon, who was a design student when the house first entered Schulte's orb in the early aughts. Together, mother and daughter—and the rest of the seasoned team at Schulte



Rug-less travertine flooring in the breakfast room solidifies the home's intended coastal feel. The cypress ceiling was white-washed to match the flooring tonally. The Ro Sham Beaux beaded chandeliers were chosen because they are large enough to be commanding without blocking the views.



Design Associates—set out to modernize the home in terms of aesthetics, function, and 2022 extras with a delightful assemblage of generously sized spaces.

One of the main priorities for the design team was to open up the 11,000-square-foot estate so that the beauty of its oceanic surroundings could be fully appreciated. This hard-won openness was achieved by decompartmentalizing the interior envelope, which meant walls were knocked down, ceilings were ripped out, and rooms were gutted.

By eliminating such divisions, the first floor emerged statuesque in scale, which is particularly evident in the entry foyer. This area is more formal than the main living spaces because the designers were careful to create a seamless transition from the Mizner-like exterior to the oceanfront-inspired great room that holds the family room, dining room, and kitchen. “This move really transformed the house,” says Hannon. “Seeing the look on the client’s face when it was completed made it all worth it!”

The residence’s transformation wasn’t limited to the interior architecture, however. Because technology has changed so much in recent years, it was necessary to upgrade the home in that regard as well. One such move was to convert what was once a seldom-used

ABOVE: In the family room, all of the chairs swivel to allow for 360-degree views of the ocean outside. The wicker stool in front of the fireplace was chosen to resonate with the breakfast room chairs and to serve as a first stop for children scampering in from a swim.

This view of the great room, which was divided into three different areas before, illustrates how interconnected the spaces of the home became after its last renovation. The two grandly scaled islands in the kitchen allow for effortless food prep and low-key meals. There are numerous duplicated appliances, such as multiple refrigerators and warming drawers. The semi-frosted glass pendants with dark bronze and brass accents echo the tones in the range hood.



formal living room into a now-favorite state-of-the-art theater room with a bar. Decisions like these led to more questions: “We asked ourselves how we could take the square footage of the house and make it more user-friendly for the family,” says Schulte. “This approach helped to guide many of our choices.”

One such choice was adding a bunk room for the homeowners’ grandchildren, who had grown in number since 2005. “We had to appease boys and girls,” says Hannon. “The ombré wallpaper and ottoman fabric were starting points. I drew the bunk beds and we had them fabricated, including the railings that make them ship-like.”

Another significant decision had less to do with aesthetics and more with the frame

ABOVE RIGHT: The floors and walls in the formal powder room are covered in travertine. The bright Cole & Son palm leaf wallpaper reflected in the mirror was chosen because it offers a more whimsical take on the traditional palm leaf that has been a staple in Florida design for ages.

RIGHT: The bar’s countertop just outside the theater room is made of quartzite that has been honed to make it resistant to staining. The stools swivel to allow for views of the ocean to the left, drinks straight ahead, and conversation from the seating area behind.



ABOVE: A lively Schumacher wallpaper with green floral motifs delights the eye in the bunk room's bathroom.



As in the other rooms in the home, the varying shades of blue in this guestroom reflect the views beyond the windows.

BELOW: A seating area behind the theater bar offers various shades of blue via textures treated to resist wear and tear.



of mind that dominates the home. The couple was adamant about interiors that could take on sandy feet, wet bathing suits, and salty air, so this meant durable performance fabrics and materials from the foyer to the bedrooms.

"The owners personify Southern hospitality, so we aimed to make the classical style of architecture more casual," says Schulte. "We changed the mustard-colored walls to white, for instance, and pared down elements like the iron railing in the foyer to make it resonate with the rooms beyond it. We wanted the home to be pretty and welcoming, and to make each space a room that feels good to be in."

The genteel backdrop achieved is more than just a stylistic statement, Schulte explains; it is at the heart of the couple's core values: "Every room is charming and comfortable, but not lacking in style. The home is elegant, but not stuffy. It says: 'Get ready for cocktails on the veranda!'"



The bunk room was designed as a fun hangout for the homeowners' grandchildren. The jumping off point for the color palette was the ottoman coffee table. Hannon took a nautical turn with the bunk beds with boat-inspired silver railings. The sofa was chosen with comfort in mind when bedtime reading ends busy days in the sun.

RIGHT: A sanctum of soft shades, the primary bathroom is clad in marble mosaic that glimmers when struck by natural rays from the curved windows or light from the optic crystal chandelier by Visual Comfort. A faux Roman valance hides electric shades that slide down to cover the windows from the strong light reflecting off the ocean.

BELOW: The primary bedroom is one of the spaces where furniture was retained from the original design of the home. The EJ Victor bed was a four-poster bed before its foot posts were removed and replaced with light performance fabric.



SOURCES

ENTRANCE

Center table – Nierman Weeks, niermannweeks.com

Sconces – Urban Electric Co, Charleston, SC

Ironwork – Southeastern Fabricators, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

FOYER

Armchairs – Reupholstered by Rowlands Upholstery, Jacksonville, FL

Mirror – Century Furniture, Hickory, NC

Area rug – Jaffe Rug Galleries, Jacksonville, FL

BREAKFAST ROOM

Table – Chaddock Home, Morganton, NC

Hostess chairs – Baker Interiors Group, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Chairs – Palecek, Richmond, CA

Chandeliers – Ro Sham Beaux, Charleston, SC

Drapery fabric – Cowtan and Tout, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

LIVING AREA

Sofa – A. Rudin, Jerry Pair and Associates, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

Fabric – Great Outdoors Fabric, Holly Hunt, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Blue club chairs – Baker Interiors Group, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric – Romo Fabric, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Chairs – Baker Interiors Group, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric – Pierre Frey Fabric, pierrefrey.com

Cocktail table – Refinished by Antique and Modern

Finishing, Jacksonville, FL

Side tables – Vanguard Furniture, Hickory NC

Bench – Arteriors Home, J. Douglas, Carrollton, TX

Area rug – Stark Carpet, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

KITCHEN

Cabinetry and island designed by Schulte Design Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL, and fabricated by Dukeman Custom Cabinetry, Jacksonville, FL

Hood – Southeastern Fabricators, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

Counter tops – Mediterranean Designs, Jacksonville, FL

Stools – Century Furniture, Hickory, NC

Pendant lights – Urban Electric Co., Charleston, SC

POWDER ROOM

Floating cabinetry designed by Schulte Design Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL, and fabricated by Dukeman Custom Woodworking, Jacksonville, FL

Mirror – Mr. Brown, High Point, NC

BAR AREA

Stools – A. Rudin, Jerry Pair and Associates, Hollywood, FL

Chandelier – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Glass wall art – Hillary Whitaker Gallery, Jacksonville, FL

GUEST BATHROOM

Shower tile – Artistic Tile, Traditions in Tile Showroom, Jacksonville, FL

Mirror – Chao Framing, Jacksonville Beach, FL

Sconces – Urban Electric Co., Charleston, SC

SITTING AREA OFF BAR

Loveseat – Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC

Drink tables – Made Goods, City of Industry, CA

Sconce – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

KIDS BUNKROOM

Bunk beds designed by Schulte Design Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL, and fabricated by Floridian Designs, Jacksonville, FL

Sofa and cocktail table – Lee Industries, Conover, NC

Area rug – Stark Carpet, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

GUEST BEDROOM

Bed and headboard – Chaddock Home, Morganton, NC

Pillows – SDH Bedding and Designs by Sudi, Atlanta, GA

Bedside table – Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC

Lamp – Worlds Away, J. Douglas Showroom, Atlanta, GA

Area rug – Stark Carpet, SFDP, Hollywood, FL

PRIMARY BEDROOM

Bench – Reupholstered by Rowlands Upholstery, Jacksonville, FL

Bedside chests – Century Furniture, Hickory, NC

Lamps – Avala International, Inc., Norcross, GA

Sofa – Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC

Area rug – Jaffe Rug Gallery, Jacksonville, FL

PRIMARY BATHROOM

Chair, ottoman, side table – Hickory Chair, Hickory, NC

Chandelier – Visual Comfort, Houston, TX

Flooring – Artistic Tile, Traditions in Tile, Jacksonville, FL

THROUGHOUT

Cabinetry designed by Schulte Design Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL, and fabricated by Dukeman Custom Woodworking, Jacksonville, FL

Decorative window treatments designed by Schulte Design Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL, and fabricated by First Coast Designers Choice, Orange Park, FL