

hidden gem

Danmark Development helps a 93-year-old “cottage” retain its authentic charm



BY MARINA BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON ROSENZWEIG

One man’s beach cottage may not be that of another. In the case of this period jewel secluded on four verdant lots hugging the edge of Bon Air beach on the north end of Jupiter Island in Hobe Sound, any suggestion of sand-strewn floors or shabby-chic interiors is out of the question. Instead, the owners and Dan Morrow of Danmark Development orchestrated a dramatic renovation that would make the original famed architect of the 1926 “cottage” proud.

Designed by Maurice Fatio at a time when South Florida was enchanted with all things Neo-Mediterranean, the arched cypress doors and their extravagant carved stone surrounds, the hidden courtyards, and the clay-tile roof all remained elegant. Dan Morrow’s group was commissioned to address major structural problems that over the years had left only the external charm of the 2,000-square-foot home intact. Inside, time, additions, and poorly done renovations had left their marks. Danmark, charged with bringing the home to modern standards while respecting the integrity and period beauty of Fatio’s original design, brought in architect Denis Rainho of YRA Design to complement the architecture.

“The fireplace in the living room had actually been walled up and a



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AN ITALIANATE NOD BLENDS WITH 1926
CHARM TO WARM A COMFORTABLE HEARTH-
SIDE GROUPING IN THE LIVING ROOM.

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plywood painting of a glowing fire was nailed across the front,” Morrow says. In fact, the original sweeping shoulders of the chimney had been boxed off and there was no flue. Today, an Italianate nod to the past is seen in the restored and functional architecture. “Where we could, we also wanted to maintain the original feel of the plaster, the rough impasto finish of Venetian villas,” Morrow says. In the music room off of the living room, that finish is interrupted by double sets of French doors opening to one of four separate courtyards, each walled and private. Yet it is in the nuances that the period statement is made. Maintaining the original cypress planking, YRA Design preserved the original pale color of the wood, matching it to that of Italian-arched doors. Floors in wide-plank hickory add a rich glow. Though the dining room’s wainscoting is new, it offers a period look

beneath the elegant pendant lanterns. Softly neutral wall coloring provides the perfect backdrop to the architectural details. “Everywhere possible, the owners wanted to keep what was original,” Morrow says. “They are true preservationists and very much respect the history of a structure and what goes in it.” The kitchen, once a garage, received a new vaulted ceiling, and elegant double bay windows that look out into a “Brazilian courtyard” and the pool. A deep farmer’s sink and glistening soapstone counters add sparkle to the space. The vintage pendant lamps have followed the homeowners from one residence to another over many years. One of four bedrooms, the master suite is an interlude in soft grays. Yet creating such tranquility necessitated Danmark building a “room” beside the bed. “I noticed the original design allowed for a direct line of



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OPPOSITE PAGE: LEAD GLASS PARTITION DOORS, NEW WAINSCOTING AND A NEUTRAL PALETTE CREATE THE DINING ROOM’S PERIOD LOOK IN PERFECT COMPLEMENT TO THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS.

ABOVE AND RIGHT: THE KITCHEN’S ELEGANT DOUBLE BAY WINDOWS OVERLOOK A BRAZILIAN COURTYARD, WHILE GARDEN VIEWS AND NATURAL LIGHT REFRESH THE SUNROOM.



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SIMPLE AND SERENE IN SOFT GRAYS, THE MASTER SUITE ENCOMPASSES A PRIVATE BATH WITH PLENTY OF VANITY SPACE, CLEAN LINES, AND AN ABUNDANCE OF LIGHT.

vision into the bedroom,” Morrow says. YRA Design revised the existing closet to allow for a larger wall in the dining room and fix the direct views from the gallery into the master suite. The adjoining bath was also expanded. Here, the nod to original fixtures and design was scrapped in favor of clean lines, maximum storage, and plenty of light.

Another important feature is the landscaping and division of activity spaces with plantings that played an important part in the architectural planning. Small courtyards and butterfly gardens surround the cottage complete with a spacious screened lanai that serves as a focal point for entertaining. Added in the 1970s, it nevertheless incorporated



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STYLED WITH PERIOD DETAILS AND DESIGNER TOUCHES, THE SCREENED LANAI IS PERFECT FOR GATHERINGS. OVERLOOKING THE SPA, POOL AND GARDENS, THIS OPEN-AIR SPACE INVITES GUESTS TO ENJOY OUTDOOR LIVING WITH A VIEW.

a tongue-and-groove ceiling and an elegant herringbone-patterned brick floor. A relaxing spa and pool area provide the perfect backdrop for family and friends dining alfresco.

Danmark replaced the original clay tile roof with modern, handmade clay tiles, but the villa-like atmosphere remains. And as with all villas, a sense of mystery prevails behind the garden walls. The main front entrance is only accessed via a pathway and an arching gate, then through a latticed iron opening and finally the front door. But no mystery remains beside the 40-foot-long pool where even its hand-painted tiles were restored. A beach cottage it may be called, or perhaps a charmingly intimate villa. For the owners, it is definitely home. (danmarkdevelopment.com)

