

Julie LaBruna Named Decorator of The Week by Houzz

A midcentury tropical retreat right here in Ibis is featured as Bathroom of the Week!

PHOTOS BY KAREN BYER PHOTOGRAPHY

When longtime Ibis residents David and Betsy Frank decided it was finally time to update their tired primary bathroom, they knew they wanted *something different*. Something colorful, classic, and Palm Beach fabulous—but with a fresh, midcentury-modern twist. They just weren't sure how to pull it all together.

So, like many of us do when searching for inspiration, they turned to Houzz—and that's where they found local designer, Ibis resident and Stroll Ibis partner Julie LaBruna of Sunny Interior Design. Turns out, she lived right in their neighborhood! After seeing her past work and chatting through ideas, they knew she was the perfect match.

Julie took one look at their home in Falcon Green—with its lush courtyard entry, vibrant tropical artwork, and colorful flair—and knew exactly what direction to take. Her vision? A chic blend of midcentury modern style with a tropical punch—an aesthetic she calls “classic Palm Beach with a twist.”

Before: The old bathroom was far from inspiring. It featured a bulky bathtub that dominated the room, vanities that didn't function well, and an overall look that just didn't reflect the homeowners' personality or style.

After: Welcome to a vibrant, functional, and oh-so-stylish escape!



Let's start from the ground up: Julie laid black-and-white hexagon tile throughout the space for a timeless and dramatic foundation. Her clients loved the bold contrast—and the penny tile effect adds not only charm but also a touch of safety, thanks to its slip-resistant grout lines.

Warm walnut vanities, sleek champagne bronze fixtures, and midcentury-inspired details brought

depth and character. The vanities, by James Martin, weren't just pretty faces either—they came packed with smart features like USB ports and hidden storage. And those tapered legs? Pure midcentury magic.

Then came the wow moment: bold botanical wallpaper with large-scale tropical leaves, perfectly balancing playful and polished. Since it's a water-resistant vinyl, it's both beautiful and



practical—perfect for makeup mishaps or steam-filled mornings.

The couple also loved the idea of green, so Julie went all-in with rich green shower tiles that echo vintage tones and add a serene spa-like feel. Mixed metals—brass, bronze, and dark finishes—created a collected, layered look, while glass sconces and stylish mirrors pulled everything together with a subtle retro nod.

The old, oversized tub? Gone. In its place: a sculptural, freestanding bathtub with clean lines and a luxurious feel. The floor-mounted filler, also in champagne bronze, adds an upscale hotel vibe. A woven walnut shade on the window offers privacy without blocking the view of the nearby golf course.

One of the standout features of this design is its seamless balance of form and function. From the layout to the lighting, every detail feels intentional. The wallpaper stops just shy of the tub wall to make room for a playful pop of blush in the towels. And there's even a tiny walnut table for candles, books—or a glass of something bubbly.

Designer Julie LaBruna says the look was inspired by West Palm's iconic **Colony Hotel**, and we can see it. There's something undeniably transportive about this space—it's stylish, inviting, and just a little bit glamorous.

Now, each time the homeowners walk into their bathroom, it feels like a mini getaway. And honestly, who doesn't want to feel like they're checking into a resort every morning?

“Julie was wonderful to work with. The whole team was efficient, timely, organized and did outstanding work. We are so happy with our new bathroom.”



JULIE LABRUNA LIVES RIGHT HERE IN IBIS

Julie has been passionate about design for as long as she can remember, but it was her education and career in finance and accounting that built her business and project management skills. After completing many design projects of all types over the years, Julie founded Sunny Interior Design, a full service boutique design, company serving clients in the West Palm Beach area. Her services range from renovation design to enhancing spaces with new furnishings and décor.

Her collaborative approach involves closely working with clients to realize their vision while staying updated on design trends. She prides herself on attention to detail and quality, aiming to exceed client expectations from concept to installation, creating spaces clients can truly call home.

