

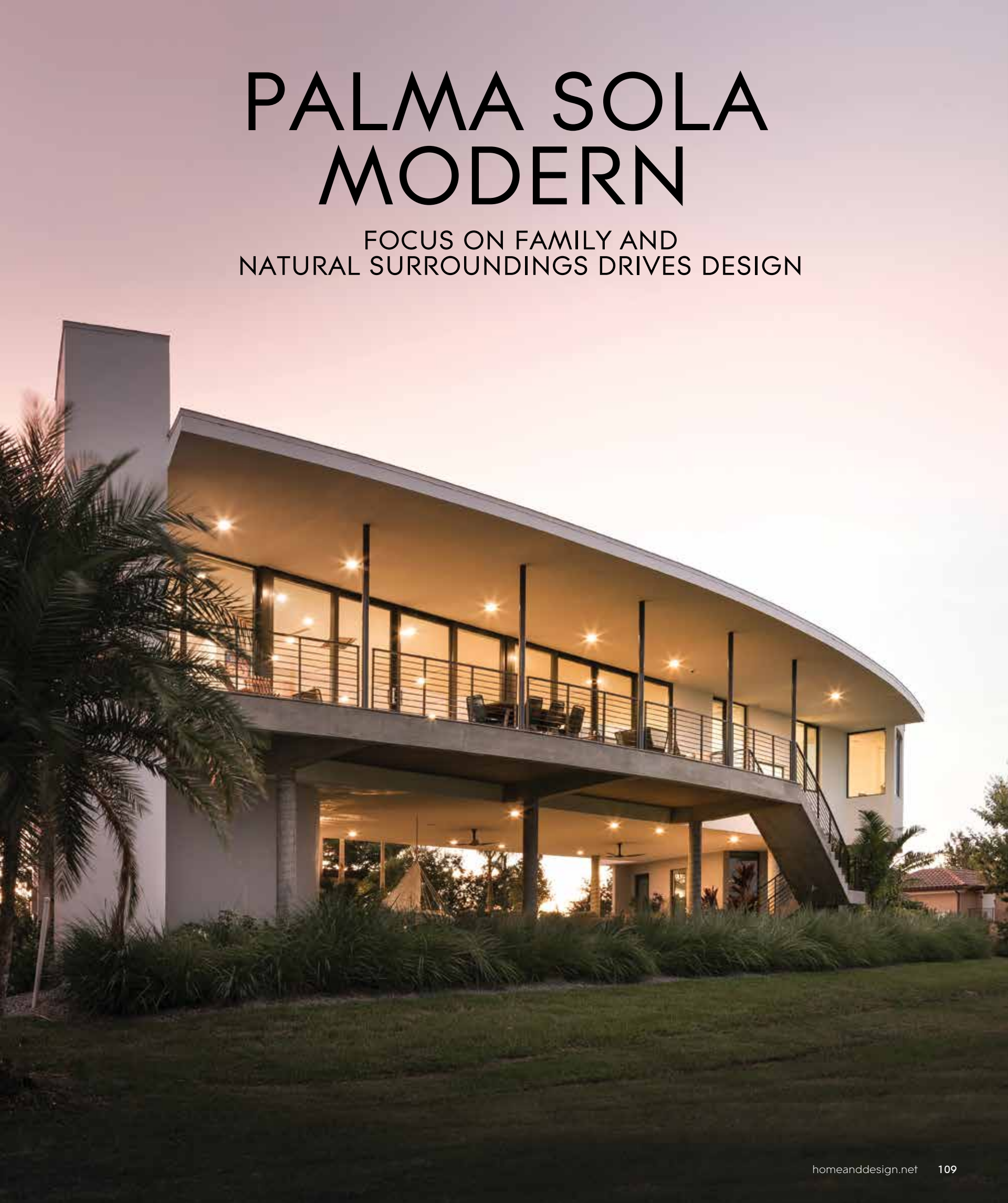
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Spring 2022



PALMA SOLA MODERN

FOCUS ON FAMILY AND
NATURAL SURROUNDINGS DRIVES DESIGN

Rear Elevation: Aglow with simple recessed lighting, Palma Sola Modern appears suspended above the mangroves in the twilight. A dreamy cadence creeps into builder Lee Ross of Ross Built Custom Homes' voice as she says, "I get to look at this view every night leaving the office — it's extremely gratifying. At night it's crazy beautiful!" Architect Jerry Sparkman, AIA, NCARB, of Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors agrees, saying, "The water, mangroves, and architecture all work together — one does not overpower the other. It's a nice complement when viewed from the water."

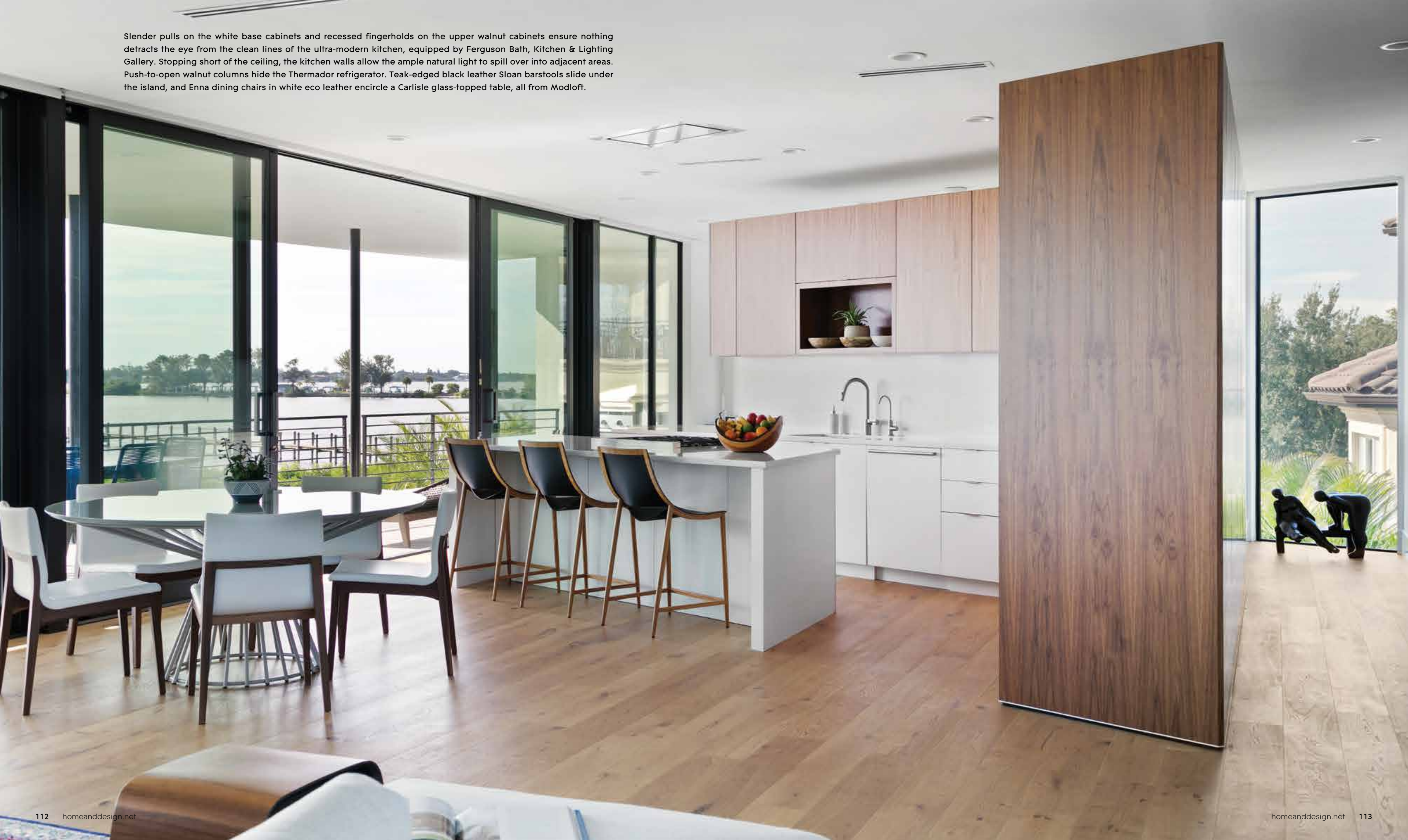


Amid the colorful, elaborate waterfront mansions in Palma Sola Pointe, a sparkling, curving, modern home of concrete and glass embraces the natural beauty of the nearby preserve and bay. “It’s a contemporary home among traditional homes that has an energy and expression about it that’s unique,” says Architect Jerry Sparkman, AIA, NCARB, of Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors. He explains that he brought to life the owners’ desire “to elevate their connection to the surrounding landscape of Palma Sola Bay, while also being a simple but beautiful backdrop to their family life.” The architect did so quite literally, elevating the 3,300 square feet of living space to create sightlines above neighboring homes and lawns, presenting only views of the area’s natural elements and the family pool. “Elevating the building beyond FEMA requirements creates an expansive, shaded outdoor living space on the ground floor for outdoor eating and entertaining. The sweeping eastern roof overhang comfortably shades outdoor living space on the elevated level. The floor plan is efficient, allowing the home’s focus to be the great room and its adjacent balcony,” continues Sparkman. ►

Living Area: Pristine walls and white oak flooring in Whiskey from Chesapeake Clipper are used throughout the home to unify the living spaces, generating a visual flow, while the L-shaped sectional — hugging an Oriental-patterned rug of muted colors — defines the sun-drenched seating area. The home’s bespoke design includes meticulous planning for the owners’ art collection (not pictured) to serve as the backdrop for the comfortable seating area, which is positioned to offer views of nature in all directions.

Kitchen Island: An enthusiastic chef, the homeowner wanted to engage with guests while preparing meals. To enhance that goal, Ross installed a Wolf brand flush, ceiling-mount hood vent above the kitchen island cooktop. “We were the first local builder to make use of this new product,” says Ross. Beneath the back window, a walnut Cowley Stool from Modloft is tucked under a live edge desk crafted from a fallen Acacia tree, sourced from the Marie Selby Botanical Garden.

Slender pulls on the white base cabinets and recessed fingerholds on the upper walnut cabinets ensure nothing detracts the eye from the clean lines of the ultra-modern kitchen, equipped by Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery. Stopping short of the ceiling, the kitchen walls allow the ample natural light to spill over into adjacent areas. Push-to-open walnut columns hide the Thermador refrigerator. Teak-edged black leather Sloan barstools slide under the island, and Enna dining chairs in white eco leather encircle a Carlisle glass-topped table, all from Modloft.





Office: Literally a “corner office,” this sleek work nook takes advantage of casement windows. Says Sparkman, “Casement windows are really smart because they actually catch the breeze in their function.” He also points out that the curving roof is about the same height as the windows, keeping the glass in the shade. Pockets in the ceiling conceal motorized shades. Correctly scaling the window size to the desk creates the built-in look, according to Sparkman.

Stairs: This interior staircase of raw, sealed white oak leads from the ground level glassed-in entry to a hallway created by the kitchen walls. Lit from above, the stairwell is the only double-height space in this elevated single-story house. Using the same material for risers and treads eliminates toe marks on the risers, according to Ross. They underlit the wooden handrail by routing out a channel on the bottom and installing an LED light track.



Outdoor Living: A wall of pocket sliding glass doors opens the great room to the expansive balcony where Modloff’s Netta Lounge Chairs, Triplica Bunching Tables, and Blue Regatta Cord Laced Chairs surrounding a superstone concrete-topped Liam Dining Table prove durable, functional, and beautiful. “The great room is the center of the home and encourages the family to gather together rather than spend time separately in their individual rooms, fulfilling one of the clients’ goals for their home,” explains Sparkman.

The home’s footprint is essentially a sharply angled L-shape, with the curved balcony and roof gently following the geometry of the site. “Choosing good-looking, low-maintenance materials that would stand the test of time — being in Florida and on the water — was critical to the project,” according to Lee Ross of Ross Built Custom Homes.

To keep the connection to nature forefront, Sparkman designed a home that appears transparent, blurring the lines between structure and nature. “The ground floor breezeway and the carport, instead of a garage, allow you to walk up to the house and see under and through it — the house actually frames nature instead of blocking it,” delights Sparkman. ►

To support the homeowners’ focus on their family life, Sparkman clustered three of the four en suite bedrooms, including the master, on one side of the home. A guest bedroom suite, laundry room, and media room are situated on the other side of this grandiose home. Spanning the space between the two hallways is the great room, which is comprised of living, dining, and kitchen space, open to the balcony and the horizon beyond.

The owners furnished their modern home with equally modern furnishings, all with clean lines, white or muted colors, natural materials, and durable finishes. Everything was chosen to focus on the natural surroundings and to enhance the livability of the home.

Although the home’s lines were simple, Ross cautions that simplicity can be deceptively difficult to achieve. “But this was such a magical build,” enthuses Ross. “The minute we met the owners, we clicked and developed a real friendship. It was pure fun because we were such a great team. We were all sad when it was over, and that’s very rewarding in its own way.” ■



Exterior Stairs: Approaching the elegant double curves of balcony and roofline, the exterior staircase appears to float above the adjacent landscape. Slender four-inch steel posts support the 70-foot-long trussed concrete roof, connected by powder-coated aluminum top rails and side rails, the latter of which mimic cable rails.

Pergola: The home's front entry path lies beneath a light-filtering aluminum slat trellis, creating a play of shadow on the concrete walkway. Poured concrete support columns march alongside bear striations designed to imitate those found on nearby palms, effectively blending the structure into the native landscape. The concrete path veers right, skirting the double carport, to the glassed-in front entry, while oversized stepping-stones lead straight ahead to the exterior stairway, and to the balcony above.



Pool: Normally a fixture of a backyard, the narrow, rectangular pool flanks the entry path in the front yard. Recessed under the home’s master bedroom, a curved block wall forms one side of a space earmarked as one of three ground-level storage areas. Ross describes the curved wall as “super fun and exciting, a relaxing detail.” The restrained, simple stucco finish allows the viewer’s eye to follow the curvature through the breezeway to the landscape beyond.

Breezeway: Furniture for the breezeway was chosen for its ability to withstand wind and water. The casual dining and entertaining areas double the livability of the home, with a whimsical suspended reading nest providing an unexpected touch. The view extends across the Robinson Nature Preserve to Palma Sola Bay and the lights of Bradenton glittering in the distance. “The visual connection to the bay and the adjacent nature preserve was an integral part of the project goals,” says Sparkman.



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