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RESIDE



SECOND TIME AROUND

A SUBSEQUENT PURCHASE IN THE SAME CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITY AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFECT A MUCH-LOVED AESTHETIC

BY MARY THURMAN YUHAS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPM PHOTOGRAPHY



ABOVE: THE RESIDENCE'S GREAT ROOM SHOWCASES A FEATURE WALL TRIMMED WITH CERUSED WHITE OAK, MIRRORS, AND REAL MARBLE.

Retired since 2017, Bob and Debbie Blinstrub were happily ensconced in their Kalea Bay condominium residence in North Naples. Days were spent playing golf or tennis, boating the local waterways, and frequently hosting cocktail parties—with Bob as bartender.

The Kalea Bay community, which now comprises five high-rise towers, was still being developed five years after the Blinstrubs moved in. Residences in one of the newer towers offered more square footage and even better views of the Gulf of Mexico.

“With five children and five grandchildren, we have a lot going on,” explains Bob. “When they all come down for an extended weekend, it’s a full house.” With adding more space in mind, the couple decided to upgrade.

For their new residence, the Blinstrubs reached out to their interior designer, Wendy Berry, owner and principal designer of W Design, a full-service interior design firm in Naples and Cleveland, Ohio. Berry, who designed Bob and Debbie’s first Kalea Bay condo, was tasked with re-creating a

RESIDE



THE NEW CONDOMINIUM'S CHEF-WORTHY KITCHEN (LEFT) BOASTS VIKING AND SUB-ZERO APPLIANCES, A LARGE ISLAND, AND A LIMESTONE TILE BACKSPLASH.

similar design in their new space.

Berry visited the 4,000-square-foot condo and saw a huge rectangular expanse with wood floors, floor-to-ceiling windows and doors, and a custom kitchen planted within the openness. She proposed dialing up the design while keeping the built-ins the owners loved, ultimately creating a casual yet posh interior.

"It gives a nod to dressy and is at the same time durable and inviting," notes Berry. "Comfortable elegance is unexpected, and we integrate the unexpected into all our designs."

When guests arrive, they are whisked by private elevator to the fourteenth floor. The doors open to a relaxing but elegant space. No longer lost in vastness, the great room is delineated by ceiling beams, a beachy shiplap wall, and a feature wall trimmed with cedered white oak, mirrors, and real marble. "We made it feel like three or four different spaces," explains Berry, each homey and welcoming. By intent, nothing in the earth-toned monochromatic great room detracts from the natural grandeur framing the residence.

In the kitchen, layers of texture work together. A putty-colored limestone tile backsplash appears to undulate over the wall; woven jute-back stools with black wood frames rest under a large white island while brass accents add warmth. The chef-worthy space boasts Viking and Sub-Zero appliances. In the dining area, a simple geometric brass chan-



INTERIOR DESIGNER WENDY BERRY OF W DESIGN CREATED A VIBE OF COMFORTABLE ELEGANCE FOR THE 4,000-SQUARE-FOOT SPACE. KEY DECOR ELEMENTS WERE SELECTED TO COMPLEMENT THE RESIDENCE'S NATURAL GRANDEUR AND UNPARALLELED GULF OF MEXICO VIEWS.



KALEA BAY IS LIKE LIVING IN A RESORT, AND WHAT WENDY DID IS MAKE IT A TREASURE. SOMETIMES, I'LL CATCH MYSELF THINKING 'I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS MINE.'" —Bob Blinstrub

RESIDE



FROM FAR LEFT: THE POWDER ROOM; THE PRIMARY BEDROOM EXUDES A CALM, MODERN ZEN-LIKE FEEL WITH ITS STEPPED CEILING AND BLUE-HUED COLOR PALETTE.

delier hovers over a rectangular wood table surrounded by six klismos-style chairs. “When you have a view to die for, you don’t want anything to obstruct it; rather, you want your eyes to float over to the view,” states Berry.

The clients requested a calm, modern Zen-like feel in the primary bedroom. A stepped rift white oak ceiling—with a walnut stain—adds the illusion of height. Limiting the colors and patterns in the space produced the desired tranquility. “Be-

cause you’re always looking at blue sky and blue water, you can easily throw blue into any of the rooms,” explains Berry, who wrapped the custom headboard in light blue leather.

When it comes to guest rooms, Berry strives for approachable five-star hotel elegance. The new condo includes three en-suite guest rooms all achieving this aesthetic.

“Our favorite part [of designing] is always the reveal,” says Berry. “Our challenge was to give Bob and Debbie something they liked in a brand-new unit.”

“Kalea Bay is like living in a resort, and what Wendy did is make it a treasure,” shares Bob. “Sometimes, I’ll catch myself thinking ‘I can’t believe this is mine.’” <<



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