


CARIBBEAN DREAM

Working with architect Kiko Sanchez, designer David Netto crafts a marvel of relaxed beachy chic for a young family in the Bahamas

TEXT BY DAVID NETTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GIEVES ANDERSON

THE LIVING ROOM IS OUTFITTED WITH LOUNGE CHAIRS BY THE WICKER WORKS (LEFT) AND ISAMU KENMOCHI (RIGHT), A HUGO FRANÇA CHAISE LONGUE, AND ROUND JUTE RUGS BY SERENA & LILY. IN THE DINING AREA (REAR), BIELECKY BROTHERS CHAIRS SURROUND A JEAN-MICHEL FRANK TABLE BY ECART ON A BEAUVAIS ABACA RUG. PAINT THROUGHOUT BY BENJAMIN MOORE. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.



ARCHITECT KIKO SANCHEZ OF FGS
DESIGN AND DESIGNER DAVID NETTO
ADDED A DISCREET SECOND STORY
TO THE EXISTING HOUSE AS WELL AS
A NEW OCTAGONAL POOL PAVILION/
GUEST COTTAGE. LANDSCAPE BY
FERNANDO WONG OUTDOOR LIVING
DESIGN. POOL CHAISE LONGUES
BY JANUS ET CIE.

“We created a very subdued color palette
consisting of different shades of green in
order to keep the pool as the focal point.”
—landscape designer *Fernando Wong*

“After all the work was done, what we ended up with is a dream villa, and a dream is worth any amount of work.” —designer *David Netto*



Like many of the most beautiful locations in the world, the Bahamas can be a difficult place to pull off a decorating job. This project—one of the prettiest houses on one of the loveliest sites in one of the nicest spots in the Caribbean, the Lyford Cay Club—is a case in point. During more than two years of construction we had obstacles involving shipping, weather, communications, and travel logistics. But let’s focus on the opportunities. After all the work was done, and all the customs duties were paid, and

all the LED bulbs were color-corrected with acetate gels, and all the high-gloss paint that turns matte because of the humidity was reapplied, what we ended up with is a dream villa, and a dream is worth any amount of work. Everyone on the design team fell in love with this place, as did the owners, who dubbed their new home Hideout.

Design projects are all about taking aim. If one decision counted here, it was the first one—to save the existing building, adding on to it strategically rather than tearing it down. This elegant but compact villa had a position in the hearts of the community. Its previous owners were well-liked, and many neighbors shared happy recollections of dinner parties there. But it was a one-story house made for a couple, not a family with four kids. Architect Kiko Sanchez and I huddled and agreed that, despite the reality of the expanded program, the last thing we wanted for these clients was a mansion. “The house looked and felt like a cottage, so the challenge was to make it big enough to hold a family but still feel like a cottage,” the architect explains.

Kiko is a great design partner. He and I added a second floor, but made it barely visible. We expanded the living room to more than twice its original size, but not as one big, undifferentiated room. The new space, with its various ceiling heights and coquina columns, instead resembles a covered porch that had been enclosed at some point. In short, we invented a narrative for the new house in which things had been added on to it over time. Without expanding the scale of the entry façade, we also decided to add a few formal details. “The front door now has the sort of stonework



IN THE KITCHEN, AN ATELIER VIME PENDANT LIGHT HANGS ABOVE A JEAN PROUVÉ DINING TABLE BY VITRA AND DRÜCKER CHAIRS. STOOLS BY THE CITIZENRY. WOLF RANGE, WATERWORKS FIXTURES, AND HOOD BY VENT-A-HOOD. OPPOSITE A LIVING ROOM VIGNETTE FEATURES A DINING TABLE BY JACQUES ADNET AND MAURICE SAVIN, A BEADED NIGERIAN CHAIR FROM RAOUL TEXTILES, AND NICHES LINED IN TILES FROM EXQUISITE SURFACES.



OPPOSITE A LIVING ROOM SEATING AREA HAS A VINTAGE FAUX-CORAL MIRROR, MIMI LONDON WALNUT COCKTAIL TABLES, LOUNGE CHAIRS BY THE WICKER WORKS, AND SERENA & LILY JUTE RUGS. **OPPOSITE, BELOW** THE BUNK ROOM IS FURNISHED WITH CASA KIDS BEDS AND AN AREA RUG BY MILES REDD FOR PATTERSON FLYNN.

RIGHT A GUEST COTTAGE BEDROOM FEATURES CHELSEA EDITIONS FOUR-POSTER BEDS. CURTAIN AND PILLOW FABRIC BY FANNY SHORTER. **BELOW** A MECOX CHANDELIER CROWNS A BATHROOM WITH A WATERWORKS TUB AND FIXTURES. TILES BY ZIA TILE.



one would find on a distinguished Georgian house in the West Indies. But the back is more relaxed. Ultimately, we wanted to create a fun house for kids,” Kiko says of our shared mission.

That was the plan outside. The biggest decision on the inside came to me as I looked around and saw all these elegant people enjoying their lives in their beautiful homes—Lyford Cay is a community that really gets behind hospitality and style. But while there’s plenty of luxury, it all feels very grown-up. I wanted to make this the first fancy house here that looks like it actually belongs to young people. Taking aim, remember? The most direct line of attack seemed to be to remake the ubiquitous tile floors—the thing that’s visible everywhere in a tropical house—in some mischievous, unexpected material. So I proposed electric blue terrazzo, really selling it by saying, “What can I tell you, I love an Italian bus station.” (Sometimes you have to make it sound worse to look better.) I know the architect was skeptical, and the owners might have been as well, but this is my fourth house for them, and they expect a risk or two.



ABOVE THE GUEST COTTAGE LIVING ROOM INCLUDES A VIOSKI SOFA IN RAOUL TEXTILES FABRIC, A CHARLOTTE PERRIAND COCKTAIL TABLE BY CASSINA, A FRANK GEHRY DESK CHAIR FOR KNOLL, AND A SIDE TABLE BY HOLLYWOOD AT HOME.

OUR BIG BREAK OCCURRED when the lot next door became available. These clients, always supportive, understood the point we made that more land would actually mean less house. The expanded lot gave us room for a poolhouse, which doubles as a guesthouse as well as an escape for the homeowners, who rarely get a moment to themselves. Kiko and I designed the structure as an octagonal pavilion, inspired by the 1936 gem architect Maurice Fatio designed for artist Bernard Boutet de Monvel in Palm Beach. Now, with two buildings and a master plan, we had an opportunity for a real garden, and the immensely talented Fernando Wong and his partner, Tim Johnson, came aboard to give the property just that. Fernando brought huge value to the project by creating outdoor rooms along the road, and by opening the view of the golf course to make it seem like it belongs to this house. Around the pool, his approach was subtle. “We created a very subdued color palette consisting of different shades of green in order to keep the pool as the focal point,” Fernando says. “The one strategic pop of color comes from the purple bougainvillea framing that idyllic porch—the place the family eats, plays ping-pong, and organizes flashlight tag on the golf course after dinner. The color tells you you’re going to have fun there.”

All projects have their heroes. This one has two. Lily Dierkes, the decorator who assisted me, has an instinct with color and pattern that gives the interior the joyfulness it has. The second is Annie, the housekeeper who has long worked there. Annie made us feel welcome throughout construction, no matter what she may have thought about what we were doing to *her* house. She and I have also stayed friends, and I think everybody, homeowners included, would agree that there is more than one First Lady of Hideout. **AD**

“The challenge was to make it big enough to hold a family but still feel like a cottage.”
—architect *Kiko Sanchez*

THE PRIMARY BEDROOM HAS A CUSTOM CANOPY BED COVERED IN PHILLIP JEFFRIES RAFFIA, BEDSIDE TABLES BY CHRIS LEHRECKE FOR RALPH PUCCI, AND AN RH JUTE RUG. PILLOW AND SOFA FABRIC BY PENNY MORRISON.

