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WELCOME BACK HOME

Dawn Causa Makes the Old New Again

The home's exterior has arched doorways and windows, and romantic balconies. It is skillfully oriented to maximize the lake view.

By Jana Soeldner Danger | Photography by Troy Campbell

Realtors have insisted on it for decades: Location is one of the most important factors in the desirability of a home. It certainly was for a couple in Weston's Windmill Ranches. The pair of physicians with grown children loved their neighborhood and wanted to continue living there. But their house no longer suited them.

So instead of moving, they decided to demolish the old house and build a new one on the same lot. Architect Randall Stofft drew plans for the 14,000-square-foot home with six bedrooms, seven baths and three half baths. The dramatic exterior features classic stone columns, fairy tale balconies, and romantic arched windows and doors. The home is also skillfully oriented to maximize the lake view. The owners chose Dawn Causa of Causa Design

Group in Fort Lauderdale to create an interior just as magnificent as the exterior. She began with a neutral color palette of bones, ivories and taupes, using tones and textures to create a timeless, classical décor. Flooring throughout is creamy marble, allowing spaces to flow seamlessly together, while silver and gold leaf in many of the rooms conjures the feeling of a castle.

A STUNNING FOYER
 The front door opens to a stunning foyer with a two-story ceiling finished with applied coffers and moldings. Suspended from it is a striking chandelier with hollow glass arms and a mix of clear and smoky crystals. Drapery panels made of tone-on-tone taupe silk with beaded edges frame the window.
 In the center of the space is a table with intricately carved legs from the client's first home. "She wanted to keep it, so we refinished it with silver leaf and a new Calcutta gold marble top," Causa says. A high-backed chair beside it is framed in matching silver leaf and upholstered in tufted taupe silk velvet. "The tall back and narrow shape makes the scale perfect for the space," the designer adds.
 Leading up a marble staircase is a sculptured iron railing accented with silver ball detailing and leaf-shaped brackets. Stairway walls are paneled in white, and rock crystal sconces light the way upward. A second crystal chandelier hangs from the ceiling dome, which is finished in pearlized Venetian stucco.

In the formal living room, an elegant, rolled arm sofa is covered in tufted Champagne silk. A parson-style cocktail table has an apron clad in silver leaf and an onyx waterfall top. Two chairs taken from the clients' first home have frames covered in 22K gold.



ELEGANCE IN THE LIVING ROOM

In the elegant living room, an antique pitted mirror reflecting a fireplace is the centerpiece of a wall that also displays four small paintings. Bulbs in silver and crystal sconces disappear in beaded sheaths, while an area rug of Champagne silk adds sheen to the marble floor and complements four chairs upholstered in a similar hue.

A second seating group in front of the fireplace has an elegant, rolled arm sofa covered in tufted Champagne silk, side tables with pitted mirror tops and bronze lamps with drum-shaped shades. The parson-style cocktail table has a two-inch apron covered in silver leaf and an onyx waterfall top. Two chairs taken from the clients' first home have frames covered in 22K gold. "We reupholstered them in Champagne silk with fuchsia, tangerine, green and gold embroidery to bring color into the space," Causa says.

FASHIONABLE DINING

In the stylish dining room, layering brings texture and dimension to the walls. White rectangular panels climb two-thirds of the way up, with a flat surface above and a final crown molding at the top. "We needed to break up the



room visually to avoid a tunnel effect," Causa says.

Elegant draperies of burned velvet have two-toned silk top treatments that hang from rings attached to gold rods with crystal finials. A solid walnut table with pedestal bases clad in gold and silver leaf seats 14. Above it, an elaborate, gracefully curved Murano glass chandelier tipped in gold hangs from a ceiling enhanced by geometric moldings. Murano wall sconces edged in gold complement the

The walnut dining table seats 14. Above it, an elaborate Murano glass chandelier tipped in gold hangs from a ceiling enhanced by geometric moldings.

exquisite chandelier.

The four host and hostess chairs are covered in gold velvet skirted to the floor, tufted in front and embellished in back with Swarovski crystals. The 10 walnut-framed side chairs, which came from the clients' first home, have cabriolet legs and intricately carved shell motifs. "The room is elegant and formal, but there's also a simplicity and purity to it," Causa says.

Silver tiles are washed in gold to create this shimmering effect in the powder room.



A FANCIFUL POWDER ROOM

Floor-to-ceiling silver tiles washed in gold cover the walls of the exquisite powder room. The intricately carved custom vanity, its base finished to match the walls, has a marble top and an under-mount sink with rock crystal and polished nickel hardware. The beveled mirror, in a magnificent silver frame, combines clear and pitted glass.



In the bar, dark walnut millwork contrasts beautifully with the walls and ceiling finished in pearlized Venetian.



PLEASURES OF THE GRAPE

Adjacent to the dining room is a temperature-controlled wine room with wrought-iron doors. Hanging from a ceiling finished with Venetian stucco are three delicate, diminutive chandeliers. Scones covered in silver leaf and embellished with crystals add to the soft illumination, while mahogany bottle racks lend a warm, earthy feel.

A pitted mirror framed in silver leaf hangs at the end of the room, where there is also a mahogany high-top tasting table and stools covered in camel-colored leather.

COCKTAIL HOUR

When the homeowners or their guests prefer cocktails to wine, they can enjoy them in the club-style bar. Dark walnut crown molding, a walnut parquet floor and crotched walnut cabinetry contrast beautifully with the walls and ceiling, which are

finished in pearlized Venetian stucco. The base of the bar itself, topped with Calcutta gold marble, is also crotched walnut.

Simple, clean-lined stools are framed in wood with an espresso finish and upholstered in pearlized leather. On the other side of the room is a dark wood cocktail table surrounded by four occasional chairs covered in a woven fabric. "I used them to bring more texture into the room," Causa says.

AT HOME IN THE OFFICE

A home office has a decidedly masculine vibe. The entire room is paneled in walnut and crotched walnut similar to the bar. It also has the same dark parquet walnut flooring. Satin nickel art lights illuminate bookcases that wrap two walls of the room, and the front of the desk has an accordion pattern to give it dimension.

Silk drapery panels with a mink-brown pattern on a cream background flank walnut shutters on the windows, and mink

brown bolsters accent a simple sofa covered in cream chenille. Side chairs have dark walnut frames that contrast with pearlized leather upholstery, while the two-tiered cocktail table combines wood and antique brass.

CINEMA TIME

When it's time to enjoy a movie, the owners and their guests can move into the theater, where wall-to-wall, sheer tip and loop pile zebra print carpeting covers the floor. "It's all one color, and the pattern is created with texture," Causa says.

In the center of the coffered ceiling is a midnight blue panel sparkling with fiber optics that mimic stars in a night sky. Wall panels upholstered in tufted raffia help to control sound, and tiered seating provides everyone with a clear view of the large screen.



The theater has a midnight blue center ceiling panel with sparkling fiber optics that mimic stars in a night sky. Wall panels upholstered in tufted raffia help to control sound.

Comfortable sofas are upholstered in two different fabrics: chenille in a solid Champagne and printed velvet. "I used two of them to create interest and change things up a bit," Causa says. Twin ottomans covered in ultrasuede have dual purposes: They provide storage and also have lids that become serving trays when turned over. "You can put your feet up on them, or use them as a cocktail table," Causa says.



The large kitchen has a mother-of-pearl backsplash, an eye-catching hood and a large island with a wenge wood top.

A KITCHEN FOR GOURMETS

In the large kitchen, carvings applied to the ceiling conjure a baroque feel. Raised oval panels give dimension to cabinet doors, while a mother-of-pearl backsplash and a striking hood over the cooktop are eye-catching focal points.

To get the desired Bombay shape, the base of the 6-by-12-foot island was formed from fiberglass, and carved moldings were applied over it. The top is dark wenge wood that contrasts beautifully with the white walls, cabinetry and marble countertops, and a strip of granite in the same color provides a durable work area. The island also houses one of the kitchen's two sinks, cabinets and a dishwasher.

Over the island, sphere-shaped crystal pendant lights banded in chrome hang from polished chrome stems. The home also has a butler's pantry, a catering kitchen and a breakfast room with a table that seats 10.

A RETREAT FOR ROYALTY

The magnificent master suite is fit for royalty. Millwork and walls are clean, fresh tones of white and cream, and curvature softens the look of the paneled and coffered ceiling. An off-white bamboo rug contrasts with the hand-scraped walnut floor, and detailed draperies feature a cream-colored velvet pattern edged with embroidery on a taupe silk background.

On the top of the bed's curved headboard, silver leaf frames a band of espresso-finished wood; the lower portion is channeled silk velvet. A bench at the foot of the bed has a carved silver leaf base and an upholstered top that matches the headboard. Flanking the bed are dark-stained chests with silver and rock crystal hardware, and Murano

lamps with handmade parchment shades. A desk fashioned from open-grained oak trimmed with silver leaf has an antique pitted mirror top, and in the sitting area, two sculpted chairs upholstered in off-white chenille flank an acrylic table.

A SPA-LIKE BATHROOM

Calcutta gold marble covers the floors, baseboards, surrounds and tub deck in the wife's master bathroom, and pearlized Venetian stucco gleams on the walls. A silver ceiling dome with a Baccarat chandelier creates drama, and a chair with an elongated oval back covered in patterned velvet is a perfect accent. Above the vanity is a long mirror in an elaborately carved silver frame.

A WELCOME FOR GUESTS

The couple did not neglect the décor of the welcoming guest



The master suite features millwork and walls in clean, fresh tones of white and cream.



A welcoming guest room features soothing tones of blue that contrast with fresh, clean white molding.



A silver dome and a Baccarat chandelier add drama to the wife's bathroom. Calcutta gold marble covers the floors, baseboards, surrounds and tub deck; and walls gleam with pearlized Venetian stucco.

room. Walls are a soothing, misty blue that contrasts with white moldings and the frame of the four-poster bed, which has a tufted leather headboard. A custom wall unit features asymmetrical door fronts and drawers, each with a different kind of crystal hardware.

Patterned velvet draperies hang from stainless rods with crystal finials, and an oversize accent chair has a 5-foot-tall back covered in ice blue linen. "I call it an Alice in Wonderland chair," Causa says.

A TIMELESS DESIGN

The finished design is one that will stand the test of time, Causa says. "Ten years from now, it will still be current and beautiful," she adds. "It has a timeless elegance." □

SOURCE LIST

GRAND FOYER:

Chairs: Christopher Guy
Sconces: Sherle Wagner
Table: William Switzer
Chandeliers: Michael Fine Art, San Francisco, California
Stone Floors: Keys Granite
Sculpture: Corbin Bronze, Kansas City, Kansas
Railing: Belt Forge

LIVING ROOM:

Sconces & Chandelier: Dennis & Leen
Gold Chairs: Phyllis Morris
Sofa: Phyllis Morris
Area Rug: Oliver Treutlein
Pitted Mirror: Friedman Brothers
Club Chairs: Phyllis Morris
Artwork: Donghia
End Tables: Allan Knight
Millwork: Palm City Millwork

DINING ROOM:

Upholstered Chairs: Design by Causa Design Group—Fabricated by Steve Grafton
Frame Chairs: Cache
Table Bases: Cache
Table Top: Artisans' Guild, Naples, Florida
Chandelier & Sconces: La Murrina, Los Angeles, California
Drapes: R&D Contract Window Treatments
Drape Fabric: J Nelson Inc.

BAR:

Custom Cabinetry: Artisans' Guild, Naples, Florida
Barstools: Christopher Guy
Barstool Leather: Spinneybeck
Stone: Keys Granite
Wall Finish: Decorative Designs Inc.
Chairs: Baker Furniture

OFFICE:

Custom Cabinetry: Artisans' Guild, Naples, Florida
Sofa: Baker Furniture
Chairs: William Switzer
Chair Leather: Spinneybeck
Coffee Table: Baker Furniture
Drapes/Shutters: R&D Contract Window Treatments

HOME THEATER:

Carpet: Fabrica
Sofas: Steve Grafton
Upholstered Panels: Steve Grafton
Electronics/Fiber Optics: ETC
Ottomans: Judith Norman Collection

KITCHEN:

Custom Cabinets: Artisans' Guild, Naples, Florida
Wood Counter Top: Artisans' Guild, Naples, Florida
Stone Counter Tops: Keys Granite
Back Splash: Designer Tile
Plumbing: Cinmar Plumbing
Ceiling Design: K. Salowe & Co.

GUEST BEDROOM:

Carpet: Fabrica
Bed: Julia Gray
Chair: Christopher Guy
Drapes: R&D Contract Window Treatments
Bedding: Between the Sheets, Los Angeles, California
Custom Cabinetry: Humberto Pantaleon

MASTER BEDROOM:

Rug: Oliver Treutlein
Headboard & Surround: Christopher Guy
Chests: Panache, Los Angeles, California
Lamps: J Nelson Inc.
Bench: Christopher Guy
Chairs: Baker Furniture
Desk: David Sutherland
Desk Chair: Jerry Pair, Los Angeles, California
Chandelier: Michael Fine Art, San Francisco, California
Drapes: R&D Contract Window Treatments

MASTER BATHROOM:

Custom Cabinetry: Merritt Woodwork, Ohio
Stone: Marble of the World
Water Jet Stone: Ceramic Matrix
Plumbing: Sherle Wagner
Shutters: R&D Contract Window Treatments
Wall & Dome Finish: Decorative Designs Inc.
Chandelier: Baccarat
Chair: Christopher Guy
Ottoman: Christopher Guy

EXTERIOR:

Construction: Leonard Albanese Construction
Sconces: Fine Art Lamps
Stone: Mexstone Corporation
Patio Furniture: Ralph Lauren

POWDER ROOM:

Faucet & Sink: Sherle Wagner
Wall Tiles: Walker Zanger
Crystal Sconces: Fine Art
Vanity: Cinmar