

BEACHFRONT PARADISE

Dorothee Junkin's client was keen to get away from any clichéd beach house look, achieving a European vibe

WORDS JAKE KENNEDY | PHOTOGRAPHS WILLIAM WALDRON

Dorothee Junkin's new design has set a high benchmark for beachside living. In one of her largest domestic projects she's utilised contrasts, exterior influences - and a huge celebration of light to dramatic effect.

A weekend retreat on the coastline of Florida required a grander thought process from designer Dorothee Junkin than usual. A massive thought process, in fact. Because the

house on the ocean front is over 18,000 sq.ft. So there was plenty of scope - perhaps even too much - for something grand.

However, the potential excited Dorothee rather than daunting her, she says. She knew she needed to move fast as work had already begun on the home when she got involved. Whereas usually there would be the time to plan things like plumbing, electric and



landscaping; in this case she was presented with a work already in progress, with builders and machinery on site.

Dorothee had experience of this way of working. She was involved in a five star hotel in the Abu Dhabi World Trade Center mall, and Munich's Lenbachhaus museum (while she worked at Foster & Partners in London). Understandably though, the parameters of

making a home for someone at this scale are different from a commercial property.

Attention to detail was key, as was liaison with the client herself, leading to in-depth discussions about materials and furniture used, Dorothee remembers. The client herself was keen to get away from any clichéd beach house look, preferring a more European approach. This is

ABOVE: Photograph of US interior designer Dorothee Junkin, who took on this 18,000 sq. ft. Florida Beach House project

RIGHT: A spectacular custom lighting sculpture acts as a canopy above one social seating group shaped with Christian Liaigre's velvet sofas and spicy red chairs. A low-lying red velvet bench prominently shows its lustre beneath Walking On My Left Foot from the owner's private art collection. Copper tones were added to avoid the clichéd beach house feel and gain a more European vibe









perhaps most evident in the living room, with the client's favoured shade of copper picked up in the soft furnishings, which definitely have a European twist.

Dorothee went on to mix designs by B&B Italia, Christian Liaigre and Porta Romana with her own bespoke pieces and classics by Herman Miller. The result is well measured and gels perfectly. She summarises the home's style as 'contemporary elegance with international influences,' with lighting and textures helping to create a flow through the home.

The 50-metre long living room is dominated by a waterfall-like splash of LED lighting, a vast piece created by the designer in collaboration with architectural lighting expert, Sharon Marston of London. The fitting was sent to the new home in 20 pieces, and later constructed on site.

LEFT: An Italian kitchen can carry off its dramatic black shade with bronze detailing in this large double-aspect space, softened further by strokeable stools. Between the casual dining and family areas, a striking interior fire pit, custom designed by Junkin and architect Erik Helgen, pulls activities together in the way that campfires often do

ABOVE: In the entrance hall, the stairway appears as a sculpture built onto a platform and a wall. Homage to Nijinski by Sorel Etrog stands tall next to an aluminium foam-paneled wall that shimmers beneath Moooi's perfect spheres punctuated by tiny LED lights



RIGHT: With its Tiki hut, ocean views and Indonesian-made furnishings, a 'South Seas' breeze seems to linger near the loggia of this 18,400 sq. ft. Vero Beach Bauhaus-style home, where Sunbrella covers custom sofas beneath bamboo pendants from Roost. Along with the exotic textures and organic accessories, a pizza oven is a prime source of pleasure.

The ocean view in the dining area of the family room is equally stunning, enhanced by timber, linen and a wall of concrete. The ceremonial spears were sourced by the client while on a trip to Bali, and Dorothee again designed the light, this time over the table.

The deck area continues the celebration of the home's ocean location, and the centerpiece light installation in the living room is even visible from the beach - making for a real talking point for passers by, especially at night.

Back inside, a central fireplace in the family room features a chimney that works as yet another bold centerpiece in an already bold home. Its sculptural quality is mirrored by two pieces to the left, while a painting to the right enhances the hallway beyond it.

But it's back to grand lighting statements by the time you reach the formal dining room. An installation here created in collaboration with Swarovski uses an astonishing sixty candles. Yet the key to this room's success is its absorption



ABOVE: Textures play an important role in this calming guest bedroom space with layers of neutrals on white. The beautiful four-poster bed is a bespoke piece.

of the outdoors, with its views of a courtyard filled with tropical fauna and traditional wooden longboats.

From even these rooms alone, it's clear the home has proved lighting is vital for it to work so well. But texture, Dorothee believes, was another important element. In one guest bedroom, there are layers of white on top of neutral colours (and a bespoke bed), while in the master bedroom, silk and steel are used together for contrast. Dorothee also explains

that the ripples in the wallpaper mimic the ocean waves outside, and the flames from the fireplace she installed provide another neat contrast.

For the kitchen, the Italian space's black tones are picked out with bronze fittings, but the hard surfaces are balanced by the soft upholstery of the stools. There is more than meets the eye here too, with a butler's pantry squirreled away behind one wall, and many of the preparation areas lurking behind the bar.



ABOVE: Stretching over two lots, the oceanfront property looks to the East. On lounging platforms, chaises from Hishem Furniture in Bali offer the perfect spot for ultimate relaxation

Dorothee's next project will be in Manhattan, she says, in a space that, while generous, is not quite on the same scale as this Florida retreat. But 'quality not quantity' is always a valuable motto, she believes, and it's worked even at this impressive scale.

DOROTHEE JUNKIN
DJDS
T: 001 917 510 5258
www.djds.us