

INTERIOR DESIGN Dorothee Junkin, DJDS Dorothee Junkin Design Studio, Brooklyn, NY

ARCHITECTURE Erik Helgen, Helgen Architects LLC, St. Paul, MN, and Alloy Development LLC, Brooklyn, NY

BUILDER Joseph Foglia, Foglia Custom Homes, Vero Beach, FL, and Victor Lombardi, J.V. Enterprises LLC, Vero Beach, FL

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER William Stoddard, Schulke Bittle & Stoddard, Vero Beach, FL

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE August Schwartz, August Gerard Schwartz Landscape Architecture, Winter Park, FL

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# OCEANFRONT SERENDIPITY

Opportunity Is Often  
Capricious...But When It  
Comes Knocking, It's Best  
To Be Prepared

With its Tiki hut, ocean views and Indonesian-made furnishings, a "South Seas" breeze seems to linger near the loggia of this 18,400-square-foot, 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.





## TWO PEOPLE WHO KNEW A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

when they saw it were interior designer Dorothee Junkin and her soon-to-be client, Katherine McConvey. The founder and CEO of KMM Telecommunications and CEO of Alloy Development, McConvey was no beginner at sizing things up and making brisk decisions. But though she owned homes in Connecticut and New York, and had recently started to build an 18,400-square-foot house in Vero Beach, Fla., she had never before commissioned an interior designer.

A native of Germany, Junkin had been trained as an architect in both Germany and Switzerland, but finding her heart in interior design, had opened her own successful design studio in London. Yet a recent relocation with her architect husband to New York

ABOVE: A spectacular custom lighting sculpture acts as a canopy above one social grouping shaped with Christian Liaigre's sofas and chairs. A low-lying red velvet bench prominently shows its luster beneath *Walking On My Left Foot* from the owner's private art collection.







The living room's fireplace is wrapped in split-face limestone that plays off of the dark stone of a Maitland-Smith cocktail table and the lush textures of the ample hearthside seating.





From the entry, the stairway appears as a sculpture built onto a platform and a wall. *Homage to Nijinski* by Sorel Etrog stands tall next to an aluminum foam-paneled wall that shimmers beneath Moooi's perfect spheres punctuated by tiny LED lights.





found her starting a new company, DJDS, from scratch...almost. With an introduction from a friend, Junkin met McConvey and opportunity pounded on the door.

"Katherine was my first client in the States," Junkin says. "She hired me on the spot for this huge project...one that was already rising out of the ground." With 200 feet of oceanfront, the home sits on two lots and is secreted from the street by a guesthouse. Designed by architect Erik Helgen in the spare lines of the Bauhaus movement, the utilitarian simplicity outside is softened immediately with a step onto the rear loggia.

"With the unique architecture, we didn't want simply another "Florida" home," Junkin says. Instead, exotic woods, dream-like cloud pendants, and yes, a pizza oven, are blended in synchrony. When the client returned from a trip to Indonesia she had chosen, with Junkin's help, a "treasure chest of beautiful woods." One slab became the loggia's dining table surrounded by Balinese hand-woven chairs. Elegantly tough Sunbrella covers custom sofas, also from Indonesia, beneath slouching bamboo pendants that send out light in ripples.

ABOVE: Yards and yards of Sahco's Trevira sheer draperies from Donghia pull open in the living room to reveal panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean through a wall of glass.



Yet it is the central entertaining area that stops visitors mid-gasp. "Most of the ceilings are 12-feet-high," Junkin says, "except for the double height central spaces." Here, in the living room with ceilings soaring to 24 feet, the raw Alabama limestone walls and honed flooring could have become an echoing 'Parthenon.' "But I wanted to give it a more human scale," the designer says.

With the use of a 3D design program, Junkin fashioned two stupendous lighting features that are more than chandeliers — virtually akin to living sculptures. An approximately 4,000-light installation with soft glowing porcelain china tips suspends above the fireplace in sections from mirrored panels. The second light feature, above the conversation grouping of Christian Liaigre velvet sofas and spicy red chairs, sparkles with nearly 12,000 handmade decorative components that echo the colors of the furnishings below.

ABOVE: Sheer draperies in Kravet's leaf tones wrap the dining room in nature's hues, while a custom walnut and brass table designed by Junkin is surrounded by soft, moss-colored velvet chairs by Verden. Delicate pendants dangle like stars in Swarovski's crystal chandelier.







Across the inner courtyard pool, the afternoon sun warms the formal family room, where Eilersen's deep-seated leather sofa provides ample seating for fun and relaxation. The owner loves to open the sliding walls wide toward the gardens, blurring the boundaries of what constitutes an interior.





ABOVE: With the kitchen's hard stainless steel cabinetry by Italy's Rifra, and the raw Alabama rusticated limestone walls and flooring, the walnut stools from Arteriors feel human and warm. Lindsey Adelman's "Knotty Bubbles" pendant in clear glass and khaki rope gives a nod to the sea.



A branching bubble light fixture hangs above a teak slab table in the breakfast area. 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.



The wall behind the floating stairway in the home's entry is of stainless mesh. Acting as either scrim or a transparent view to the sea, both the metallic wall and the glass balustrades give the illusion that a luxurious walnut stairway has materialized from thin air. Without obvious supports, the treads jut from the open-cell aluminum wall that at night appears to sparkle. Overhead several spherical metal pendants by Moooi twinkle in an organic pod.

Nearby, the dining room's soaring 20-foot-high windows are draped in sheer leaf tones from Kravet that make the exquisite 12-foot-long burled walnut table seem diminutive. Junkin had the oval area rug woven in India in gradients of brass and moss green.

Opening to one of two pools, the main family room looks toward the loggia and the ocean beyond. Though vying with white leather sofas by Eilersen and sophisticated Marimekko pillows, the standout "gem" is the massive Plexiglas cocktail table — a collector's piece from Harter Galerie in Nice. Also competing for singularity is the Swiss-made walnut-veneered chair. "I selected the finish to resonate with the wall paneling surrounding the media center," Junkin says.





With the simplicity of a spa, the master bath's linear see-through fireplace and a simple shell necklace on a stand suggests a world of exotica ... something to contemplate while reclining in the shell-shaped Rifra tub.



Texture prevails in the master bedroom, where Phillip Jefferies' metallic wall covering exudes an understated elegant look. Lush silver fox covers B&B Italia's poster bed, while dramatic brass stools topped with Patagonian sheepskin adds a touch of whimsy.









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 relaxation. Here, the sun seems to always rise and the stars never to cease their twinkle.

The sleek, stainless steel kitchen overlooks the breakfast area, where a grandly casual dining table surrounded by white suede chairs from Restoration Hardware, and a central fire pit and hood draws guests alongside. "The owner loves fireplaces," the designer says. "There are five." But to keep small visitors safe, there are electric glass panels that rise to surround the fire pit on all sides.

Upstairs, the master suite has its own fireplace tucked in the wall between the bath and sleeping area. The bath is serenely clad in marble and teak, and even the lozenge-shaped tub looks delicate in its cradle of wood. Walls of stone flow through to the master bedroom, where soft Nella Vetrina side chairs and the owner's opulent fox throw add to the whirl of textures.

Looking back at the two years following the breaking of ground, and the serendipitous meeting of the McConvey and Junkin, the designer says it has been a dazzlingly experience "to be able to take the lead on this wonderful project and complete its journey." For the owner, who now makes Vero Beach her primary residence, the greatest compliment is that she calls Junkin's creation "home." The result is "a very large house that is very truly a home," McConvey says.





