

Key Assets

A RESORT-INSPIRED RESIDENCE DOWN SOUTH IN TAVERNIER CHECKS ALL THE RIGHT BOXES WHEN IT COMES TO ELEGANT DESIGN AND CURATED COMFORT

Designed by architect Tim Leard of MHK Architecture and built to exacting standards by Brett Ekblom of Native Construction Contracting, this 6,700-square-foot residence is ideally poised by the water in the Tavernier community of Key Largo.



A GEORGIA COUPLE WON THE VIEW LOTTERY when they purchased the Key Largo lot on which their home is now located. Sharing a channel on its southern border with a portion of Islamorada, the Tavernier spot is a place where sunsets are pure poetry. Poised on scenic Florida Bay, the contemporary coastal residence comprises 6,700 square feet of air-conditioned space and 2,300 square feet of outdoor grounds intentionally designed for yearlong alfresco living.



INTERIOR DESIGN AUDRY SUENNEMANN, SUENNEMANN INTERIORS, ATLANTA, GA
ARCHITECTURE TIM LEARD, MHK ARCHITECTURE, ISLAMORADA & NAPLES, FL
BUILDER BRETT EKBLOM, NATIVE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING, TAVERNIER, FL
TEXT JEANNE DE LATHOUDER
PHOTOGRAPHY LORI HAMILTON, NAPLES, FL

A courtyard-style floor plan with expansive outdoor living spaces centers around an infinity pool fronted with Polywood Adirondack chairs positioned for sunset viewing. Elegant landscape architecture by Mike Flaugh melds fluently with lush tropical landscaping by Sharper Image Services of South Florida.



To guide the design vision of their island oasis, the clients conveniently kept it local by enlisting Tim Leard, an architect with MHK Architecture and director of the firm's Islamorada studio.

"The home's modern coastal design, with its white stucco and dark roof, creates high contrast against the crystal blue water and lush landscaping," says Leard. "The floor plan includes a main-level primary bedroom and an open layout that allows a fluid transition from indoor to outdoor entertaining areas. A massive second-floor living space for visiting family includes several en suite guest rooms."



LEFT: In the powder room, a Phillip Jeffries Serenity wallcovering recalls hanging greenery. A floating vanity from John Rudolph Designs glows from within, highlighting the white onyx stone. An antique mirror and an Apparatus sconce lend a touch of romance.

BELOW: As requested by interior designer Audry Suennemann, MHK Architecture implemented drapery pockets into the ceilings, one especially to house the white sheers hiding the staircase, giving the entrance its own presence. Ochre's eye-grabbing Seed lighting installation and a Blaxsand teak wall sculpture accentuate the stairwell's grand vertical scale.



ABOVE: White drapery sheers soften the entrance, blending seamlessly with the living room's dramatic Calacatta marble fireplace surround. Equally as commanding, Ochre's large Arctic Pear mercury glass chandelier from R Hughes crowns the seating area, furnished with Bernhardt swivel chairs, an Arhaus sectional, and cocktail tables from Suennemann Interiors.



ABOVE: The kitchen's sleek aesthetic, imagined and implemented by John Rudolph Designs, includes a Calacatta gold marble backsplash, a waterfall island, and countertops from Marmi Natural Stone. Dining chairs and a table from Suenemann Interiors mesh with decorative jars from Dixon Rye. Mercury glass chandeliers echo the living room lighting.

After consulting with Leard on the layout and size of the structure, the owners brought in Atlanta interior designer Audry Suenemann, a seasoned professional with more than three decades of experience. "These clients love entertaining and are almost never in the house without guests," notes Suenemann. "Knowing this and how often their family from Homestead visits, we used every inch of the public spaces to provide as much seating and comfort as possible."

Open to the design team's interior modifications, MHK collaborated with Suenemann to unify the living and dining areas—once separated by a wood-stained ceiling—by implementing one cohesive treatment with white recessed beams. "I love the texture they create," says the designer, "casting light and shadows without distracting from the beautiful Ochre light fixtures." Further uniting the spaces, she incorporated Calacatta gold marble into the kitchen design and living room fireplace surround. As a result, the eye dances between the two marble details amid a soft color palette inspired by the clients' request for a bright aesthetic.

Interior arches were added to soften the cased openings leading away from the main space to other areas of the house, their shape accentuated by the large rings of mercury glass on the chandeliers. "Lighting is one of the most important aspects of a curated home," says Suenemann.



ABOVE: An upstairs family room includes a cozy Lovesac sofa and ottoman grouping perfect for lounging. The open wall features motorized blackout drapery for a movie theater experience any time of day. Custom built-ins by John Rudolph Designs house a morning bar and bookcase. Ironware's Maryika sconces and an RH chandelier provide ambient lighting.



“Each project presents a new opportunity for creating an illumination experience offering curiosity, enrichment, beauty, and grace.”

Thoughtfully devised for function, an elaborate alfresco living area includes a dining table for six, a roomy sectional, a custom concrete console, and four swivel chairs that can swing toward the TV, the ocean, or the pool. “Among the design highlights of this island home are the extensive covered decks, porches, and oversized outdoor entertaining spaces all focused on the view and the connection to the infinity-edge swimming pool,” says Leard. “We put as much detail in the outdoor spaces as in the interiors.”

ABOVE: Bianco Trajane marble from Marmi Natural Stone clads the entire primary bathroom, including a spacious walk-in shower. A large antique mirror, one of the heaviest pieces to install, proved a worthy focal point, reflecting a dazzling rock crystal chandelier from Ainsworth-Noah & Associates. The lavish Ferguson Home soaking tub aligns with a built-in shelf for bath essentials.



Ensclosed in white drapery sheers and canopied by a pecky cypress ceiling treatment, the primary bedroom boasts extraordinary water views and opens to the outdoors. The custom bed designed by Suenemann Interiors incorporates a carved Moroccan wall panel and a step around the perimeter for the family dog. A tiered chandelier from Ainsworth-Noah & Associates amplifies the room's grandeur.

Clad with white stone flooring from Stone Hardscapes, the covered loggia elegantly extends the interiors outside. A Blaxsand cocktail table and CB2 decorative chairs punctuate a seating area anchored by a plush area rug from Designer Carpets. With the touch of a button, screens on all sides come down to provide protection from pests and inclement weather.



BELOW: An intimate seating area facing the ocean offers a popular spot for sunset cocktails. White swivel chairs make it easy to shift the view. A wall sconce from Flambeaux Lighting casts a warm glow over the pool.



Beyond the water, vivid sunsets, native mangroves, and flickering residences along Founders Park deliver meditative views—and the owners enjoy front-row seats to it all right from their backyard.

“The architectural and construction teams’ willingness to get the design right and find solutions for ideas that seemed impossible to execute created a truly special place,” says Suenemann. “This home is as breathtaking as it is comfortable and a true refuge for those who live in it.”

SOURCES

LIVING ROOM

Sofa – Arhaus, arhaus.com

Armchair – HF Custom, hfcustomfurniture.com

Swivel chairs – Bernhardt, bernhardt.com

Cocktail tables designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA, and fabricated by Mirror-tique, mirror-tique.com

Square cocktail table designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA, and fabricated by JRW Custom, jrwcustom.com

Chandelier – R Hughes, r-hughes.com

Floor lamp – Century Furniture, centuryfurniture.com

Fireplace designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA,

and fabricated by Stone Brokers of America, Miami, FL

Area rug – Designer Carpets, Atlanta, GA

POWDER ROOM

Floating cabinetry designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA, and fabricated by John Rudolph Designs, Islamorada, FL

Sconce – R Hughes, r-hughes.com

Wallcovering – Phillip Jeffries, phillipjeffries.com

STAIRWAY

Railing designed by MHK Architecture, Islamorada, FL, and

fabricated by Palm City Millwork, Palm City, FL, and Native

Construction, Tavernier, FL

Lighting – R Hughes, r-hughes.com

Lighting installation – Native Construction, Tavernier, FL

Wall sculptures – Blaxsand-Cohab Space, shop.cohab.space

KITCHEN

Cabinetry, backsplash, and island – John Rudolph Designs, Islamorada, FL
Backsplash and island stone – Marmi Natural Stone, *marmistone.com*, and Stone Brokers of America, Miami, FL
Table designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA, and fabricated by JRW Custom, *jrwcustom.com*

Chair upholstery – Century Upholstery Atlanta, *centuryupholsteryatlanta.com*

Chandeliers – R Hughes, *r-hughes.com*
Decorative jars – Dixon Rye, *dixonrye.com*

UPSTAIRS FAMILY ROOM

Sofa and ottoman – Love Sac, *lovesac.com*

Chandelier – RH, *rh.com*

Sconce – Paul +, *paulplusatlanta.com*

Area rug – Designer Carpets, *designer-carpets.net*

PRIMARY BATHROOM

Cabinetry – John Rudolph Designs, Islamorada, FL

Sconces – Urban Electric, *urbanelectric.com*

Chandelier – Ainsworth-Noah & Associates, *ainsworth-noah.com*

Tub – Ferguson, *ferguson.com*

Marble wallcovering – Marmi Natural Stone, *marmistone.com*, and Stone Brokers of America, Miami, FL

PRIMARY BEDROOM

Bed and headboard designed by Suenemann Interiors, Atlanta, GA, and fabricated by Douglass Workroom, *douglassworkroom.com*

Carved panel – Etsy, *etsy.com*

Bedside chests – Spiffy Stuff, *spiffystuffinc.com*

Lamps – Webb Marsteller, *webbmarsteller.com*

Side table – Caracole Classic, *caracole.com*

Chandelier – Ainsworth-Noah & Associates, *ainsworth-noah.com*

Area rug – Designer Carpets, *designer-carpets.net*

LOGGIA

Sofa – Rove Concepts, Miami, FL

Decorative chairs – CB2, *cb2.com*

Hexagon table – Dovetail Home, *dovetailhome.com*

Dining table – Four Hands, *fourhands.com*

Chairs – 2Modern, *2modern.com*

Area rug – Designer Carpets, *designer-carpets.net*

THROUGHOUT

Landscape architecture – Michael Flaugh, Stuart, FL

Landscape architect – Sharper Image Lawn Service, Homestead, FL

Pool designed by MHK Architecture, Islamorada, FL, and fabricated by Native Construction, Tavernier, FL

Cabinetry – John Rudolph Designs, Islamorada, FL

Draperies – Douglass Workroom, *douglassworkroom.com*

Hardwood flooring – Exquisite Surfaces, *xsurfaces.com*

Main level interior stone – Stone Hardscapes LLC, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Exterior stone – Stone Hardscapes LLC, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Exterior sconces – Flambeaux Lighting New Orleans, *flambeauxlighting.com*

Pavers – Native Construction, Tavernier, FL

Adirondack chairs – Polywood, *polywood.com*



Framed by swaying palms, the pool's in-water loungers offer the best seats in the house for taking in Key Largo's dreamy sunsets. An infinity pool and spa by MHK Architecture form the crown jewel of the home's courtyard-style design.