



■ LUXURY LINER ■

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WHEN FRANK AND SHARI KAY CHOSE THEIR TURNBERRY OCEAN COLONY CONDO IN SUNNY ISLES, THEY SKIPPED THE PENTHOUSE AND WENT STRAIGHT FOR THE FIFTH FLOOR. “We’re on the same level as the ocean so we have a direct view of it,” Frank says. “I’ve lived in other condos on high floors where you can see the sky, but this is like living right on the beach.” Adds Shari, “The minute I walk in, I feel like I’m on a houseboat.”

The New Jersey couple, parents to two teenage daughters, have made Florida their vacation home destination for several years. For this comfy “crash pad,” they asked designer Steven La Fonte, of Design Elements in Boca Raton, to create a luminously airy space that felt as relaxing as it looked.

INTERIOR DESIGN Steven La Fonte, Design Elements

HOME BUILDER Turnberry Associates

BEDROOMS 4 **BATHROOMS** 6 **SQUARE FEET** 3,500



STYLE SELECTION

This chrome-finished, two-lighted wall sconce from Kichler Lighting is adorned with crystals, revealing a glamorous fixture with elegant touches. *Leanora Two-Light Wall Sconce, \$285; kichler.com*

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The Kays bought the unit before construction, giving La Fonte a blank slate on which to design their home-away-from-home. "I wanted to create the feel of a luxury hotel or private club," the designer says. "I like to think of the style as cosmopolitan glamour meets Miami Beach." Illuminated and coffered ceilings and built-in cabinetry add elegance. Silver-leaf chandeliers dripping with Swarovski crystals and Maya Romanoff mother-of-pearl and glass-beaded wall treatments shimmer by day and sparkle like diamonds at night.

Taking his cue from the ocean hues, La Fonte chose to clothe the condo in misty blues and soothing greens. These colors are set against the 'sand' of white Isis marble floors—rimmed by mosaic borders of opalescent glass—that flow through the rooms and out onto the balconies to greet



SEA THROUGH

In the living room, Fuse Lighting sconces from J. Batchelor in Dania Beach illuminate a coffee table custom designed by Steven La Fonte and fabricated by EVM Woodwork in North Lauderdale. Side tables from Grafton Furniture in Miami rest upon a silk-and-wool area rug from Carpet Source, which showcases a pattern of swirling circles, bringing the movement of the ocean indoors. The swivel chairs, upholstered in a Kravet fabric, provide panoramic views of the water.



STYLE SETTER

Classic-style wainscoting punctuated by a pair of low corner cabinets, a Maya Romanoff golden mother-of-pearl wall treatment, and a Schonbek chandelier purchased at Lightseeker in Fort Lauderdale, bring a formal feel to the dining room. The round wenge table, designed by La Fonte and fabricated by EVM Woodwork, invites intimacy.



CLUB CORNER

A custom-designed nook upholstered in a champagne velvet from Kravet leads the way to the home theater. The conversation piece includes a bench floating on Lucite legs and an hourglass table upholstered in Barbara Barry pleated silk from Kravet. The chandelier is by Schonbek.

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the waves. The furnishings, custom-designed by La Fonte, are simple silhouettes of wenge, Lucite and white lacquer. In his hands, for instance, a traditional wingback settee, grand and curvaceous, goes glam with tufted seamist silk upholstery and Lucite high heel legs. And an end table, shaped like an hourglass, is the belle of the ball in pleated silk.

The magic begins when the private elevator opens to the foyer, where a pair of crystal-handled and mirrored doors, decorated with entwined silver-leaf circles, lead to the vestibule and then to the living room.



BEACH BREAKFAST

A banquette nestled into the breakfast room's built-in cabinetry provides extra seating at the glass-topped table. Both La Fonte-designed pieces are completed by chairs from Grafton Furniture. The silk-pleated light fixture by Aqua Creations was purchased at J. Batchelor, and the sheer drapery fabric by Larsen make the small space bright and airy.

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Here, floor-to-ceiling built-in cabinetry complements the coffered ceiling in a scene reminiscent of a 1930s ocean liner; the chairs swivel to provide 360-degree water views. "I designed the wall unit to provide storage space," La Fonte says, "and I built the sofa into a niche within it, because I didn't want the furniture encroaching on the space."

The Kays take life easy on the beach; they work out in the condo complex gym, chill out in the spa, lie on the beach, then head out to dinner or a movie. But the condo is so warm and inviting, and so where they want to be, that sometimes being home is the ultimate luxury.



HIGH-STYLE SERVER

A quartet of glistening pendant lights decorated with grey-blue, smoke and topaz Swarovski crystals and stainless steel appliances from Kenko Services in Miami bring out the shine in the kitchen's high-gloss cherry cabinetry from Snaidero USA. The granite-topped island from KeysGranite in Miami features a butcher block in its center.



WATER BED

In the master suite, the king-size bed—designed by La Fonte and flanked by two nightstands also designed by La Fonte and fabricated by EVM Woodwork—is the perfect height for wave watching. The mirrored panels over the tufted headboard and ottomans from Grafton Furniture and the Maya Romanoff mother-of-pearl wall tile bring the beachfront bedside. The area rug is from Pacific Hide & Leather.



STYLE SELECTION

Function meets style in Antonello Mosca's multipurpose design stool, with a beechwood base and upholstered to preference. *Saphir*, starting from \$1,234; giorgettiusa.com

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One of their favorite getaways is the home theater, an intimate space that seats four. But the couple doesn't get a chance to be there much; their daughters and their friends have claimed the space as their own.

The master suite, with its restful palette and dazzling views, is the perfect place for the Kays to forget their cares. "The bed is just the right height to see the water," Frank says. "And you can actually hear the waves as they lull you to sleep." The condo has positively seduced its owners, and when they're not there, they sure wish they were. "We love the house so much that we're going to make it our full-time residence in a couple of years when the girls are in college," Frank says. "It makes me feel right at home, yet I feel like I'm on vacation 24/7." **L**