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## A CAPTIVA BEACHFRONT RETREAT DELIGHTS AND REFRESHES

Overlooking The Gulf Of Mexico And Surrounded  
By Natural Beauty, This Home Is 'An Island Entire Of Itself'

IMAGINE AN UNCONVENTIONAL VACATION HOME THAT is picture-perfect, a lively hub for family fun, and yet also a quiet retreat. Creating just such a house in Captiva, Fla., overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, one that allows a full range of living experiences, proved to be a challenge and a joy for interior designer Anna Marks.



Shrubbery frames the pool deck, where Gardenside furnishings invite relaxation. Fabricated of composite engineered wood, the deck is designed to withstand salty ocean air, while the pool walls are finished with a dark pearlescent surface, chosen to conserve energy by utilizing sun rays to keep the water warm.

"I was given a program to design a 4,000-square-foot vacation dream home with an open floor plan," Marks says. "The owners wanted a secluded family retreat, where they could gather to entertain friends or get away from it all."

A bit of a contradiction in terms, but that's what makes Captiva Island so, well, captivating. Home of the Calusa Indians, haunt of pirate Jose Gaspar, and a little



"We wanted stunning views out of every window, so the decision was made to position the house across the whole lot to maximize sunset and ocean vistas," interior designer Anna Marks says. While offering beautiful panoramas, two levels of fixed windows are tinted to comply with sea turtle regulations.



piece of heaven for Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Edna St. Vincent Millay, it has always offered that something special to anyone who has had the luck to find it.

"We wanted to take advantage of the beautiful Gulf views, and to provide a perfect setting to watch sunsets and enjoy the secluded beach," Marks says. Strategically placed grass and low shrubbery frame and shelter the rear grounds, where decks for sunbathing and outdoor dining, as well as cozy poolside chairs, invite family members to gather and catch up with each other.

In contrast to the sense of tranquility set by the serene landscape design, a gorgeous seascape dictates the open contemporary architecture and horizontal positioning of the home. Two floors of tinted fixed windows set in siding blend with nature to blur the transition between the inside and outside. A lattice-like wood shade mixes with a handsome steel-cable railing of horizontal bands that, in addition to serving a function, creates another dimension to enhance the side of the house.

Just inside, the main living space soars and flows, while unobtrusive pocket doors pull close to create an oasis for quiet time. Behind these

ABOVE: Through cocktail hour, guests relax in the living area's social grouping that pairs a plush sofa clad in a Perennials canvas weave from David Sutherland and Kravet's "Majorca" chair slipcovered in a crisp linen with Andrew Martin log stools that double as cocktail tables.

In the kitchen, Arper chairs pull up to an informal dining table that extends from Scavolini cabinetry topped in Caesarstone. A bridge above separates the master suite from the children's quarters.





milky-glass doors is an office and a small TV viewing room for the children.

Dictated by scale, furnishings in the living area include a sectional sofa custom upholstered in a luxurious off-white Sunbrella. "They can curl up and put their feet on the sofa without worrying about staining," the designer says. A swivel chair in charcoal linen by Kravet sits next to a custom oak occasional table designed by Marks, while stools of recycled timber double as cocktail tables. Translucent draperies were selected to be soft and airy, while diffusing light.

Nearby, an open kitchen and informal eating area serves as the heart of the home. "The idea was to have a centralized kitchen, where friends and family could be entertained while preparing a meal," Marks says. The millwork throughout the home was finished to match the Scavolini kitchen cabinetry that was set low to allow for gorgeous views in both directions. Strategically located between the kitchen and stairway, a two-story-high sculptural Redwood trellis creates a play of lights and shadows from sunrise to sunset.

"I toned the decor down to make the home livable and beachy — unpretentious, yet stylish and modern," Marks says. "It's understated and comfortable."



Reminiscent of weathered driftwood, the pitched ceiling in the sunroom is lined with wood planking, adding a textural layer to the space that features walls of windows on three sides.

**SOURCES**

Pool Area

Deck - Trex, Winchester, VA  
 Table, side chairs, lounge chairs and occasional table - Lister, Gardenside Premium Teak Furniture, Berkeley, CA  
 Umbrella - ShadeMaker, Anacara Co., Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Orange chairs - CB2, Chicago, IL

Living Area

Sofa - CB2, Chicago, IL

Fabric - Perennials, Inc., David Sutherland Showroom, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Throw - Owner's Collection  
 Club chair - Kravet, IDC, Estero, FL  
 Cocktail tables - Andrew Martin, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
 Square occasional table, wall paneling and frosted-glass doors - Custom designed by Interior Atelier, Inc., Chicago, IL  
 Fabricated by Trimcraft of Fort Myers, Inc., Fort Myers, FL

Floor lamp - Artemide, Inc., Coral Gables, FL  
 Loveseat and photography on the wall above loveseat - Owner's Collection  
 Loveseat fabric - Windsor Smith, Kravet, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Swivel chairs - Allermuir, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Fabric - Momentum Group, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Drapery fabric - Coraggio Textiles, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL



BELOW: Shadows of light and dark created by the trellised dividing wall in the stairway add sculptural interest while keeping the space open and light-filled.



Round accent table - Driade, Miami, FL  
 Striped area rug - Kasthall, Poliform USA, Miami, FL  
 Solid area rug - Stark Carpet, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL  
 Wood flooring fabricated by Kährs, Altamonte Springs, FL  
Kitchen  
 Cabinetry and island with table - Scavolini, Accento Italia, Chicago, IL  
 Countertops - Caesarstone, Hollywood, FL

Side chairs - Arper, Morlen Sinoway Atelier, Chicago, IL  
 Light fixtures - Lightology, Chicago, IL  
 Trellis work fabricated by Trimcraft of Fort Myers, Inc., Fort Myers, FL  
 Bridge railing - Raber Industries, Inc., Alva, FL  
Sunroom  
 Sofa and occasional table - Flexform, Poliform USA, Chicago, IL  
 Accent pillow fabric - LinenMe, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL

Lounge chairs and cocktail table base - Camerich, Home Element, Chicago, IL  
 Cocktail table top - Trimcraft of Fort Myers, Inc., Fort Myers, FL  
 Accent table - Arco, Luminaire, Chicago, IL  
 Track lighting - Tech Lighting, Lightology, Chicago, IL  
 Area rug - Kasthall, Poliform USA, Miami, FL  
Stairway  
 Trellis, stairway and coat rack - Trimcraft of Fort Myers, Inc., Fort Myers, FL  
 Handrail - Raber Industries, Inc., Alva, FL ♦