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BOCA GRANDE GETAWAY

INTERIOR DESIGN Mary Foley
and Michael Cox, foley&cox,
New York, NY
TEXT De Schofield
PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley,
Delray Beach, FL

White canvas draperies open to reveal the view of Gasparilla Bay from the living area. With the exception of a small trunk used as an occasional table from homeowners Lance and Tracy Isham's London residence, the space features all new furnishings that include a sofa designed by foley&cox and an oversized ottoman from Ralph Lauren.



Retired Vice Chairman Of
Polo/Ralph Lauren And His Wife
Create Their Own Brand Of Beach
Style For A Florida Retreat





"For their retreat, the Ishams wanted a fresh, hip style — something relaxed and easy to live with yet sophisticated and elegant," designer Michael Cox says.

THE TRIP ACROSS GASPARILLA Causeway to the Great Barrier Island of Gasparilla and the community of Boca Grande is like crossing a time warp. The secluded sliver of paradise, located on the Southwest coast between Fort Myers and Sarasota, is redolent of Old Florida — an idyllic setting that proved irresistible to Lance Isham and his wife, Tracy.

At that time, the Ishams, who maintain a residence in Hyannisport, Mass., were living in London where Lance served as vice chairman of Polo/Ralph Lauren. Upon his retirement, Lance and Tracy sold their London flat and

purchased a condominium in Boca Grande as a winter getaway. This 3,350-square-foot unit directly overlooking Gasparilla Sound offered spectacular views and abundant natural light, but lacked the open, loft-like feel the couple desired.

A complete renovation ensued, for which the Ishams enlisted the design expertise of

ABOVE: Yellow raffia from New Castle and chocolate-colored leather from Keleen Leathers add a tactile note in the living area, where, facing, "The Volcano," a pastel by artist Richard Cartwright, infuses a touch of saturated color in the space.

interior designers Mary Foley and Michael Cox, long time friends and business associates. "We knew Mary and Michael from when they worked for Ralph Lauren and were one of their first clients when their design firm opened," Tracy says. "This marks the third project we've tackled together, including a major renovation to our home in Cape Cod that went far beyond interior design." Collaborating with the Ishams and their builder, Craig Bruggeman, Foley and Cox orchestrated a total makeover of this waterfront residence.

RIGHT: In the foyer, the shell mirror from Beach Bungalow — a gift to Lance and Tracy that Cox and partner, interior designer Mary Foley, found in the Hamptons — centers an antique red chinoiserie chest from the Ishams' private collection.



"We wanted a soft feel with sharp edges," Lance says. "There are no ceiling moldings. All you see are very straight, clean lines."



Lucy, the Ishams' West Highland terrier, relaxes on a white linen-covered chair with matching ottoman in the guest room. Here, a leather-wrapped bed by Ralph Lauren is the centerpiece of this space, top right, where a custom-designed bedside table features a "lampacana" weave of natural fibers.



An oversized mirror leans casually against a wall in the dining area, where a simple, clean-lined chandelier from Charles Edwards in London suspends just above the dining grouping. The Ishams' London purchases also include an oil painting by artist Henry Weinberger, and 18th-century Chinese architectural watercolors above the black chinoiserie sideboard from Ralph Lauren, bottom facing.



The Ishams wanted a fresh, modern interior — an environment that is at once relaxed and elegant. “I love the Palm Beach ambiance and rich sense of historical reference but desired an updated, contemporary version with the open feel of a loft,” Tracy says. “Something almost ‘Palm Beach meets South Beach.’”

“We took Tracy’s comments to heart and created a plan that was young and fun,” Cox says. “Most importantly, we wanted it to reflect their personalities and suit their lifestyle.” Fortunately, a top-floor unit afforded the advantage of higher ceilings contributing to an airy, loft-like effect.

For furnishings, the Ishams turned to a trove of gallery finds and prized pieces from their London flat. “We wanted it to look like we’d lived there a while, yet in a way that was fresh, not staid,” Tracy says.

BELOW: A fresh palette of pale green combines with Crezana Design’s natural raffia wall covering from John Rosselli in the den. This room converts to sleeping quarters with a pair of custom-designed daybeds piled with accent pillows to lend the look of sofas.



GLEAMING WHITE THASSOS MARBLE DEFINES THE FLOORING, COUNTERTOPS, TUB SURROUND AND SHOWER INTERIOR IN THE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED MASTER BATH.



Foley and Cox suggested a mainly neutral palette, a concept Tracy originally questioned but later wholeheartedly embraced. "We introduced bold accents of color, but felt strongly that an overall white, neutral backdrop would best suit our mission to let the view take center stage," Foley says.

This theory is best proven in the living area that abounds with new pieces that were purchased or designed expressly for this room.

A conversation grouping facing the view features an all-white, clean-lined sofa covered in carefree canvas that pops against the teak-wood flooring. An armless chair from Ralph Lauren sits next to a round, low occasional table made of woven banana bark. Directly fronting the window wall, a large, circular white lacquer table surrounded by six stools clad in chocolate brown leather provides an informal gathering space.

A sitting area in the master bedroom features an antique Anglo-Raj mahogany and cane chaise. The oil on canvas, "Humarock Beach Scene," by Christina Keating hangs prominently above the custom-designed bed wrapped in a bold stripe from Bennison and covered in lacy layers from Léron.



Reserved for formal dinners and holiday affairs, a "black tie" palette presides in the dining area. Here, the elegant setting is grounded by a generous-sized walnut table that Lance designed originally for the couple's London flat, and six chairs recovered in a Ralph Lauren crisp black and white stripe.

The most traditional space in the home is the master bedroom, where a fresh shock of indigo pairs with the soft beige of the area

rug made of jute and wool. "We wanted to create a cozy nesting place here," Cox says of the serene setting anchored by a custom-designed bed with the headboard and matching bedskirt sporting a classic awning striped fabric from Bennison. "I've seen homes that look like show homes, but I can't believe anyone really lives in them," Lance says. "What we love about this place is that it's so appealing to the eye and yet so livable, too."

INCLUSIVE OF GASPARILLA SOUND,"
BOATS IN THE DISTANCE,
THE OSPREYS SOARING OVERHEAD."



Table lamp - Crate & Barrel, New York, NY
Area rug - Misha Carpet, New York, NY

Den

Daybeds - Custom designed by foley&cox,
New York, NY
Fabric - Chris Stone, Inc., Vernon, CA
Fabricated by Martin Albert Interiors, Inc.,
New York, NY
Accent pillows - Laurin Copen Antiques,
Bridgehampton, NY
Ottoman/cocktail table - Owners' Collection
Chest - Ralph Lauren, D&D Building,
New York, NY
Plantation shutters fabricated by Stout
Homes, Inc., Sarasota, FL
Wall treatment - Crezana Design,
John Rosselli & Assoc., Ltd., D&D Building,
New York, NY

Artwork above chest - Hughes Gallery,
Boca Grande, FL

Master Bath

Cabinetry - Custom designed by foley&cox,
New York, NY
Cabinetry fabrication, shower enclosure, tub
surround and flooring - Stout Homes, Inc.,
Sarasota, FL
Chair - George Smith, New York, NY
Fabric - Holland & Sherry, D&D Building,
New York, NY
Showerhead - Waterworks, New York, NY
Master Bedroom
Bed - Custom designed by foley&cox,
New York, NY
Fabricated by Martin Albert Interiors, Inc.,
New York, NY
Bed covering - Léron, New York, NY

Headboard fabric - Bennison Fabrics, Inc.,
New York, NY

Chest, bedside chest, mirror and table lamps -
Owners' Collection
Bedside table - Ballard Designs,
West Chester, OH
Chaise - Anglo-Raj Antiques,
New York, NY
Bench - Martin Albert Interiors, Inc.,
New York, NY
Bench and drapery fabric - Rogers & Goffigon,
Ltd., D&D Building, New York, NY
Artwork - Hughes Gallery, Boca Grande, FL
Area rug - Stark Carpet Corp., D&D Building,
New York, NY
Throughout
Builder - Stout Homes, Inc., Sarasota, FL
Floral - Botanica, Boca Grande, FL ♦

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