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THE NAPLES LUXURY HOME REDEFINED



# DESIGNED *for a* DESIGNER

An eclectic triumph  
in Talis Park delivers  
'pretty without being precious'

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# DESIGNED for a DESIGNER

An eclectic triumph in Talis Park delivers 'pretty without being precious'

BY MICHAEL KORB  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

It must be a wonderful feeling as an interior designer to be hired to help with details on a new build by a homeowner who happens to be a retired interior designer herself. It came out a win-win for both Naples designer Pamela Durkin and homeowners Catherine and Salvatore Lanuto, as this eclectic triumph in Talis Park attests.

The approximately 4,200-square-foot, four-bedroom, six-bath (four full, two half) residence was being built and finished while the Lanutos were often at their home in Massachusetts. Mrs. Lanuto wanted some eyes and ears on the ground as well as a respected sounding board to help her navigate in a town where she had never worked.

"She had an idea and a vision of what she wanted this house to look like and what she wanted it to be," Ms. Durkin says. "And she knew she had been out of the industry long enough that she felt she needed somebody who was current and working in the industry to guide her on her decisions and whether she was doing things that were in keeping with the (latest technologies)."

It wasn't that Mrs. Lanuto necessarily needed another design eye. Her taste and style are on point, and the finished product is wonderfully tailored and confident without fuss.

"I like what I like," says Mrs. Lanuto, who was a designer for 32 years. "I have my own

tastes. But someone can show me something and I'm open to it ... (Ms. Durkin) helped with the lighting. She knew where I wanted everything ... She was sort of my foreman. She was so efficient. She was amazing, and so friendly."

But as a native New Yorker and a resident of the Boston area, Mrs. Lanuto knew she didn't want standard Florida coastal. She wanted to put her own stamp on the place. She even added a second floor to the architect's plan, adding an extra bedroom along with a loft/den/office with two balconies (one covered, one not) that overlook a stunning fairway.

"I'm very eclectic," she says. "I wanted old beams in the ceiling and everyone went, 'Yuck. We box out beams down here or do faux beams.' But I found a guy who was working with his brother taking down barns in Missouri. I found him while he was in the swamps ... He had these old hickory beams. I knew they'd be gorgeous once they were power-washed and whitewashed. So I started there."

She also wanted to introduce some contemporary touches to her new home (she likes a lot of styles and knows how to make them work together).

"She wanted it to be tailored but also comfortable," Ms. Durkin says. "She wanted their grown children to be able to come down and enjoy the house. She now she has a grandchild, so she just really wants it to be a place where they can enjoy themselves."

But she also wants it "to look pretty without being precious."

Some of the design elements that make that



**Top:** Oiled walnut flooring and vintage hickory beams add warmth and texture to this new Talis Park home, while various shades of white balanced with soft neutrals keep things cozy.

**Middle:** A second story was added to the original floor plan and gives the homeowners long golf course views.

**Above:** The entryway boasts dramatic groin ceilings, detailed millwork and polished porcelain inlay mixed with rich hardwood flooring.



possible in the open concept main floor are the warm walnut flooring oiled for a matte finish; soft, textured fabrics on the furnishings; shiplap in a bedroom; and neutral tones that are subtly sophisticated.

For example, the kitchen features not only two-tone cabinetry, but also a mix of cabinet styles.

“The kitchen top cabinets have a Scandinavian look, while the bottom are Shaker,” says Mrs. Lanuto. “The bottom are painted a tiramisù (think cappuccino), and the tops are painted a coconut cream. I wanted the cabinets to be that coconut and the walls a stark white.”

The backsplash grout in the coconut cream color helps to seamlessly blend tones. “That subtle color change brings an extra level of texture,” says Ms. Durkin. “Those subtle changes keep it really interesting.”

**Top:** The added second story gives the home a California bungalow style that still fits with the Naples aesthetic.

**Middle:** The kitchen utilizes a variety of styles and colors for a wonderful result: white Scandinavian-style cabinets up top (in coconut textured wood finish) and Shaker down below in a contrasting tiramisù matte finish. The counter and island surfaces are Statuario by Pompeii.

**Above left:** The master bath shower tile cost a whopping \$200 per square foot. **Above right:** Shiplap adds character to the walls of a guest bedroom.

**On the cover:** The entryway of this 4,200-square-foot Talis Park home gives a glimpse of what’s to come.

Another interesting feature in the kitchen is a hidden pantry door that looks like the rest of the cabinetry, but opens into another room. Also, over the 42-inch Wolf range is a custom-designed hood that mimics a design detail above the living room fireplace (which sits directly opposite the kitchen) that was

finished in sand float stucco. Between the two a large island — also in tiramisù and illuminated by beautiful black metal pendants with gold interiors.

“We did subtle areas of black to bring in some contrast,” says Ms. Durkin. “In the gallery in the front hallway, the railing on

the stairs ...”

The black works nicely with the fireplace and hearth, double oven, slider frames, etc., that are also noir.

And speaking of the front hallway, it’s a dramatic area featuring groin vault ceilings that bring some Old Hollywood glamour to a home that is essentially a California bungalow designed by a Northern designer with a little help from her Naples counterpart.

In short, it’s the best of everything for a relaxed getaway. ■

— Pamela Durkin Designs  
2016 Trade Center Way  
594-9798  
www.pamela-durkin.com

— Imperial Homes of Naples  
5133 Castello Drive  
234-5672  
www.ihnnaples.com