



The White House

BY CHERYL BLACKERBY

A Chic Boca Raton Residence
Features Little Fuss But Lots Of Style

The spacious, contemporary two-story house in Woodfield Country Club in Boca Raton originally had traditional decor with a French-country theme. But the new owners, full-time residents of London, wanted something very different for their house in Florida.

They had plenty of traditional furnishings and architecture in England, so for their second house in the tropics, they preferred something modern, sleek and sophisticated—a place to relax and put up their feet but also elegant and visually exciting for their many guests.

Very specific in their directions to Jill Jones, interior designer with Brown's Interior Design, the couple had a laundry list of design requirements far from the usual tropical chic. They didn't want a lot of fuss, or a lot of color—actually hardly any color, mostly monochromatic white.

RIGHT: The 108-inch-long dining table, made from reclaimed wood, is able to accommodate the homeowners' many guests. They requested casual seating and natural wicker chairs with white linen cushions are comfortable enough for multiple courses and conversation into the night. Glass hurricane lamps hold seashells and candles for an intimate glow and overhead high-hat lighting substitutes for a traditional chandelier. Three framed mirrors highlight objets d'art in built-in wall niches. Glossy white woodwork frames the niches and window, which overlooks the front garden and water feature.



The original kitchen was French country with a large brick arch over the stove and granite countertops. All of that came out. Jones put in gray lacquer cabinets and white glass marble on the counters and a breakfast bar. Guests can eat meals comfortably seated on four hydraulic bar stools with white leather seats. All appliances are stainless steel. At the beverage center, guests can make their own cappuccinos and espressos. The center island has a vegetable sink. All accents are stainless steel. The breakfast bar overlooks the family room, and invites easy conversation between rooms.



"They wanted something very simple, very clean, very crisp and monotone," says Jones. "They wanted all of the traditional things to disappear."

The footprint remained the same and nothing structurally was done, but the house looks so different it could be another place entirely.

So what's a designer to do when clients want a virtually all-white interior for every room, including the six bathrooms and five bedrooms? Jones knew exactly what to do and the outcome is as ethereal as a dream—rooms that are light and bright, urban and urbane, yet warm and welcoming.

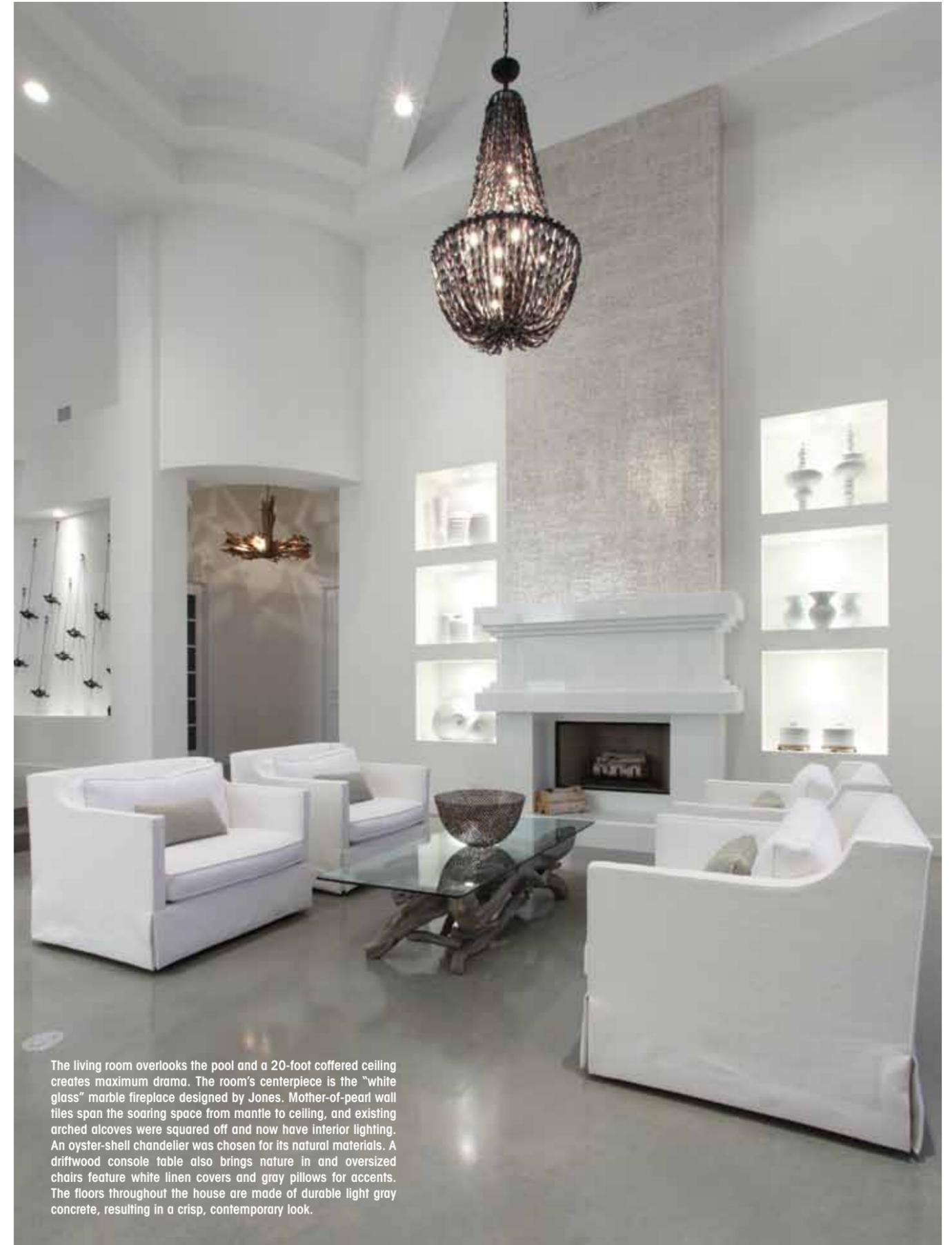
All of the rooms are an artistic mix of shades of white and gray with juxtaposing textures: matte and gloss, glassy marble and nubby linens, sleek white built-in cabinets and rustic furniture made of driftwood.

The large cast-stone fireplace got a dramatic makeover with white marble and glistening tiles, the floors were done in a polished white concrete, and the chandeliers are iridescent mother-of-pearl.

Even the staircase, often overlooked as a design element, became a main feature of the living room with enclosing walls



ABOVE: The original staircase was walled-in with an ornate and traditional cast-stone balustrade on the second floor. Enclosing walls were removed, which highlighted the stainless-steel and Lucite railing, designed by Jones, and the second-floor landing where downstairs guests can look up and see three black and white beach scenes. The modern staircase forms a natural division between the dining and living rooms. "The stairs have become an integral part of the house," says Jones. For quiet, cushioned steps, tight-weave gray carpeting covers the stairs.



The living room overlooks the pool and a 20-foot coffered ceiling creates maximum drama. The room's centerpiece is the "white glass" marble fireplace designed by Jones. Mother-of-pearl wall tiles span the soaring space from mantle to ceiling, and existing arched alcoves were squared off and now have interior lighting. An oyster-shell chandelier was chosen for its natural materials. A driftwood console table also brings nature in and oversized chairs feature white linen covers and gray pillows for accents. The floors throughout the house are made of durable light gray concrete, resulting in a crisp, contemporary look.

The original master bathroom was gutted and sinks and showers were moved. The centerpiece now is a sculpted, freestanding tub that dominates the room. A gray built-in bench stands under the window and provides towel storage. The mirrored sink, which has an identical one on the other side of the room, features washed-gray cabinets, chrome faucets and the same white glass marble featured on the downstairs fireplace. Gray porcelain tiles cover the room's floors and two showers. A gray iron chandelier features painted shades and sparkling crystals. The accent table is made of driftwood.



knocked out and opened to reveal a second-floor landing, which is now a space to spotlight black and white art of beach scenes. The cast-stone balustrade railing was replaced with Lucite and stainless steel that's as much art as a featured painting.

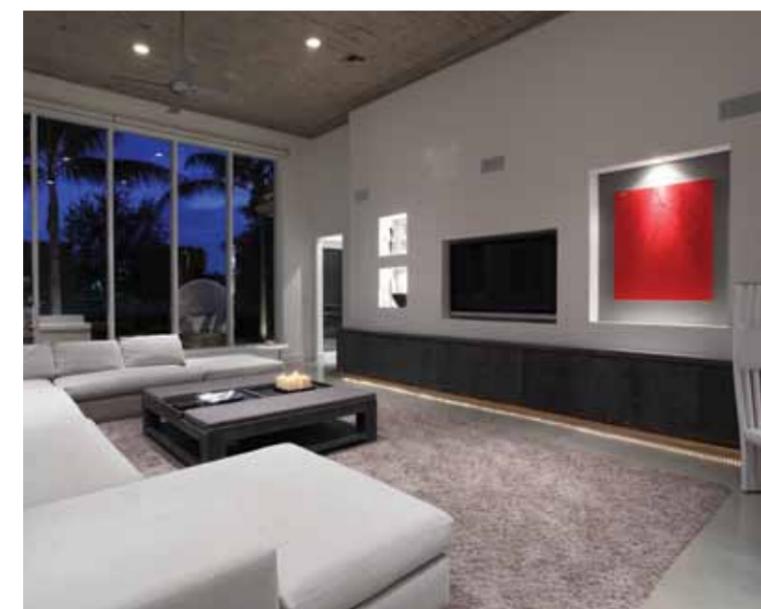
"I've done a little bit of everything but this was actually my first very contemporary home," says Jones, who is excited about the results.

And she did manage to put the tropics into the design with driftwood side tables, mirrors decorated with shells (white, of course) and the mother-of-pearl chandeliers. The modern-minded owners were delighted. ○



ABOVE: The office had existing built-ins and dark brown paneling, which Jones painted dove gray. The desk's bases are chrome sawhorses with a glass top and a chrome task light complements the piece. The man of the house, who is tall, chose a white leather Parsons chair for comfort. "He does do work when he's here," says Jones, so he needed something functional as well as stylish. Two rattan wing chairs with white linen seat cushions and plush-pile gray carpeting soften the room. The high-beamed ceiling was painted a soft gray to make it a bit warmer and more masculine. The lady of the house has a separate office.

ABOVE LEFT: The covered outside patio has a comfortable sofa and rattan swivel chairs with pillows, all covered with synthetic white Sunbrella fabric. The two chrome and glass tables can be separated for more versatility. "We live in a tropical climate and furniture is becoming more important for outdoors, especially covered spaces," says Jones. The house has other sheltered outdoor spaces, where family and guests can find their own private spots.



LEFT: The owners' bright red painting, with its own built-in niche, is a brilliant highlight of the family room. A 60-inch TV is set into another niche, and two built-in lighted niches on the left of the screen provide display space. Jones designed a gray-stained wood media cabinet that runs the length of the room for storing equipment and games. The gray chenille sectional, designed by Jones and manufactured by Modus, wraps around the room and features an attached ottoman at one end. The wood-plank ceiling was painted to look like driftwood and the carpet is gray shag. The cocktail table, created by Brown's Interior Design, has two removable trays in the center. A ceiling fan gives the room a tropical feeling.