

Home Improvement: 75+ DESIGN IDEAS

Ever wonder what really makes a room dazzling? Simple, it's the details—bold strokes and subtle gestures that fill spaces indoors and out with comfort, character and style. *Boca Raton* takes readers inside 10 sensational Florida spaces and—with expert insight from area designers as well as our home editor—pinpoints a host of extraordinary treatments and savvy ideas that can help make any room spectacular, including yours.

BY BRAD MEE

INTERIOR DESIGN: Catherine Caporaso, Brown's Interior Design, Boca Raton, brownsinteriors.com

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA PATIO

- [] **SYMMETRY CREATES** a calm, elegant order in the patio-turned-cabana.
- [] **GENEROUSLY SIZED FURNISHINGS** provide the necessary scale for large outdoor areas.
- [] **CUSHIONS, PILLOWS AND SWAGGED** draperies soften the contemporary setting.
- [] **AN AREA RUG** delineates the seating area, creating a sense of coziness.
- [] **CLEAN-LINED FURNISHINGS** and simple white fabrics shape the chic modern style.
- [] **A BUILT-IN BANQUETTE** provides plentiful seating without consuming excessive space.
- [] **THE MIRRORED BACK WALL** creates visual depth and pulls light into the dark cavity.
- [] **POOL STEPS** create a dramatic approach to space while accentuating its symmetry.
- [] **A HIDDEN, TWO-SIDED MOVIE SCREEN** drops from the ceiling for outdoor entertainment (and surround-sound fills the courtyard space).

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA GALLERY HALL



INTERIOR DESIGN: Susan Lachance, Susan Lachance Interior Design, Boca Raton, susanlachance.com

[] **AN ALL-WHITE DECOR** creates a sense of energy.

[] **SKYLIGHTS** follow the shape of the gallery, evenly illuminating the entire space.

[] **THE SCULPTED, DIMENSIONAL ART PIECE**—which mirrors the ripple effect caused by a stone tossed into water—spans an entire wall.

[] **LIGHT EMANATES** from behind round sconces made of thick green glass.

[] **WHITE GLASS FLOORS** brighten the space with their reflective surface.

[] **FROSTED, FRAMELESS DOORS** on the art wall enter into a bedroom. Framed, clear glass doors on the left lead into a billiards room.

[] **INSET ZEN PLANTERS** perform like area rugs to visually break up an expanse of floor.

[] **END-OF-HALL ARTWORK** repeats geometric shapes subtly featured throughout the house, creating comforting continuity.

LIGHTEN UP

Designer **Susan Lachance**, a pro at using light to help create spectacular interior spaces, believes that a little is never enough. "Light is most desirable when it comes from three or more sources; to create a well-lit, comfortable space, you need light coming from various angles," she says. Here are four more of Lachance's tips on light.



1 Texture absorbs light and affects the way it is perceived. The more texture, the more weighted the decor feels. Smoother textures make a room feel lighter.

2 Reflective surfaces enhance light in a room, while also grabbing your attention. Be forewarned: Glossy surfaces also show imperfections. Dull or matte surfaces tend to recede and are better at disguising marks and blemishes.

3 Natural light affects the way colors are perceived. For example, the glare off the ocean will wash out a color, while light coming from the north will cool it. Before you commit to a specific paint color, test it in your room to determine the effects of the space's natural light on the hue.

4 Mirrors amplify the light in a room. I use them very subtly or as a decorative element that anchors a space like a powder room or foyer. They are part of the furnishings; never install them wall-to-wall.



INTERIOR DESIGN: Pam Nadler, Brown's Interior Design, Boca Raton, brownsinteriors.com

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA LIVING ROOM

[] **LARGE FURNISHINGS** provide appropriate scale for the open space.

[] **A PATTERNED AREA RUG** defines the sitting area while establishing the color palette and contemporary character of the room.

[] **THE GLASS TOP** allows the rug to be admired through the coffee table and helps maintain the room's airy look and feel.

[] **REPEATED COORDINATED PILLOW** and lounge chair fabrics create continuity in the room's design.

[] **THE FOUR-PIECE ART** focal point reinforces the room's contemporary style.

[] **CUSTOM VALANCES** accentuate the large windows and reinforce the room's color palette.

[] **GLASS-TOPPED ACCENT TABLES** add form and function without visual bulk.

[] **SHEER DINING AREA DRAPERIES** add a shot of softness to the clean-lined decor.



INTERIOR DESIGN: Toby Zack, Toby Zack Designs, Fort Lauderdale, tobyzackdesigns.com

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA POWDER ROOM

[] **THE GLASS VESSEL SINK** and open plumbing consume minimal visual space in the small room.

[] **THE WALL FAUCET** and controls don't clutter the glass countertop.

[] **WHITE-ON-WHITE WALLPAPER** creates depth without imposing on the space.

[] **A SIMPLE ROUND MIRROR** suits the space's minimal decor.

[] **PRISTINE WHITE FLOORS** flow uninterrupted from the home's hallway, enhancing the sense of space.



SARGENT ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA FOYER

[] **A LARGE CHEST** is appropriately scaled to fill the entry's spacious area.

[] **DIAGONALLY LAID CHECKERBOARD** stone tiles add pattern and movement to the floor.

[] **A DISTINCTIVE MIRROR** performs as art when placed over the large chest. Its black and gold finish links it to the chest featuring similar accent colors.

[] **HANDCRAFTED MOLDING** enriches the foyer walls with classic, dimensional detailing.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Jeanne L. Manetti, The Decorators Unlimited, Palm Beach Gardens, decoratorsunlimited.com



SCOTT ZIMMERMAN

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA SUN ROOM

[] **ECO-CONSCIOUS ELEMENTS** include low VOC paint, re-used antiques, cork floors, bamboo shades and linen drapes.

[] **THE CEILING** is detailed with inset fabric panels bound by decorative nail-heads.

[] **DRAPERY PANELS** extend to the ceiling creating a sense of height and grandeur.

[] **LARGE-SCALE PATTERNED WALLPAPER** adds interest and depth to the interior of the built-in shelving.

[] **A HAND-CARVED** James Duncan mirror hanging on the brick wall reflects lake views from across the room.

[] **THE AREA RUG** anchors the center of the room but allows the cork floors to take center stage.

[] **BENJAMIN MOORE'S** Palladian Blue softens the brick wall and complements the room's serene lakeside setting.

[] **RAFFIA LAMP SHADES**, bamboo blinds, cork floors and the wooden bench add texture-rich accents to the otherwise soft room.

[] **A COFFEE TABLE** inspired by a garden stool extends the room's natural theme.



INTERIOR DESIGN: Lisa Erdmann, Lisa Erdmann & Associates, Palm Beach, lisaerdmann.com



THE DALEENNA VERSAILLES AT AZURA BY TOLL BROTHERS BY ROBERT BRANTLEY

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA MASTER BATHROOM

[] **A LARGE WINDOW** allows light to flow into the open shower area as well as into the bathing area—thanks to an opening in the room-dividing wall.

[] **THE BATHTUB SEPARATES** the his-and-hers vanity zones.

[] **TINY BRICK-STACKED, BLUE TILE** is strategically placed to add shots of color and design continuity.

[] **SUBTLY PATTERNED WALLPAPER** softens the room's hard stone surfaces. Large mirrors visually expand the bathing and vanity area.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Glenn Midnet, Design Group West, Naples, designgroupwest.com



SCOT ZIMMERMAN

INTERIOR DESIGN: Shelly Preziosi, Boca Raton, interiorsbysHELLYPREZIOSI.COM

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA KITCHEN

[] A PAIR OF INDEPENDENT GALLEYS serves a two-chef kitchen.

[] THE COMMON CENTER ISLAND is equipped with facing dual-fuel Wolf ranges, one for each of the chefs.

[] WELL-DEFINED WORK ZONES maximize the room's efficiency by minimizing the amount of movement required while cooking, serving and cleaning up.

[] THE SPACIOUS PANTRY, behind the back wall of the kitchen, provides the lion's share of storage and is open at both ends for easy entry.

[] FOR EASY ACCESS, pots hang from overhead racks, long-handled utensils dangle from rods encircling the vent hood, knives are attached to wall-mounted magnetic strips

and small canisters of much-used spices are suspended from magnetic panels mounted on the side of the island.

[] THE FORWARD OF THE ROOM'S two large islands separates the cooking area from the family room and performs as a serving and entertaining bar.

[] OPEN SHELVING STORES the homeowner's library of cookbooks.

[] THE COUNTER IS RAISED above the adjacent prep sink and work area, keeping these functional features out of view.

[] THE BACKSPASHES and back wall are dressed in stylish, easy-to-clean 2-inch-square slate tiles.

[] DIAGONAL FLOOR TILES provide pleasing contrast to the squared-off grid of cabinetry.

[] SIMPLE, CONTEMPORARY PENDANT lights add style without creating overhead clutter.

DOWN TO THE DETAILS

Boca designer **Shelly Preziosi** integrated unique features that make this kitchen both practical and beautiful. "Good design balances function and form," she says. "There's no reason to sacrifice one for the other."



HANGING OUT

A wall-mounted, chrome-plated grid provides abundant hanging space for aprons, pans and oversized equipment in the pantry.



SPACE SAVER

This integrated desk features pullout file drawers and sits adjacent to the wine cooler.



SPICE IS RIGHT

Magnetized spice containers are conveniently positioned on the side of the dual-chef cooking island.



POT SHOTS

Easy-to-reach pans hang above the cooking island, adding color and convenience to the room.



UTENSILS WITHIN REACH

A rod encircles the large vent hood providing a spot to hang much-used cooking utensils.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

A specialized rack extends from corner cabinetry creating easy access to stored appliances.



SARGENT ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA MASTER BEDROOM

[] **A LARGE UPHOLSTERED SCREEN**, staged behind the hand-painted headboard, establishes the bed as the room's primary focal point.

[] **LAYERED FABRICS**, furnishings and accessories create a comforting, collected look that personalizes the bedroom.

[] **A MIX OF ANTIQUES** and new furnishings foster the room's created-over-time style.

[] **UNMATCHED BEDSIDE TABLES** add character. Matching lamps balance the disparate pieces.

[] **A NONDESCRIPT PEDESTAL** displays a sculpture without consuming excessive space.

[] **GARDEN VIEWS**, floral patterned draperies and a trellis-patterned rug establish the room's timeless garden style.

[] **A VENETIAN MIRROR** acts as art while reflecting views of the gardens as seen from the windows across the room.

[] **GARDEN STOOLS** fill space below the console.



INTERIOR DESIGN: Lisa Erdmann, Lisa Erdmann & Associates, Palm Beach, lisaerdmann.com



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IDEAS FROM A FLORIDA GUEST BEDROOM

[] **THE DARK-WOOD TRAY CEILING** visually lowers the height of the room, thus adding to its coziness.

[] **LARGE CROWN MOLDING** suits the room's generous scale.

[] **A DESK** performs double duty, serving as one of the two nonmatching bedside tables.

[] **THE CANOPY BED** helps fill the volume of the spacious room.

[] **REPETITION OF BLACK AND WHITE** patterned fabric colors creates continuity and punches of interest.

[] **AN AREA RUG** delineates the room's sitting area and links it to the bed.

[] **UNMATCHED ACCESSORIES** and art above the bedside tables add personalized touches.

[] **THE SITTING AREA** makes use of the often-underutilized, end-of-bed floor space.

[] **THE CANOPY BED'S** drapery panels soften the room, a particularly effective treatment in a room featuring shutters rather than draperies. 



INTERIOR DESIGN: Holly Fortunato, Brown's Interior Design, Boca Raton, brownsinteriors.com