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& Much More

Driftwood Dreams

Rough-hewn materials and a surf-inspired palette evoke the coastal vibe that a young couple envisioned for their new ranch-style home in Ravinia.

By Tate Gunnerson // Photography by Michael Robinson



Clockwise from left: "A white kitchen is timeless," says Andrea Goldman about the spacious chef's paradise with ship-lap wall paneling and soapstone; designed to withstand the rigors of day-to-day living, the sofas are covered in slipcovers accented with pillows that echo the color of the soapstone fireplace; a sculptural white lamp gives a modern edge to the living room.



Often accompanied by joyous tears, the big decorating reveal is a time-honored TV tradition, one that interior designer Andrea Goldman enjoys planning with panache for her own clients. So when it was time to stage a Ravinia ramble for a couple with two young sons, she banished them from the house until every detail, from wallcoverings to furnishings, was in place. Then she anxiously awaited their phone call. "You're always hoping that it'll be what they thought it would be," Goldman says.

The stakes were high for Goldman, who was involved in the project from the very beginning, collaborating closely with architect Mark Downey of Downey Szafratz Architects (drs-arch.com) and Matt Pollack of Red Rock Custom Homes (redrockdevelopmentllc.com) to bring the family's vision to life. In the process, she designed all the cabinetry and moldings, selected the finishes and incorporated new furnishings.

"It feels very coastal, and that's what they wanted," Goldman says, "a Hamptons-style house." White walls, wide-plank hardwood flooring and a crisp



blue-and-white color palette establish the beachy feel. In the living room, a soapstone fireplace flanked by custom cabinetry creates a strong focal point for a seating area anchored by matching sofas covered in tailored white slipcovers. "The soapstone is a beautiful chalky blue," Goldman says, noting that it relates to the bluestone pavers just outside the French doors. "It has a casualness, but it's definitely gorgeous."

The kitchen countertops are made of the same soapstone, the blue color beautifully complementing the shiplap wall paneling, white cabinetry and handglazed ceramic subway tiles with irregular edges. And Goldman notes that the custom chandelier made of oak, metal and pieces of glass "dresses up the space without going too far." On the other side of the kitchen, the designer created a quasi-family room, incorporating a round breakfast table, a desk and a pair of upholstered chairs, which are also tightly slipcovered. "We didn't want them to look shabby-chic," Goldman says.

Rustic, however, is another story. In the dining room, a cabinet made of reclaimed wood from France coexists peacefully with an elegant metal chandelier and mirrored sconces atop a sisal rug. A grass-cloth wallcovering speaks both languages. "There's a pull between formal and informal," Goldman says.

The shiplap reappears in the master suite, where a pair of washed-out wooden bedside tables flank a tufted headboard



Clockwise from left: The master bedroom has French doors leading to the garden while Scatney marble is used in the master bath; in the kitchen, comfortable chairs covered in tight white slipcovers have picture-perfect views of the backyard. Opposite page: A custom desk by Golden Triangle and a gray leather chair from Merco Gardens create a sophisticated workspace.



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covered in gray fabric. A seating nook with French doors floods the room with natural daylight. Patterned draperies, however, can be pulled shut to create an environment more conducive to sleep. "The drapes make the bedroom feel that much cozier," Goldman explains.

A grass-cloth wallcovering does the same for the en suite bathroom, which has been outfitted with white marble flooring, a natural oak linen wardrobe and white painted cabinets. What's not cozy is the cavernous walk-in closet, and that's by design. The long space has open shelving on both sides, and a large white dresser with tons of additional storage.

"It was a fun house to do," Goldman says, describing the family as "dream clients" who attended every single design meeting and trusted her judgment. "I didn't have to bring them around."

Despite their enthusiasm throughout the project, Goldman still felt a sense of relief when she received a voicemail from her clients shortly after they first toured the home, thanking her for bringing their vision to life. "We were in shock when we initially walked through the house," the wife says of the emotional experience. "We couldn't believe that this was our home. The reality was better than the dream." ■

A sisal rug and a grass-cloth wallcovering establish a rustic backdrop for what is nevertheless a very elegant, formal dining room.

