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100 New
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Interior Design by Scott Snyder
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A Lesson in the Classics

WITH A NOD TO ENGLAND, A BASIC SPACE
IN WEST PALM BEACH IS REIMAGINED



Transforming a West Palm Beach, Florida, apartment required “demolishing a typical builder’s layout to create a Georgian-style home for the couple’s antiques and art,” says designer Scott Snyder. ABOVE: The entrance hall. Rubelli silk for panels in cabinets. Table from Mallett.

RIGHT: The living room overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway and Palm Beach beyond. Bergères and candelabrum lamps, Kentshire Galleries. Vase lamp from Marvin Alexander. Rubelli blue pillow fabric. Brunschwig & Fils tub chair and pillow print. Shades from Conrad.



After 22 years as a designer, Scott Snyder can confidently say that he is comfortable working in a wide range of styles, but he is most partial to the English vernacular and, above all, to Georgian interiors. "Clients looking at my portfolio will see that I'm very diverse, that I've done residences in every style. While I love everything I've done, I'm certainly more of an Anglophile than a Francophile. For me, the Georgian style is more refined, not as fussy." So it was with particular pleasure that he agreed to accompany long-time clients who share his aesthetic in their quest for a larger Florida residence.

Snyder had done both an apartment on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan for the couple and a Palm Beach residence—an oceanfront apartment that he took from three bedrooms down to one, to open up the spaces as much as possible. "But they needed something with a more commodious living area," he says. When their search took them from Palm Beach to West Palm Beach and a decidedly contemporary apartment in a newer building on the Intracoastal Waterway, Snyder saw immediately what it could become. "People come to me for traditional," he explains, "but we can't all run out and buy a Georgian house or live in a Rosario Candela apartment on Park Avenue. The key is to use what you've been dealt." In this case, it meant a more than 6,000-square-foot, 10-room apartment with 10-

"The books are an inviting background in the frequently used dining room," Snyder notes. An 1870 Severin Roesen oil is above the sideboard. Chandelier, Marvin Alexander. Rogers & Goffigon sideboard panel and cushion fabrics. Bound volumes, Imperial Fine Books. Stark carpet.



foot ceilings and views that stretched over neighboring Palm Beach to the cruise ships on the Atlantic beyond. "It was five seconds from Palm Beach, but the interior vistas were bad, and the flow didn't work," the designer recalls. His solution was as straightforward as it was dramatic: He removed all the interior walls and reconfigured the rooms. "It was a matter of correcting the odd angular spaces," says Snyder, who worked with project architect Danilo Enaje and senior designer John Mayberry on the yearlong project.

Furnishing his clients with a more traditional interior than the bones of the apartment

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would have suggested also entailed a clear-cut solution. Snyder installed traditional moldings, millwork and paneling everywhere, and he created rooms that incorporated his clients' love of antiques as well as their burgeoning collection of 19th-century paintings.

The effect is immediately visible the moment one crosses the threshold, itself framed by slender pilasters, into the limestone-floored entrance. In the adjoining hall, a pair of oils by Edward Henry Potthast depicting children playing in the surf are displayed on facing walls, a hallmark of the designer's insistence on balance and symmetry. Below the paintings are marble-topped Regency-style commodes that Snyder designed himself, after the antique commodes the couple had originally selected proved too large for the space.



Avid art collectors, the couple selected a Duncan McFarlane oil for the family room. Cachepots, Kentshire Galleries. Bound volumes, Imperial Fine books. Low table from Lewis Mittman. Sofa fabric and chair, ottoman and pillow paisley from Old World Weavers. Stark carpet.

In the living room nearby, a calming array of sea blues, creams and beiges accented by golds and reds sets the tone for the rest of the residence. Snyder and his clients chose a palette that would neither compete with the panorama just outside nor fade com-

pletely into the background. Likewise, the fabrics for the upholstered sofas and chairs, he says, have "simpler textures, appropriate for Florida, and do not overpower the antiques," which in the living room include George III console tables and carved gilt-

wood mirrors and Regency mahogany bergères. A circa 1750 Chinese export black-lacquer-and-parcel-gilt bureau-bookcase anchors one corner, beside a Childe Hassam painting of a ship on the sea.

What Snyder calls "the dining room question" resulted in



its current incarnation as a paneled, book-lined space. "Not everyone needs a dining room, particularly if you have other residences where you entertain, so I said, 'Why don't we turn it into a library?'" But the couple so loved entertaining in their new home that a



dining room it will remain. "There's always room for change," the designer observes. "They can take away the dining table and the books and add objects and paintings." When the couple couldn't find the right pieces for the room, they turned to Snyder, who designed a round pedestal table, painted and gilded Regency-style armchairs and a Regency-style sideboard and had them made in Argentina. "They were very much participants in the process," he says of his clients, "even down to choosing the light fixtures. They love the quest of collecting."

More books line the walls of the family room, where comfort strikes an easy balance with elegance: Upholstered sofas and chairs are juxtaposed with Regency-style tables and a circa 1820 Regency convex mirror. A coffered ceiling is offset by a natural woven wallcovering, and the palette leans more on red and terra-cotta hues.

While one of the apartment's bedrooms has been reassigned as an office for the husband, and a former library off the master bedroom is now used

by the wife (complete with a Louis XVI giltwood chair and a Snyder-designed Regency-style rosewood writing table), it is in the master bedroom where the rearrangement of space proved especially pleasing to the clients. The mahogany bed, designed by Snyder, is set at an angle to take in those views, and the couple enjoy not one but three walk-in closets. A William Trost Richards seascape reflects the azure water beyond.

And so, Scott Snyder has taken a mostly unexceptional space in West Palm Beach and created a small island of English-inspired elegance and quiet. His philosophy is clearly in keeping with that of Addison Mizner, whose interpretations of the Spanish style in the 1920s form an inescapable part of South Florida's architectural heritage. Mizner, who assailed modern architects for "producing a characterless copybook effect," himself undertook to "make a building look traditional and as though it had fought its way from a small unimportant structure to a great rambling house." Snyder couldn't agree more. □

ABOVE: "They have many residences, but each one is special to them," Snyder observes of his clients, who spent months searching for a William Trost Richards work for the master bedroom. Kravet drapery stripe. Rogers & Goffigon wallcovering. Jane Churchill lounge chair fabric. Bergère fabric, Brunswick & Fils.