

# OCEANSIDE OASIS

DESIGNER KAT  
SOLOMON REFRESHES  
A MEDITERRANEAN-  
INSPIRED DWELLING IN  
GULFSTREAM WITH A  
MODERN TWIST.

*By Jean Nayar  
Photography by Jessica Glynn*

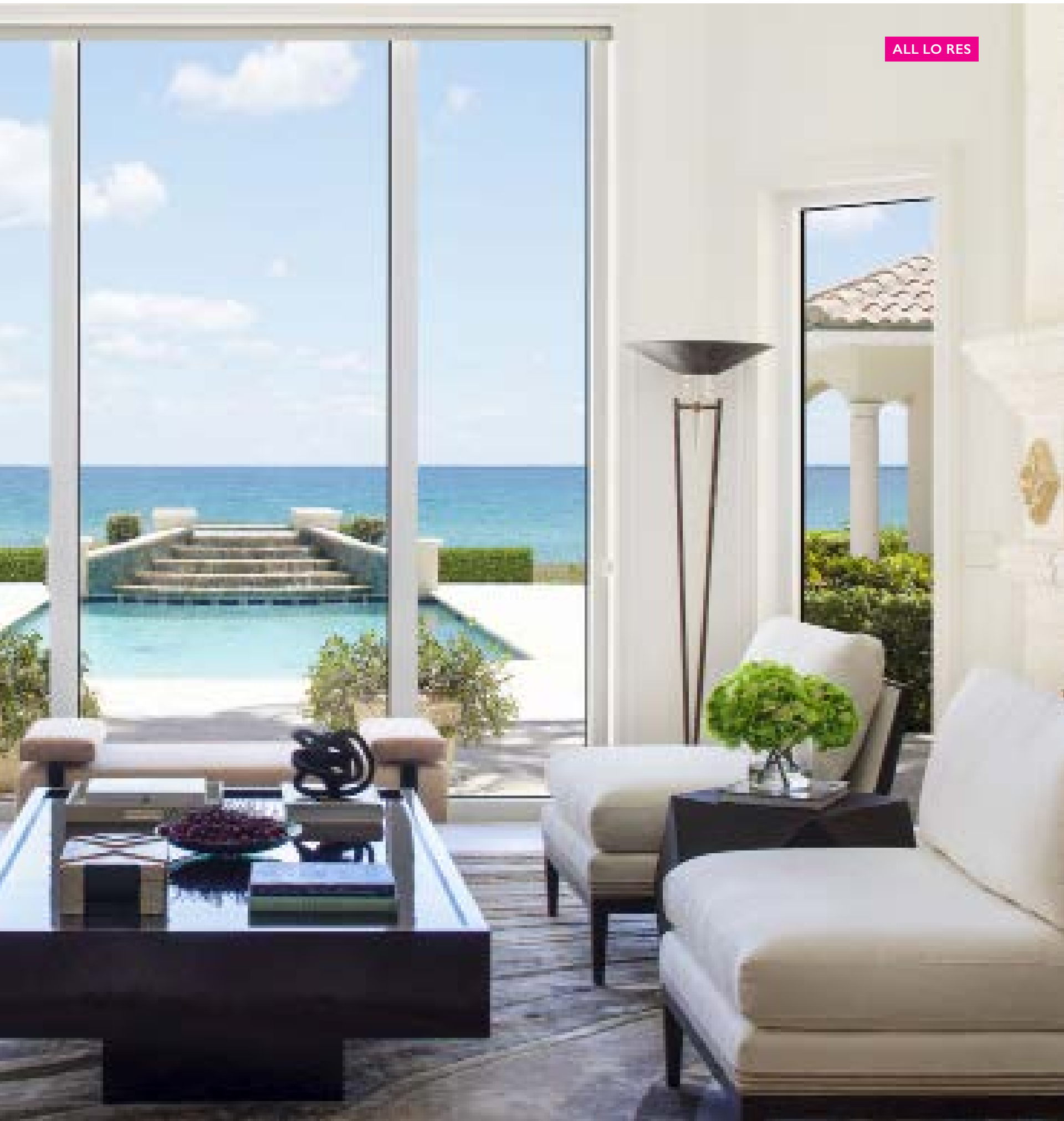
For 17 years, the high-powered couple who live in this oceanfront home in Gulfstream, Florida, occupied it only occasionally as a winter retreat. But after retiring from their successful careers in New York—he was a corporate executive and she was a media mogul—they opted to settle in the Mediterranean-style dwelling full time. Since it had served as a secondary residence for so many years, not much thought had been put into fashioning its interiors. So the couple turned to West Palm Beach-based designer Kat Solomon ([katsolomoninteriors.com](http://katsolomoninteriors.com)) to elevate the part-time getaway house into an elegant yet comfortable year-round home.

Built in 2001, the home was laced with some historically-inspired architectural elements, including ornate cast-iron stair railings, thick crown moldings and stately columns. “These were features the couple wanted to preserve,” says Solomon. “But they also wanted the interiors to be modern

A custom resin coffee table by California company Bardeaux Mobilier catches the light to create a stunning statement piece in the open-concept family room. “With the new design, we wanted it to feel more open, have a fantastic flow and feel different than the original space,” says Sasha Adler, co-design director of Nate Berkus Associates.



ALL LO RES







"The lighting is another form of artwork in the space," says Adler, "and at night it takes on a different element, especially given the scale of the chandeliers over the custom dining table." Opposite page: One side of the condo is almost entirely floor-to-ceiling windows, creating a unique view that makes it feel "like you are floating in the city," says Adler.

and relaxing, so the goal was to create a livable blend of the two styles." To that end, the designer's first move was to brighten up the spaces and emphasize the home's spectacular ocean view.

The couple's existing traditional-style furnishings—some acquired with help from friends, others purchased on the fly on occasional visits—were brought together over time without a cohesive plan. "Two big sofas blocked the view in the living room and kept the eye from being drawn outside," says the designer. "In other rooms some of the walls and ceilings were painted in salmon and yellow tones, a powder room was finished with red faux Venetian plaster and there was a lot of dark woodwork throughout," she adds, noting that such finishes contributed to distracting the eye from the vistas outdoors and made the spaces feel boxed in.

To open up the home, Solomon started by covering

Adler incorporated freestanding pieces to add architectural details to the modern backdrop, as well as storage and display space for the couple's unique collection of mementos and objets d'art.



the walls of the living spaces with a fresh coat of creamy white paint, then she redefined the character of the rooms with streamlined low-profile modern furnishings in neutral hues. To make the most of the living room, she replaced its heavy sofas with a quartet of contemporary armless slipper chairs positioned to flank the view of the water rather than block it, thereby allowing the stunning image of the ocean and pool to become the centerpiece of the space.

While every room got a makeover, a few were only subtly refashioned or simply refreshed. The cabinets in the kitchen, for example, were kept as they were, but the space was updated with a new backsplash and appliances. The stately carved wooden chairs, table and sideboard in the dining room were also preserved, but the chair seats and backs were reupholstered with contemporary contrasting fabrics and a new chandelier and sconces were introduced to the space. Favorite works among the couple's collection of art, in particular a cast gold piece by Salvador Dali, were also repositioned throughout for maximum impact and intermingled with new pieces that add shots of color and texture to the well-edited rooms.

"Once you build a collection of furniture, the hope is that you will love it forever and that it can take on a new context," says Adler. For her clients' newly expanded open living room, she reworked many of their existing pieces with new custom designs.



A nook in the library is the perfect spot for an antique burnt-orange daybed, modern art and Soane Britain wall light. The kilim is from Double Knot in New York.





Soothing neutrals are accented with pops of jewel-toned color in the master bedroom. Rare Murano glass pumpkin lamps from Lucca Antiques and antique mirrored nightstands from Old Plank flank a custom headboard in Rogers & Coffigon fabric with nailhead trim. Silk taffeta from Schumacher was used to create ethereal drapery. Opposite page: The dramatic private elevator entry is accented by vintage iron gates used as doors and Italian globe pendants from Flowermountain Antiques paired with modern art from the homeowners' collection.



Other spaces went through total transformations. One room that had functioned as the husband's office was reconfigured with new construction to convert it into a combination media room/den. The designer furnished this room with a new desk and chair to create a pragmatic workspace on one side and a new sofa, chair and custom wall unit housing the television and objets d'art to define a relaxing area in which to take in a movie on the other. One of the home's five bedrooms was converted into a home gym, and yet another was turned into a dressing room/closet with white-painted cabinets and an island of drawers accented with shiny notes of brass hardware and a starburst chandelier.

While the thoughtful redesign enhances the

entire home with an updated sense of comfort and style, the master suite is the ultimate serene retreat. Situated on the second floor, it is swathed in warm, sandy tones that set it apart from the bright white rooms in the rest of the house and a padded wall covered in velvet gives the room a luxe cocoon-like air. Against this plush backdrop, the faux leather-upholstered bed sits atop wall-to-wall carpet near French doors leading to a balcony that overlooks the sea. And just the right accents—sleek bedside tables, washable satin pillows and a luxurious faux fur throw—finish off the private sanctuary of the newly refreshed home that now gives its contented owners little reason to ever want to leave. ■

## DESIGN DETAILS

### ARTISTIC LOOMS

Living room Waves area rug  
[artisticlooms.com](http://artisticlooms.com)

### BAKER/MILLING ROAD

Kitchen Wayne bar stools  
[Baker furniture.com](http://Bakerfurniture.com)

### BEYOND CLOSETS

Dressing room custom closet systems  
[Beyondclosets.net](http://Beyondclosets.net)

### GARRETT LEATHER

Family room accent chair leather  
[garrettleather.com](http://garrettleather.com)

### GRAFTON

Custom furnishings and upholstery throughout  
[Graftonfurniture.com](http://Graftonfurniture.com)

### HAMMERTON

Dining room Rock Crystal chandelier and sconces  
[Hammerton.com](http://Hammerton.com)

### HOLLY HUNT

Dining room chair seat fabric, master bedroom lounge chair leather  
[Holly hunt.com](http://Hollyhunt.com)

### KNOLL

Den pillow fabric  
[Knoll.com](http://Knoll.com)

### LEE INDUSTRIES

Master chaise and leather Relaxor swivel chairs  
[Leeindustries.com](http://Leeindustries.com)

### MADE GOODS

Breakfast area Thyra chandelier  
[madegoods.com](http://madegoods.com)

### MITCHELL GOLD BOB WILLIAMS

Family room Onyx side table  
[mgbwhome.com](http://mgbwhome.com)

### SHO MODERN

Breakfast area Carve dining table  
[shomodern.com](http://shomodern.com)

### RESTORATION HARDWARE

Master bedroom Vitti Mirror Drum chandelier, Sutton sconces, coverlet and bedding and den coffee table  
[Restorationhardware.com](http://Restorationhardware.com)

### ROBERT JAMES

Master bedroom Savannah dresser and nightstands  
[Robertjamescollection.com](http://Robertjamescollection.com)

### ROMO

Master bedroom Forenza panel fabric, family room accent chair fabric  
[romo.com](http://romo.com)