

Sweet Homecoming

Interior Design: *Lindsay MacRae, Lindsay MacRae Interiors*
Photography: *Genevieve Garruppo* • Styling: *Matthew Gleason*



Even while building a very successful residential interior business in New York City, designer Lindsay MacRae always knew she would return to Central Florida and raise a family with her husband. She had started her career at Disney before moving to work for large design firms. She knew it was time to go out on her own after the birth of her first child while navigating pandemic life.

From the front entry's blue door and welcoming table dressed in a blue print fabric, you get a feel for the coastal influences beyond. The traditional exterior exudes the vibe Lindsay was looking for. The formal living area features a mix of Florida icons, including the blue chairs, white palms, striped ottoman, and tropical bird print anchored with an antique sideboard that serves as a bar.





“I’m very traditional and while we were living in New York, we had original wood floors and details found in older homes. But I was having a hard time finding that here. My parents are in Clermont, so Windermere seemed like a good area, but there were so many ’80s and ’90s homes that just were not my style. Then we found this house, and even though it wasn’t exactly what I wanted, I knew we could make renovations,” Lindsay says.

While the home’s exterior reflected the desired traditional style, the interior presented some elements that needed to be addressed. “We tackled things little by little. Being a designer, my house always gets the attention last. My husband happens to be very opinionated but as the designer, I had to find things that we both liked. We had a baby and then another baby, so we were very busy. But at the end of the day, we both wanted a space that was fun. I have to be joyful; be in spaces that make me smile,” she explains.

A sitting area, formerly a dining room, is filled with comfortable furnishings that provide a perfect place for adult conversations and relaxation. In the office, a large mural creates a sense of place with the grounding zebra rug, vintage desk and green upholstered chairs. The found pineapple chandelier lights up the breakfast room while the large-scale painting adds some whimsy and color.



Pops of blues and greens in accessories and accents add interest to the all-white kitchen.



Lindsay is inspired by colors and textures, but especially wallpaper which she used in almost every room — from vibrant florals in her daughters’ bedrooms to a tropical mural in the office and bamboo trellis background in the primary bedroom. But the boldest is in her husband’s office bathroom where eye-popping orange slices practically jump off the walls.

Many of the furnishings were found on shopping trips to West Palm Beach. She jokes that she’s not allowed to go with her mother again after they brought home a \$700 mirror for one of the girl’s rooms. But those trips allowed her to carefully select items that had a Florida feel in keeping with her overall design. A trip with her husband yielded a pineapple chandelier for the breakfast room she had spray painted in a favorite shade of green.

Blue is the predominant color throughout the living areas, starting with the front door and the fabric covering a table in the entry. To the right, Lindsay turned the original formal dining room into an adult sitting area since they eat meals in the kitchen. “That’s the room I didn’t know what to do with. Other than putting a grand piano in there, nothing else really made sense,” she adds. She included a chinoiserie-style chair with an upholstered seat, plush navy sectional with patterned pillows, and a white wicker table creating a comfortable lounge area.

Artwork adds personality to the home and many of the pieces reflect a love of birds, Florida icons, and a touch of whimsy such as the very large painting in the breakfast area. The kitchen is mostly neutral with subtle accents — blue-toned wallpaper backing the glass cabinets, a green Dutch door, and rattan plant holder on the expansive island.

Although Lindsay still has projects in New York and other locales, this is home base. “It’s just a different world there and sometimes you end up working for people who are famous. But the resources are fantastic, so I was really fortunate to start there. Whenever I needed something, I’d just go down the street to the D & D [Decoration & Design] Building. I still end up going there, and even though I love it, I am tired of going back and forth. I am looking forward to working on more projects locally,” she concludes.

This page: In the husband’s office bathroom, the orange slice wallpaper is joined by fun art, including a photograph of kids diving from a dock and some Mickey Mouse ears. The coral-toned powder bath included a bright flamingo print and bamboo mirror.

Opposite: In the main bedroom, softer colors prevail including the trellis wallcovering, Lindsay’s favorite yellow floral draperies, woven textured furnishings and accents, and the rustic lantern-style pendant. Each of the girls’ bedrooms are bathed in bright florals with jute rugs and more bamboo and rattan accents.



