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Blanc Force

Bruce Bierman casts a modernist spell on traditional style at a young Jupiter family's retreat. In the process, he sets the stage for easy living in a glamorous home.

by Donna Paul | photographs by Kim Sargent



Florida Room | A Stark carpet sets the tone in the airy family room (LEFT). The cocktail tables and mirror are by J. Robert Scott. The curtain fabric is from A.M. Collections, NYC, and the upholstery fabric is Larsen. **Blue Note** | Another Stark carpet (OPPOSITE) suggests blue details for the living room. The drapery fabrics are from Old World Weavers and Nancy Corzine. The mirror is from Lorin Marsh, NYC. See Resources.

WHEN A 25-FOOT-HIGH, two-storied room includes an inviting place to curl up and read a book, it's a sure sign that the interior designer has achieved something significant. In this case, a Greenwich, Conn. couple turned to Bruce Bierman, a designer known for his purist modern esthetic, to make their 18,000 square foot Florida house a home. Built by J.F. Brennan in the exclusive Bear's Club, a private golf community in Jupiter, the rambling house includes Palladian architectural references, terra cotta roof tile from South America and grand French-inspired interiors.

That's precisely what the homeowners wanted for their second home. Built on a double lot, the house is an expansive 200 feet from end to end and designed on a central axis so that rooms flow into each other with ease.

The couple, with two young children, prefers large spaces and gracious proportions. Despite the house's grandeur, it is the setting for family life: children running throughout, guests visiting for long weekends, barbecues by the pool and a very private oasis to unwind. For example, says the wife, the comfort and elegance of the living room makes it her favorite room in the house. "I love my living room. The color, the space, the drapes are simple but dramatic.

I can read a book in there or entertain a group of friends," she says.

Staying true to his modern design sensibility, Bierman adapted the principles he would use in designing a spare white box. The result is a space with a tranquil ambience and distinctive, intimate interiors that could otherwise have felt daunting.

"This," Bierman explains, "is my take on traditional." Utilizing a tonal on-tone color palette with accents of pattern and luxurious materials to add subtle touches of color in the rooms, the designer imbued a traditional house with lightness in every sense. Even the accessories do not overwhelm the space. "I intentionally didn't fill up the spaciousness that was part of the architecture," he adds.

Using a consistent palette is part of his trick. Here, creamy white is a restrained backdrop for Aubusson carpets, mirrored furniture and overstuffed upholstery, all inspired by the elegance of Palm Beach in the 1940s.

In the serene living room, an ice blue accent color was lifted from the medallion of the room's oval Aubusson carpet. Bierman used the color on the pillows, a throw and glass accessories. The overstuffed sofa, love seat

White Out | In the breakfast room (PREVIOUS SPREAD, LEFT), a creamware collection, chandelier and silver serving bowl are all from Lorin Marsh, NYC. The J. Robert Scott dining chairs are upholstered in white Edelman leather. The marble table was created by Girard-Emilia Custom Woodcarving in Dania. **Delicious Details** | Bierman created a modern aesthetic without sacrificing architectural integrity by working in a tone-on-tone palette with elements like creamware against light wood (PREVIOUS SPREAD, RIGHT). See Resources.





chairs are dressed in materials such as silk, velvet and cashmere, all in white, adding a tactile luxuriousness to the room. The walls have raised decorative plaster paneling chosen because Bierman wanted details in the house that felt substantial.

Bierman found an antique Venetian mirror at the Lorin Marsh showroom in New York. Its shape was perfect to hang over the fireplace, but it was only four feet high. So, he deftly reworked its proportions to fit that space. The replicated version is 10 feet high and was fabricated in Italy. A delicate line of blue glass trim embellishes the mirror with a subtle yet couture-like detail.

In the family room, a palm leaf pattern

depicted on the carpet suggested the pale green hue for both chair and sofa fabrics. While the wall color, once again, is creamy white, curtains in gauzy apple green filter sunlight and add a dash of color.

Another important aspect of Bierman's design focuses on scale: all of the custom furniture is sized in the correct proportion for each room. Due to the volume of the house, a sofa less than nine feet in length would simply not look right, he explains. In large houses a common mistake is using furniture that's too small. Taking cues from other masters of design, Bierman had much of the furniture custom made for these rooms. "When you look at some of the great homes, from



Royal Rest | A dramatic bed from Lorin Marsh, NYC (OPPOSITE) adds opulence to the master bedroom. Linens are from Lynnens, Greenwich, Conn. **In The Navy** | A gorgeous blue mohair from Manuel Canovas was chosen for the headboard and chair (LEFT) in the son's bedroom. Linens are by Schweitzer. **Plush Pink** | Fit for a princess, the daughter's bedroom (TOP) has a canopy draped in Old World Weavers' moire and striped fabrics, as well as a Christopher Hyland sheer. **Mirror, Mirror** | Lamps from John Salibello Antiques, NYC (ABOVE) flank a mirrored glass vanity also from Lorin Marsh. See Resources.



Fallingwater to Versailles, specific furniture was made for specific rooms," he adds.

"We wanted rooms that had depth," Bierman says. "The whole house is about detail but in a very edited way."

The master suite is a private chamber consisting of bedroom, bath, room, two dressing rooms and study. It embodies comfort and relaxation with overscaled upholstered pieces covered in sumptuous chenilles and satins. Even the bathroom has a chaise covered in supple leather. The dazzling furnishings, an antique silver-leaf bed and mirrored furniture, are meticulous reproductions. Straying true to the fine detail and craftsmanship of the originals was important to Bierman and helped create a feeling of authenticity.

The Bear's Club is known for its grand estates, and this house doesn't disappoint. A commanding gate gives way to a vast courtyard at the entrance of the house. The double-height glass and iron front door opens into a dramatic central foyer; two stairways curve upward. The mood is so cinematic one expects Lana Turner to float down at any moment. ☀

LUXE LOUNGING One of several poolside lounge sports took chairs and chaise by Michael Taylor (ABOVE) available through Tai Panch & Associates, Dana, Fla. The upholstery is a weatherproof Giant stripe. The umbrellas were found at Carl's Patio on Palm Beach Gardens. Visions Of Grandeur. The sound of a fountain (RIGHT) fills the courtyard. See Residences.





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Luxe Lounging | One of several poolside loggias sports teak chairs and chaises by Michael Taylor (ABOVE) available through Tui Pranich & Associates, Dania. The upholstery is a weather-proof Giasi stripe. The umbrellas were found at Carl's Patio in Palm Beach Gardens. **Visions Of Grandeur** | The sound of a fountain (RIGHT) fills the courtyard. See Resources.



