

UNDER THE SUN



WHIMSY AND WALLPAPER
TRANSFORM THIS FLORIDA
GOLF COTTAGE INTO
A TROPICAL GETAWAY.

Design EMILY GRIFFIN and GAIL MARSHALL
Photography ANDREA KELLAWAY
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ABOVE: Homeowners Julie Soloway and Brian Facey.
LEFT: "We wanted an open, bright and uplifting space that communicated we were in Florida," says Julie of the kitchen. **Pendants,** Visual Comfort; **counters,** Caesarstone; **floor tile,** Porcelanite.



A floral chandelier and touches of rattan give the entry a tropical vibe. **Chandelier**, Stray Dog Designs; **mirror**, Woven; **sideboard**, Serena & Lily; **rug**, Wayfair.



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: A chandelier designed to resemble coral but made from wood and cocoa beans illuminates the dining area. **Chandelier**, Serena & Lily; **art**, Natural Curiosities.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: A multipurpose space off the dining area now serves as an office, TV room and bonus bedroom, thanks to a daybed with caned side panels. **Grasscloth**, Phillip Jeffries; **floor lamp**, Arteriors; **rug**, McGee & Co.



BELOW: Tiles depicting birds and tropical plants are the star of the classic, all-white kitchen. **Backsplash** by Angela Harris Dummore, TileBar.



EVERY PASSIONATE GOLFER finds it hard to resist the siren call of one of America's most challenging golf courses. It's a feeling that high-profile lawyers and avid golfers Julie Soloway and Brian Facey know well. When the couple bought their home in Jupiter, Fla., they were drawn to it not for its size (at 2,200 square feet it has a relatively modest footprint), but for its location: it's set in The Loxahatchee Club, a private, 154-hectare, residents-only golf club community.

The club was founded by Gordon Gray and the late Brian Magee, two Toronto-based developers and real-estate giants who wanted to build the greatest golf course in Palm Beach County. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the challenging course is the center piece of the club, which combines a luxe golf community with low-key elegance and plenty of old-school Florida charm. Today, it's the vacation home of many high-profile Canadians and Americans. "We thought of it as an escape — a respite from city life and a gathering place for our family," says Julie of the 34-year-old house set on a quiet cul-de-sac along with five other homes

originally built as golf cottages for seasonal members of the club. The house is just five kilometres from the beach, a short golf cart ride from the course, pool, gym and clubhouse, and a world away from their home in midtown Toronto and summer cottage on Crowe Lake, Ont.

Julie and Brian were looking forward to making the house their own, but pulling off the renovation amidst a pandemic wasn't exactly par for the course. Undaunted, in the summer of 2021, the couple turned to Jupiter designer Gail Marshall of Gail Marshall Interiors to redesign the layout to improve space planning and oversee construction.

"The interior lacked flow and was very compartmentalized, with lots of small rooms," says Gail. During the year-long renovation, a wall that originally divided the kitchen and living room, and a window and wall at the back of the house were removed to create a much larger kitchen.

Once the original floor plan had been reconfigured and construction was underway, Toronto designer Emily Griffin, who had worked on Julie and Brian's two other homes, was asked to collaborate with Gail on the interiors. The mandate, as Julie described it, was "to have a home that had a casual, breezy, coastal vibe with some whimsical touches."



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ABOVE: Just off the kitchen in what was originally the dining area, designer Emily Griffin created a "chill zone," perfect for breakfast, a lazy afternoon siesta or a chat with the chef. **Scence, Artentiors; side table, Villa & House; coffee table, Four Hands; rug, Wayfair.**

LEFT: The guest bedroom ensuite has walls lined with lush pink grasscloth and leaf-motif accents. **Grasscloth, Phillip Jeffries; scence, Currey & Company.**

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The decorating is in the Palm Beach style, with a bright and uncomplicated vibe that steers away from overly luxe finishes and furniture that feels too precious. "When you're in a sunny place like Florida, surrounded by palm trees and lush vegetation, you can't help but be inspired by the colours," says Emily of the home's palette, which is reminiscent of sand, sky, shells, coral and the sea.

It gets hot here. To cool the home visually, there's a conscious effort to blur the line between indoors and out and give the space a real sense of place. Whimsical leaf-print

wallpapers – a recurring theme throughout – climb the walls, and beamed, beadboard-clad ceilings add a breezy, tropical vibe. "For weekend or vacation homes, I try to avoid drywall as much as possible," says Emily. "Beadboard and wallpaper automatically take you out of the city and make you feel like you're on holiday in a sunny place."

The combination of casual furniture in natural textures is evocative: there's enough rattan seating, grasscloth and sisal to make a nature-lover like Henry David Thoreau jealous. "I like to play with texture in all of the spaces

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TOP LEFT: Emily brightened up the powder room with a glossy-framed mirror and a white, space-saving sink. **Wallpaper,** Tok Walkoverings; **mirror,** Serena & Lily; **sink,** Signature Hardware. **BOTTOM LEFT:** "I wanted it to feel breezy and romantic, but not too girly," says Emily of the principal bedroom's modern canopy bed. **Grosscloth,** Phillip Jeffries; **bed linens** by Emily Griffin, Imli Lifestyle.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Combined with a leaf-motif wallpaper in sky blue, pale grey cabinets and the tiled floor mimic water and sand in the principal ensuite. **Wallpaper,** Schumacher; **tile,** TileBar. **OPPOSITE:** The guest bedroom's palm-print wallpaper was chosen to make visitors feel like they were truly on vacation. **Wallpaper,** Schumacher; **headboards,** Wayfair.



"I design because it gives instant depth," says Emily. But when it came to flooring, the motivation was practical as much as it was aesthetic. "The floors are porcelain tile made to look like white oak. Because of the humidity here, a tile floor has a longer life span and won't warp."

Since the family only comes here for brief visits and school holidays like Christmas and March break, practically every moment is spent enjoying the club community. "A typical day for us involves a sunrise walk on the beach followed by a visit to the gym and maybe a yoga or Pilates class," says Julie. "Then, of course, there's golf, followed by dinner out at one of the local waterfront restaurants. It's perfect," she says, laughing at the mere idea of more renovations. "Now it's time to enjoy it!"

"Beadboard and wallpaper automatically take you out of the city and make you feel like you're on holiday in a sunny place"

— EMILY GRIFFIN, DESIGNER

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