



COASTAL FARMHOUSE

A Bonita Beach home highlights an abundance of light and views of the Gulf

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“The idea was to create a design that would be something new and fresh on the beach but also appeal to a wide audience,” says Alex Thies of the spec home on Bonita Beach that she worked on alongside Potter Homes, which brought her on the project. The owner and lead designer of Adelyn Charles Interiors calls the concept “modern coastal farmhouse,” a perfect term for a home that comes to life at the water’s edge.

The approximately 14-month-long project sold before it was completed and since closed this past December. “There’s a lot of flexibility built into the designs of these floor plans, as well as the elevations — the kind that appeal to the masses,” explains Rich Guzman, owner and residential designer of R.G. Designs, who worked closely with everyone on the project.

An abundance of these windows allow for natural light offering inviting views. The back of the home features 30-foot-plus sliding glass doors. “When you walk in that front door you’re just looking straight out to the Gulf of Mexico,” notes Guzman. ►

Great Room: “The ceilings here are kind of fun because I wanted to create modern and clean lines,” Thies describes. “It’s still a modern design but with the comforts of a more transitional coastal design.” The ceiling fans by Lighting First allow comfortable indoor-outdoor living when the sliders are open to the Gulf beyond. Real Wood Floors’ European white oak floors, installed by Floorcrafters, are the perfect foundation for the warm, earthy feel of the living room space.

Wine Room & Bar: A matte black ceiling-mounted wine rack suspends the wine display in front of a painted nickel gap wall mimicking the ceilings in the living room. “It’s a newer idea of the old wine cellar, but it’s in a beachy, bright contemporary home, so, we dressed it up accordingly,” Thies explains.





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That fits perfectly with Allen Johnson’s vision as superintendent of Potter Homes. “First and foremost, we consider the Gulf view and front and rear elevation design,” he says. “Plus this house has a great interior design. We receive a lot of comments about how nice the front elevation is. With a total of 9,458 square feet and 5,224 square feet under air, the home has six bedrooms and eight bathrooms.

Thies approached it with her signature organic, earthy design. “I’m always trying to challenge myself to come up with ways to make it feel new and special,” she explains. ►

Kitchen: The custom kitchen features crisp white cabinets broken up by warm wood accents. “The floating shelves on either side of the custom hood bring visual interest and balance out the X pattern flanking each side of the extra-large kitchen island,” describes Thies. Stainless steel Thermador appliances from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery bring a touch of industrial charm to the modern farmhouse-style kitchen, while handwoven jute rope counter stools ground it in a warm, coastal feel.

Dining Room: The high windows by Anderson Windows & Doors — sourced locally through Naples Lumber — bring an abundance of natural light into the dining area, and seamlessly transition into the kitchen framed out by the cabinetry and custom hood. A beaded chandelier anchors the stained wood dining table with patterned upholstered chairs featuring matte black metal bases.

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Working with Johnson was a delight for Thies. “I love everything about working with Al,” she proclaims, adding that they have worked together for five years. Johnson approaches his work in a positive manner and works as a true partner. “As a designer, you can’t ask for more than that.”

For Johnson, the feeling is mutual. “She makes quick decisions for us, keeps us flowing, gives us what we need to get through all the different processes,” he states. That is important for Johnson who works with everyone on the project from breaking ground until it’s turned over to the owner. “I actually work with the owner for the first year to make sure everything operates,” Johnson says.

Thies enjoys finding that one route of inspiration on a project. In this home, she found that in the ‘modern farmhouse meets coastal kitchen’ where everything else evolved and flowed naturally from there. Instead of the typical white Florida kitchen, Thies brought in wood tones “to bring it up a notch and give it that earthiness and natural warmth.”

A very neutral palette adds dimension with a lot of natural textures from raw wood and woven materials, as well as jute rugs and concrete. “There are all of these things that kind of juxtapose each other and work together to create interest without necessarily having to have big, loud pops of color,” describes Thies.

The lanai is designed with the elements in mind since everything takes a beating on the Gulf. Here, the colors from the inside of the house were brought outside for an added sense of comfort. “The beams obviously tie into the ceilings on the inside and continue to direct your line of sight out toward the Gulf,” explains Thies. The porcelain tile on the patio is made to appear like a shell stone for that beachy vibe and extends to the edge of the pool. ►



Master Bedroom: A viscose and bamboo silk area rug brings texture and charm to the Real Wood Floors white oak that is installed in a diagonal pattern. Woven wood pendants delicately hover over the nightstands on either side of the upholstered headboard while neutral textured drapery panels soften the windows, sourced locally through Naples Lumber, that look out over an inviting view of the Gulf.

Master Bathroom: A Signature Hardware bathtub from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery is accented by a marble mosaic waterfall from ceiling to floor directly behind it. “This is polished where everything else around it is not,” says Thies. “So, it really takes the light and the glow and it makes it look like a waterfall.” The oversized chandelier features hand-bent, wide-split rattan details that adds a touch of Zen to the spa-like space.



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While there were challenges in the design process because the home is in a Department of Environmental Protection zone, “it also creates a lot of opportunities as we were able to develop the pool on the second floor, which gives it great views,” exclaims Andrea Douglas, landscape architect at Outside Productions International.

When designing the landscaping around the home “there’s a certain type of planting that works well,” says Douglas. “On either side of the property we have palms and small trees. They will grow a little bit vertical and just let the architecture shine.”

Featuring a center entry with garage entries flanking both sides, the front of the home features lots of different windows. “That’s kind of the trait that I have,” says Guzman. “I like symmetry, but I prefer asymmetry.”

Construction began shortly before the pandemic hit, so there were delays, making it difficult to complete because of a looming deadline. “It was a challenge but we had to improvise with last-minute selections that had to be made,” notes Thies, whose design team includes Emily Schlimm and Rachel Spadavecchia. “In the end, I’m really thrilled with how everything came together and that we made our deadline.” ■



Office: “More and more people are needing a secondary living space in their home, and not just a small study,” Thies explains. “So, this room kind of doubles as a secondary living space.” Comfortable swivels and a settee form a seating area, creating the perfect spot for an early morning coffee or afternoon cocktail.

Second Floor Hallway: A series of three floating wood Arteriors pendants hang from a stained white oak beam. Custom oak headers at each end of the landing lead to additional rooms beyond, while the warm oak floors and a cozy upholstered bench invite you to continue down the hall, or stay a while. “We kept the same flooring throughout the house from front to back as it makes the rooms feel larger,” states Guzman.

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Lanai: A sleek, linear fireplace sets the tone for this outdoor living space with plenty of cozy seating that truly defines indoor-outdoor living on the beach. Non-slip porcelain tile mimics the sand of the beach below and flows seamlessly to the edge of the pool. “The spa is at the same level as the pool,” adds Douglas. “That gives it a crisp, clean look, and the infinity edge takes the eye from the pool water beyond to the Gulf.”

Front Exterior: The driveway pavers were chosen in a creamy blend to complement the neutral colors of the home. Two ceramic pots flank the front entry, and stained cypress brackets and a trellis over the front entry bring a touch of warmth to the exterior, reminiscent of the stained oak accents on the interior.

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