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WHITE AND AIRY

The clubhouse entry, (near right) is an archetype of Windsor Village architecture. The living room walls (below) are painted Decorator's White by Benjamin Moore. Bold fixtures in the entry (far right) and dining room (opposite) are custom S. Russell Groves designs.



White walls, streamlined upholstered pieces, dark stained floors, modern art, midcentury lighting and accessories—these are more typical of downtown digs than a South Florida beach house. But that clean style, with its fresh feel and relaxed attitude, was just what the owners of this Vero Beach, Florida, home were after. So they

hired New York-based architect and designer Russell Groves to redecorate their retreat in Windsor Village, a pedestrian-friendly development planned around a private beach club.

Known for his clean, contemporary design, Russell was the perfect choice to bring streamlined style to the home's more traditional lines. Inspired by British Colonial architecture in the Caribbean, as well as the historical design of the American Southeast, the house is planned around an interior courtyard and features stucco walls, divided-light windows and French doors, painted wood shutters, double gallery porches, and cantilevered balconies. Because strict neighborhood guidelines limit the architectural and structural changes that can be made, the owners' directive to their designer was clear: Infuse the two-story, three-bedroom house and guesthouse with a modern, open feel without changing the footprint.

NATURAL COLOR

In the master bedroom (near right and below), the bed is from Lawson-Fenning, and the chair and ottoman are from Oly. The nightstand in the children's bedroom (far right) is from Blu Dot. Opposite: The outdoor furniture on the loggia is from Atlantic Adirondack.



leather contrast stitching offers a dramatic welcome for the owners and their guests. The living room features a sculptural, midcentury-style David Weeks-designed chandelier, while the dining room's polished nickel drum shade is like a functional piece of art.

With just the right balance of elegance and comfort, the house is formal enough for entertaining but casual enough for bathing suits and bare feet. In the dining room, for example, the custom pendant light hangs above a bleached oak table, wishbone dining chairs with rattan seats, and a gray wool rug. "The fixture and the rug give the space a dressy feel, but the table, which looks like driftwood, brings it down a notch," says Russell.

The result is a soothing getaway where the owners feel like they can really relax. "It's not what you'd immediately expect from a beach house," Russell says. "But it's very welcoming and comfortable and restful." And while the home's sleek touches may seem, at first glance, more suitable for an urban hideaway than the sandy seaside and sunny skies of South Florida, the subtle beach nods and soothing atmosphere mean there's no mistaking the place for anything other than what it is—the ultimate coastal vacation home. 🌴 For more information, see Sources, page 110.