

Retreat

Home

Caroline Perrott

NEUTRAL TERRITORY



The living room was designed with a sense of serenity through its soft, cozy furnishings PHOTO BY CARLOS DOMENECH

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This Allen Saunders home is a study in detailed color and texture work.

Located on Boca Raton's Grand Este Way, a newly built private residence comprising 7,000 square feet masterfully combines the austere simplicity and timeless elements of contemporary interior design with the intention of bringing family members and guests together naturally through a communitycentric blueprint. At first this concept was merely a goal, given to South Florida architectural interior designer Allen Saunders. "The design intent was to deliver a clean, contemporary, timeless environment for a rambunctious young family of five. Our client, not a fan of trendy settings that may not age well, feared the use of color for the interior design of their home," says Saunders. Enter gray (reminiscent of Ultimate Gray, Pantone's 2021 Color of the Year), which proved to be the perfect middle ground for a neutral color palette and ultimately a perfect canvas for a carefully curated collection of art.



The eight-person formal dining room provides a view of nature. PHOTO BY CARLOS DOMENECH »

Of course, completed prior to Pantone's announcement, one could say the client, Saunders and his team were ahead of the times. Although neutral, the home is in no way devoid of color. "The intentional neutral background coloration intercepts streams of natural light softly flowing throughout the spaces," says Saunders. "[By] the preplanning of the sun's involvement in the design, with sunrises and sunsets playing a supporting role, the ever-changing spectrum of colors streaming into the home generates a color palette in motion." The home's color and texture are also reflected in the edited selection of artwork. While working with the client as a crucial part of the design process, Saunders and his team visited art exhibitions in NYC and Miami to procure art that spoke the home's language. And the search was successful. "My personal favorite piece acquired from international Berlin gallerist Thomas Schulte, 'Temperature Und Rendite,' is a painting by German artist Michael Müller," says Saunders. "Installed into the main entry, the intense color splash of pink organically positioned on burlap canvas adds compelling color and necessary texture, providing essential contrast to the sleek rectilinear-styled Italian-crafted steel console placed below."

When entering the home, there's an immediate flow to the interior spaces that lead to a central exterior courtyard. The connectivity throughout the residence is both visual and physical as seen through large expanses of glass that grant a seamless flow across the public living and entertaining areas. The entertaining areas were positioned to encourage gathering with oversized conversational seating areas, like the B&B Italia sofa in the living room, the large eight-person dining room table custom designed by Saunders and more. "The creation of generous-sized conversational seating areas accommodates large groups of family and friends," says Saunders. "Focal point features were developed to enhance views within spaces, creating aesthetically pleasing gathering areas." Approaching the second level, it's apparent that the same amount of flow is accomplished in the private spaces and they hold the same serenity as the ground floor.



The kitchen has waterfall marble countertops and custom millwork and cabinetry PHOTO BY CARLOS DOMENECH

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“Working with clients like this is a dream,” says Saunders. “They allowed us to develop strong detailing throughout the interior spaces.” It is in these details that Saunders and his team not only excel but are passionate, and that is readily apparent in the home including the double-height ceiling in the foyer; the use of reflective surfaces in the formal dining room and master bathroom; angular and geometric furniture outfitted in warm linens and soft fabrics; the soft-toned stonework and light woods; and lacquered plank paneling to create textural monochromatic moments—it all works in a silent and unassuming way to create cohesiveness. “In this, as in most of our projects, the details slowly unfolded. Over time, the design work revealed itself in a sophisticated way,” says Saunders. “Serenity is in abundance in this home.”



The foyer includes unique art and lighting PHOTO BY CARLOS DOMENECH

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DESIGN DETAILS

LOCATION

Boca Raton

INTERIOR DESIGN

Allen Saunders Design

allensaunders.com

RESOURCES

Allen Saunders Design

Millwork and cabinetry in the dining room and kitchen, table in the dining and breakfast room

allensaunders.com

B&B Italia



The courtyard allows for indoor-outdoor living. PHOTO BY CARLOS DOMENECH

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Knoll

Dining chairs

knoll.com

Paul Loebach for Roll & hill

Foyer light fixture

rollandhill.com

phase design

Living room bar stools

phasedesignonline.com

Tom Dixon

Light fixtures in the master bedroom

Indoor sofas

bebitalia.com/en

Blaxsand

Cocktail tables

blaxsand.com

Gervasoni

Side tables

gervasoni.com1882.it/en

Holly Hunt

Living room draperies and
dining room chairs textile

hollyhunt.com

Janus et Cie

Outdoor sofas and sun chaise
lounges

janusetcie.com

