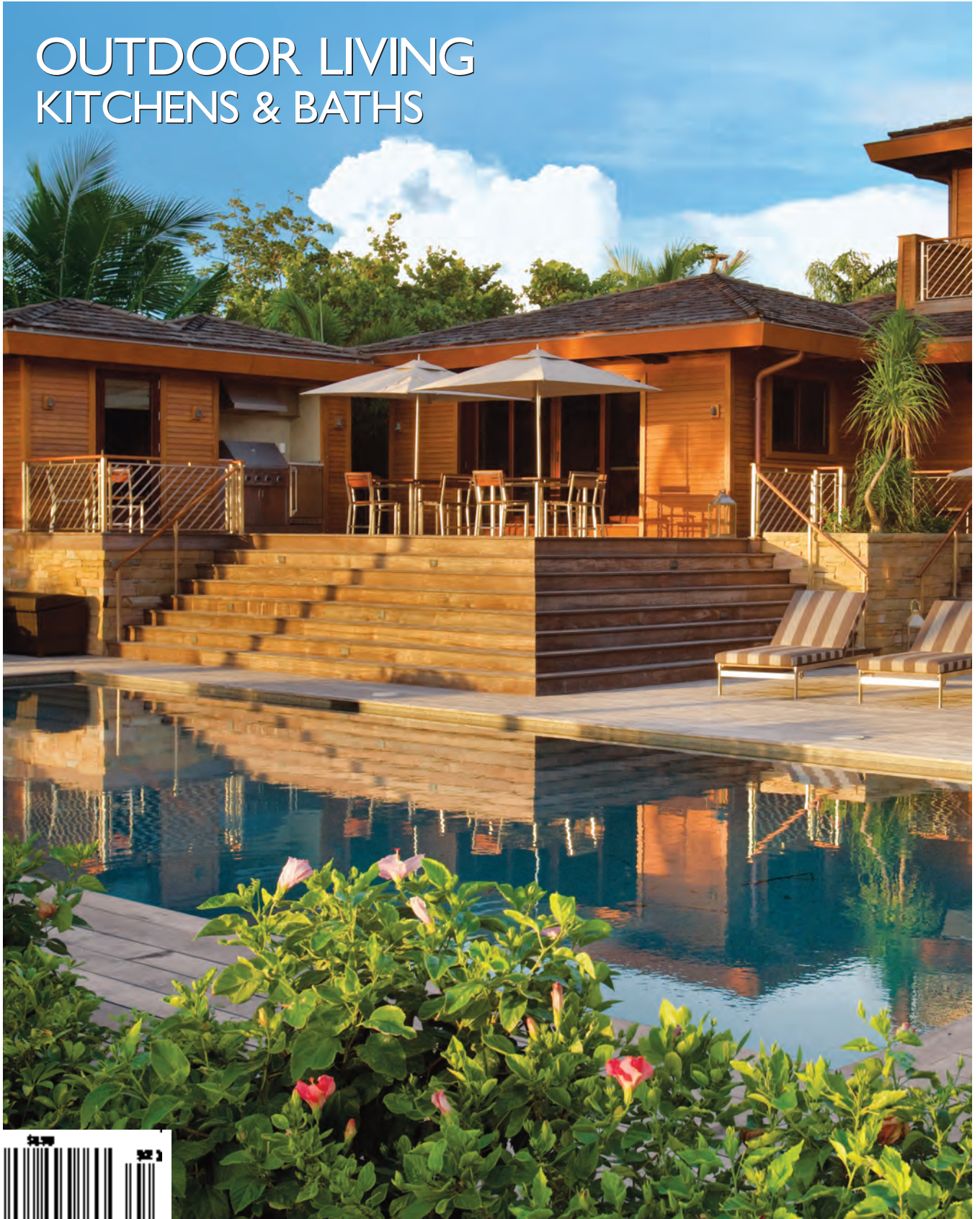


FLORIDA DESIGN

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OUTDOOR LIVING KITCHENS & BATHS



THE BEAUTY OF BALI

Picture A Sprawling Tropical Retreat On A West Florida Barrier Island That Captures The Sultry Splendor Of Its Indonesian-Like Setting And Demands Only One Thing — Tranquil Enjoyment



The glow of the sunset on the mahogany-covered exterior provides a tropical backdrop for the soft organic hues of lounge chairs covered in a Holly Hunt fabric from Donghia that are spiced with sturdy stainless steel.



Photo by Michael Weschler, New York, NY



CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGN
Mark Christofi, Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
ARCHITECT John Carsi, Palladian Design Studio, Fort Myers, FL
BUILDER Todd Wolter, The Wolter Group, Inc., Fort Myers, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Robert Walsh, R.S. Walsh
Landscaping, Inc., Fort Myers, FL
TEXT Marina Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY Eric Roth, Topsfield, MA



OVER THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER Mark Christofi's clients returned from a Caribbean vacation armed with photos of architectural elements they'd found there and loved, he could feel his heart skip a beat. "This was my first tropical design," he says of the tranquil retreat located on a West Florida barrier island. "While I've already created three homes for these wonderful clients, this fourth one would be an exciting departure."

With the stacked mahogany steps of the front and rear exterior, the home seems to sit atop a Mayan palace. Wrapping around the back from left to right, the pool house, kitchen, living room and guest bedroom all wing open to catch the tropical breezes through glass sliding doors and windows while roof corners tip up slightly in a nod to Indonesian design.



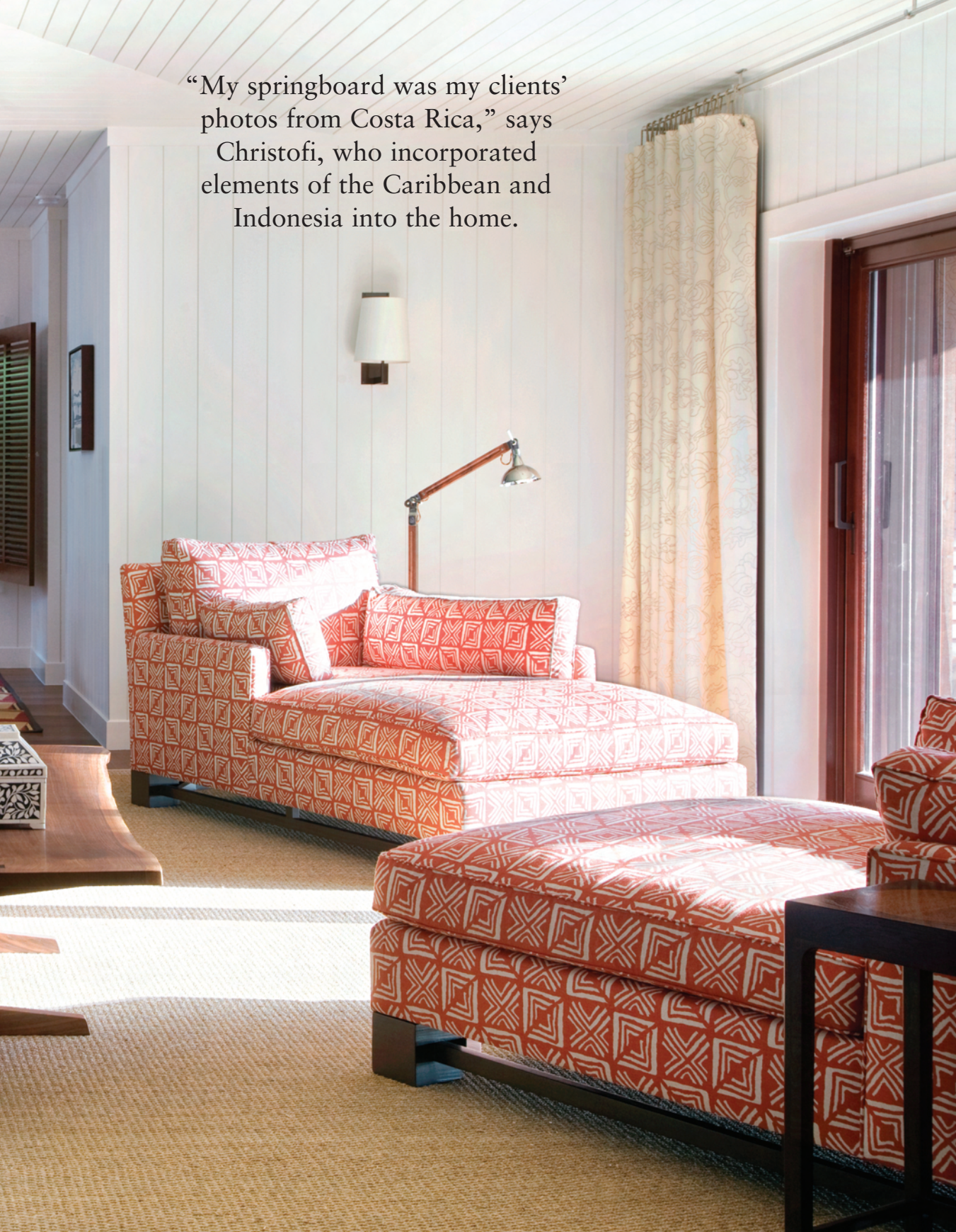


Lush landscaping lines the drive, shading the guest house to the right and leading to the 5,000-square-foot main house. Interior designer Mark Christofi, above left, continues the wood tones inside with the living room's carved game table by Jiun Ho, left. A raw silk and wrought iron light fixture from Palmer Hargrave suspends above the table.



For the interiors, Christofi selected what he calls an “undecorated color scheme” of taupe, brown and ecru that, along with the glowing warmth of natural materials, intertwine with the calming backdrop of the surrounding lush landscaping, and the dunes and sea beyond. “Often the words ‘Caribbean feel’ might suggest the brilliant colors of a primal palette,” Christofi says. “But our plan was to let the exterior, the greens and golds of the foliage and the blue hues of the ocean, be the primary aesthetic.”

“My springboard was my clients’ photos from Costa Rica,” says Christofi, who incorporated elements of the Caribbean and Indonesia into the home.



ABOVE: The dynamic lines of the living room include vertical, white-paneled walls, mahogany trim and a Brazilian wood console by Hugo Franca topped with colorful table lamps from Guéridon. A cocktail table by George Nakashima centers two chaises from Raul Carrasco covered in a geometric print by Henry Calvin and a Christian Liaigre sofa from Holly Hunt in a striped Sunbrella fabric.

RIGHT: Cylindrical light fixtures from Holly Hunt illuminate the dining area's massive table custom made by Tomas Frenes Design Studio. Christofi's design of the X-shaped legs in the bench is repeated in the legs of the nearby kitchen island while the bench's striped fabric from Henry Calvin adds a linear element.

BELOW: Wood as sculpture or utility? It's hard to tell the difference in the Christofi-designed stairway that sweeps along one living room wall. Small inset lights climb the wall, softly illuminating the stairs and making magical shadows at dusk. A bench with a cushion covered in China Seas fabric perches beneath.



“I WANTED THIS TO BE A HOUSE THAT WAS EASY FOR THE OWNERS TO LIVE IN AND CARE FOR,” CHRISTOFI SAYS.



Aware that this was a house for guests and children, with plenty of the outdoors finding its way inside, fabrics that would hold up were essential. Inside, the living room sofa — with its wide taupe-striped Sunbrella fabric, which is also used as outdoor upholstery — provides a comfortable yet durable sitting area while three easy-to-care-for ecru-leather chairs from A. Rudin surround a game table with a carved bleached-wood base. In contrast, plush chaise lounges covered in a rusty red batik-like print offer pure luxury. “I wanted this to be a house that was easy for the owners to live in and care for,” Christofi says. “Splashes of mahogany and painted-white, tongue-in-groove wall and ceiling paneling juxtapose with marine-grade stainless steel to give just the right blend of light and dark, softness and durability, and contemporary timelessness.”

Nowhere is the magnificence of mahogany more on display than in the dining

BELOW: A bronze and wood-paneled chest separates twin beds in the son's bedroom, where twirling-circle bed coverings add a touch of whimsy. A tribal wool area rug from Stark Carpet repeats the tones found throughout.



RIGHT: In the daughter's room, Christofi paired a molded fiberglass chair from Oggetti that looks as if it was carved from a tree trunk with an ottoman from Lars Bolander. Paintings by Beth Weintraub add to the natural motif.



area. With a single slab of polished wood stretching 10 feet and able to sit up to 14 guests, the table is accompanied by an equally impressive banquette covered in organically hued cotton stripes and flanked by sculpted chairs from Ralph Pucci. “The adjacent kitchen is pure ease with limestone countertops and simple cabinetry,” the designer says. Here, Christofi custom designed the kitchen island with X-shaped counter legs to echo the ones found on the dining table and chose drapery fabric that suggests a Balinese palm, attaching it to a rod with grommets and a boat line as a reminder of the nearby Gulf of Mexico.

Heading upstairs, the stairway is itself an aesthetic treat. Cantilevered off the wall

“It doesn’t pay to compete with Mother Nature,” Christofi says. “The outdoors are primary here. Through every window is a



like a piece of whimsical sculpture, the mahogany steps, with their front and back zigzag pattern, suggest an M.C. Escher drawing. Dark-stained edges highlight the geometry and stainless-steel railings have the appearance of a sturdy spiderweb.

With four bedrooms in the main house, and a guest house and gym in a separate dwelling, it is in the master bedroom that the owners can find their most private retreat. An expansive ocean view sits facing the custom-designed bed, its mahogany posters jutting to the ceiling suggesting an illusory canopy. Christofi positioned a matching oversized chest behind the bed and attached wall lamps to its back, elegantly creating a headboard and extra storage space in one fell

Christofi coupled splashes of mahogany with painted-white, tongue-in-groove wall and ceiling paneling to give just the right blend of light and dark.



swoop. Golds and browns of the fabric medallions found on the furnishings, bed covering and draperies bring in a touch of the Orient as do the original framed tracings on the wall by Japanese artist Guillermo Resto. “They are of exotic-looking ... manhole covers,” he laughs. “But in this context, they’re absolutely beautiful.”

From the pared-down, natural decor of the daughter’s bedroom and the slightly tribal feel of the son’s, to the wipe-clean lines of wide-planked mahogany flooring, and sisal and seagrass area rugs, this tropical home offers comfort and ease in every dimension. “Designing this home has been an inspiration,” Christofi says.

ABOVE: With its stunning view of the Gulf, the sitting area of the master bedroom seems to blend into the outdoors with a soft-hued tropical print from F. Schumacher, covering lounge chairs and an ottoman from Raul Carrasco, and mahogany wood in various shades. A Las Palmas cabinet from Tui Pranich adds an Indonesian flair while a rug made out of felt squares presents a sculptural feel.



By placing the bed away from the master bedroom wall, Christofi was allowed to cleverly provide hidden storage in the chest-turned-headboard positioned behind the bed. Caned end tables by Ted Boerner and a 1970s woven-leather bench from Matteo Grassi surround the remaining sides.



JF Chen chairs and a custom banquette covered in Donghia fabric form a cozy breakfast retreat, where the pattern of Alan Campbell's drapery treatment repeats on the pillows.



SOURCES

Pool Area

Pool - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
Chaises, tables and chairs - Rollner Architectural Metals, Brooklyn, NY
Cushion fabric - Holly Hunt, Donghia, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Living Room

Sofa - Christian Liaigre, Holly Hunt, New York, NY
Fabric - Sunbrella, Donghia, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Accent pillow fabric - Clarence House, Webster & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Chaises - Raul Carrasco, Miami, FL
Fabric - Henry Calvin Fabrics, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Game chairs - A. Rudin, The M-Geough Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Fabric - Holly Hunt, Donghia, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Game table - Jiun Ho, Dennis Miller Assoc., New York, NY
Cocktail table - George Nakashima Woodworker, S.A., New Hope, PA
Console - Hugo Franca, R Gallery, New York, NY
Light fixture - Palmer Hargrave, The Martin Group Furniture on 5, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Table lamps - Guéridon, New York, NY

Wall lamp - Holly Hunt, New York, NY
Floor lamps flanking sofa - Hudson Furniture, Inc., New York, NY
Floor lamp by chaise - Lee Jofa, FDO Group, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Drapery fabric - Alan Campbell, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Shutters in study - Back Bay Shutter Co., Inc., Woburn, MA
Leaf artwork - Formations, Los Angeles, CA
Area rug - Stark Carpet, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Stairway
Stairway and railings - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
Bench - Raul Carrasco, Miami, FL

SOURCE OPTIONS

Cushion fabric - China Seas, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Artwork in foyer - The Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA

Kitchen

Cabinetry and island - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
Barstools - Room, New York, NY
Pendants - Niche Modern, New York, NY
Drapery fabric - Alan Campbell, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Dining Area

Doors - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
Fabricated by Back Bay Shutter Co., Inc., Woburn, MA
Dining table and bench - Tomas Frenes Design Studio, Miami, FL
Bench fabric - Henry Calvin Fabrics, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Chairs - Ralph Pucci International, New York, NY

Light fixtures - Holly Hunt, New York, NY

Boys' Bedroom

Beds and chest - Shelter Furniture, Los Angeles, CA
Bed covering - SHE Home, Inc., Denyse Schmidt Quilts Studio, Bridgeport, CT
Area rug - Stark Carpet, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Daughter's Bedroom

Bed - Silho Furniture, Los Angeles, CA
Bed covering - SHE Home, Inc., Denyse Schmidt Quilts Studio, Bridgeport, CT
Chair - Oggetti, Miami, FL
Ottoman - Lars Bolander N.Y., New York, NY

Desk - Shelter Furniture, Los Angeles, CA

Master Bedroom

Bed - Jiun Ho, Dennis Miller Assoc., New York, NY
Lounge chairs and ottoman - Raul Carrasco, Miami, FL
Lounge chair, ottoman, bed covering and drapery fabric - F. Schumacher & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Chest behind bed - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
Bench - Matteo Grassi, Machine Age, Boston, MA

Cabinet - Las Palmas, Tui Pranich & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Bedside tables - Ted Boerner, Thomas Lavin, Inc., Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles, CA

Area rug - Stark Carpet, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Breakfast Area

Table - Troy, New York, NY
Chairs - JF Chen, Los Angeles, CA
Banquette and shelving - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA

Fabric - Holly Hunt, Donghia, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA

Throughout

Ceiling, wall paneling, millwork and molding - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA ◆

Cushion fabric - China Seas, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
 Artwork in foyer - The Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA
Kitchen
 Cabinetry and island - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
 Barstools - Room, New York, NY
 Pendants - Niche Modern, New York, NY

Drapery fabric - Alan Campbell, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Dining Area
 Shuttered doors - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
 Fabricated by Back Bay Shutter Co., Inc., Woburn, MA
 Dining table and bench - Tomas Frenes Design Studio, Miami, FL

Bench fabric - Henry Calvin Fabrics, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
 Chairs - Ralph Pucci International, New York, NY
 Light fixtures - Holly Hunt, New York, NY
Boys' Bedroom
 Beds and chest - Shelter Furniture, Los Angeles, CA
 Bed covering - SHE Home, Inc., Denyse Schmidt Quilts Studio, Bridgeport, CT

Table lamp - Wüd Furniture Design, Brooklyn, NY
 Area rug - Stark Carpet, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Daughter's Bedroom
 Bed - Silho Furniture, Los Angeles, CA
 Bed covering - SHE Home, Inc., Denyse Schmidt Quilts Studio, Bridgeport, CT
 Chair - Oggetti, Miami, FL
 Ottoman - Lars Bolander N.Y., New York, NY
 Desk - Shelter Furniture, Los Angeles, CA
 Artwork - Beth Weintraub, The Patterson Group LLC, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Master Bedroom
 Bed - Jiun Ho, Dennis Miller Assoc., New York, NY
 Lounge chairs and ottoman - Raul Carrasco, Miami, FL
 Lounge chair and ottoman fabric, bed covering and drapery fabric - F. Schumacher & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
 Chest behind bed - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
 Bench - Matteo Grassi, Machine Age, Boston, MA
 Cabinet - Las Palmas, Tui Pranich & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
 Bedside tables - Ted Boerner, Thomas Lavin, Inc., Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles, CA
 Artwork - Spring, Brooklyn, NY
 Area rug - Stark Carpet, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Breakfast Area
 Table - Troy, New York, NY
 Chairs - JF Chen, Los Angeles, CA
 Banquette and shelving - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA
 Fabric - Holly Hunt, Donghia, Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
 Accent pillow and drapery fabric - Alan Campbell, Furn & Co., Boston Design Center, Boston, MA
Throughout
 Ceiling, wall paneling, millwork and molding - Custom designed by Mark Christofi Interiors, North Reading, MA ♦

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