



BY JANN SEAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA KEENEY

Let's get this out of the way first. Yes, VStarr Interiors is owned by tennis great, Wimbledon Champion and Olympic Gold Medal winner Venus Williams. Yes, she really does get involved in all the design decisions. And yes, her favorite color is yellow. That said, we toured one of VStarr's latest interior design projects and found it to be a lovely blend of Palm Beach sophistication laced with traditional and contemporary design. The result is a family home that is comfortable and full of character.

(Opposite) Inspired interior design allowed a large sweep of a room to be separated into several living spaces. In keeping with the traditional/contemporary theme of the home, no "matching" was employed in the furnishings. Each piece stands alone and together they create the effect of an eclectic home. (Above) Velvet on the seat and a silk brocade back add additional interest to the elegant open arm wing chair.





Design team member Denise Chernoff led us through the home as Venus herself was on Amelia Island tending to another of her many careers. It's that "other" career that fuels her creative juices, and has opened the doors to design. But once inside those doors, it's up to her and VStarr to remain – and they're succeeding in aces!

The owner of the 3,019 square foot home we profiled wanted a fully designed residence without breaking the bank in cost. The focus was on design elements that took the eye to a different level, such as the painted red border on the wall of a child's room, or the chair railing and the moulding design below it in the den. VStarr was able to pull together all manner of upgrades resulting in a home that echoed attention to detail. Starting with the travertine flooring, "Which added character when it was laid in a mixed pattern design," according to Chernoff, to the double coffers, crown mouldings and wood casements throughout the home, a sense of solidity is all around. >

(Opposite) Departing from the color scheme of the main residence, the designers turned to bold red and white for a child's room. (Above) Simple wall colors and furnishings allow creativity and color to be used in the textiles. All the upholstery, bedding and draperies were designed locally.

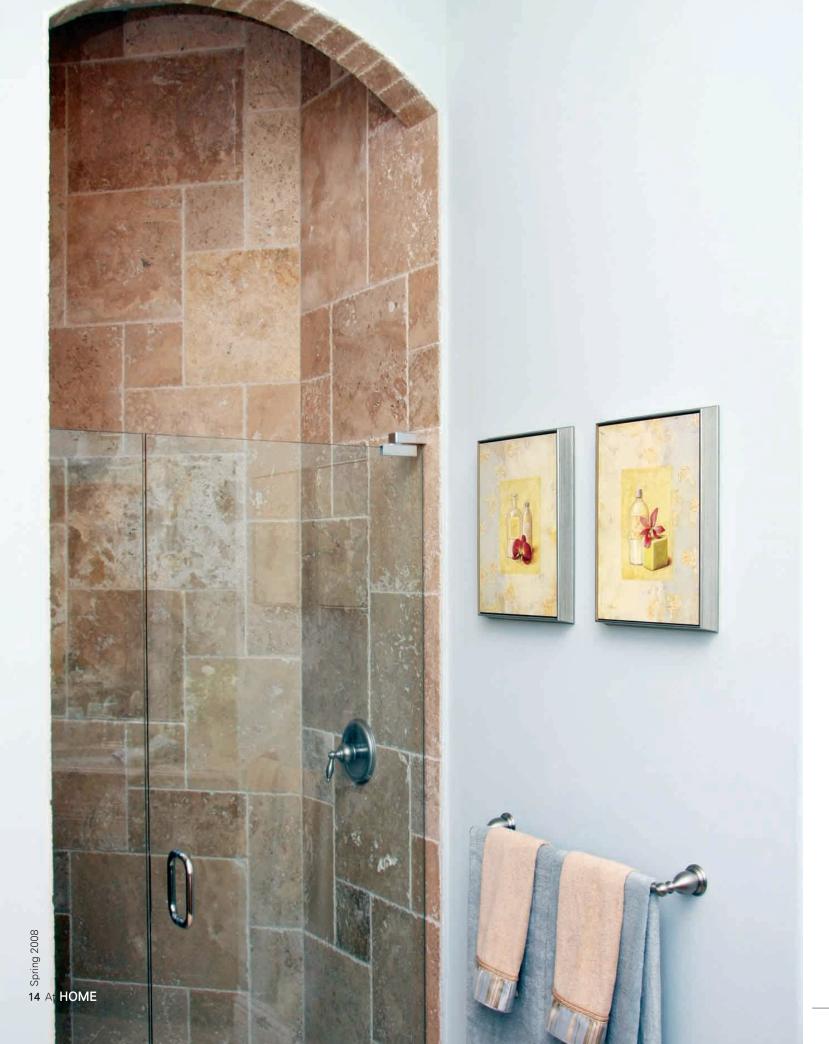


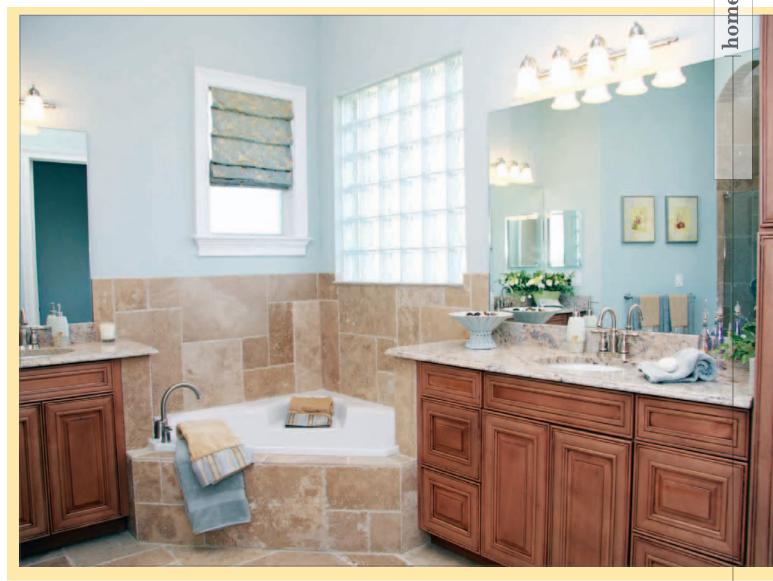


The job began just as the foundation was being laid, and the design team pulled all the furnishings together in just three months. Because of the short time frame, most of the furniture was purchased locally. Custom designing for the case goods was out of the question, but custom bedding and draperies were commissioned.

Soft yellow walls are throughout the main living areas, providing a muted backdrop to the furnishings and fabrics. Secondary rooms were painted white and derive their personalities from the furnishings contained therein and the luxurious bedding that was custom designed and crafted for the specific room. Warm and inviting, the contrast of the crisp white mouldings and the green of the exterior paint as seen from the many windows, provides a "sunshine" effect. ▶

(Opposite)Brazilian Giallo Fiorito Granite countertops were matched with maple cabinetry to create a British Colonial look in the kitchen. A tumbled marble backsplash visually unites the flooring with the countertops. (Above) Slipper chairs in the dinette are adorned with simple white cushions and the bamboo shades that do not obstruct the patio view blend with the look VStarr Interiors aimed to achieve-- simplicity.





The home, designed and built by H3 Construction is a testament to the "greening" of new construction. Hurricane impact glass by industry leader PGT is used throughout the home, including the sliding glass doors which lead to the lanai and summer kitchen. While heavy, they roll easily and the peace of mind that comes from knowing the panels are built to withstand hurricane force winds makes the extra effort worth the extra "umph." The poured concrete and steel "greenblock" exterior comes with an insulation rating of R22, which is notable since most homes are constructed with an insulation rating in the "teens." What this means to a homeowner is less usage of their cooling systems, and less ▶

(Opposite and above) The Master Bath tiling runs from the flooring up and beyond the walls, including on the arch-way leading to the large shower. Dual vanities and distressed maple cabinetry are enhanced by the glass block inset.



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greenhouse gasses being emitted into the atmosphere. These are but a few of the construction options available in keeping with the theme of environmental consciousness.

Venus Williams, Meighan Coger, design director for VStarr, and all the members of the VStarr team, were able to pull the pieces together and complete the interior design of this residence in a short time. Although they were working from locations spanning the four corners of the earth, the elements came together to create a lovely home that echoes tranquility. All it needs now is a signed tennis ball from Venus Williams and the décor will be complete.

While the bedroom space was large, the owner selected a bedroom set from Fine Furniture that did not overpower the room, allowing space for a sitting area in addition to an armoire and dresser.

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