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bold moves.

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WHEN A COUPLE WITH TWO CHILDREN WERE PLANNING TO RELOCATE TO BOCA RATON, IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THEY WERE NOT GOING TO FIND AN EXISTING HOME THAT FIT WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. It wasn't the functional requirements—open floor plan, upstairs bedrooms, theater and game room—that posed a problem, so much as the form. “Nine out of 10 houses in Boca are Mediterranean in style,” says the husband. “They all have similar roofs and colors.” That would not be an option for the couple. From the start, they knew they wanted something minimal, clean and very contemporary. So, they proceeded to assemble a team that could build them the house they envisioned.

First on board was architect Jay Colestock. “We started with how many bedrooms they wanted and how much square footage, and then the lot itself,” says Colestock. “The site has a lake behind it and then two fairways beyond that. That rear view is just spectacular.” Colestock laid out a floor plan for a two-story house with a raised foyer that looks out over the living and dining areas to the backyard and swimming pool; a guest bedroom is tucked away at one end. A kitchen, breakfast room and family room flow into one another, and a theater and game room round out the first floor. Three bedrooms, a large master suite and a second floor lounge complete the upstairs.

ARCHITECTURE Donald Yoshino, FAIA, Yoshino Architecture, P.A., Robert Jay Colestock, AIA, Mark A. Muir, AIA, Colestock & Muir Architects, P.A.
INTERIOR DESIGN Donald Yoshino, FAIA, Yoshino Architecture, P.A.
HOME BUILDER Dan Mahoney, NAHB, LEED AP, Mahoney Homes, Inc.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Don Murakami, Murakami Landscape Design
BEDROOMS 5 BATHROOMS 8 SQUARE FEET 10,604





SURFACE VALUE

Architect Jay Colestock and architect-interior designer Donald Yoshino worked together to realize a couple's vision for an ultra-contemporary house in Boca Raton. Inside, surfaces—mainly granite, porcelain, wenge wood, stainless steel and glass—lend a sleek feel.

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As the bones of the structure were settled, the couple brought in architect and interior designer Donald Yoshino, assisted by Ena Hughes, to realize the interiors they imagined. To help illustrate these ideas, the husband turned to a collection of books, magazines and old pictures that he had been saving for years. "From a young age, I was aware of design, style and a 'less is more' notion," he says. "I'd been ripping out pages from magazines for a long time, all the while hoping I could one day build a house like this one." Images filed away included a home in Naples by Richard Meier, a celebrity interior by Jennifer Post and any details that caught his eye, from a water feature at an Indian spa to an Ingo Maurer chandelier.



TRIAL SEPARATION

Yoshino visually divided the living and dining areas with a loggia-like partition. In the living area, a streamlined sofa, coffee table and sculptural woven chairs—all from Artefacto—surround a textured rug from ABC Carpet & Home.



FALLING WATERS

As water is associated with good health in feng shui, Yoshino created a granite water feature to provide a sense of coolness and serenity at the front entrance. Fiber optics add sparkle beneath the liquid, and the stepped design suggests a modern take on a waterfall.



HIGH CONTRAST

In the kitchen, wenge wood cabinetry plays off the quartz-topped island, both from Luminaire Lab. The ovens are by Gaggenau; the refrigerator is by Sub-Zero. Recessed ceiling lights illuminate the room without distracting from the architecture's clean lines.

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Yoshino distilled this information into a spare yet striking environment. "We simplified the elements in the basic drawings to make them work in a more minimalist fashion," says Yoshino, who smoothed over coffered ceilings, removed all moldings and widened transitions for a more open feel. To emphasize the clean lines, he chose white porcelain tile and dark gray granite for the floors, recessed lighting and streamlined built-ins. "This house had a lot of creative challenges," says general contractor Dan Mahoney. "The Mediterranean style is a little more forgiving because you can hide things. A contemporary house is all about the architecture. It's much more demanding." While the interiors began to morph into a sleek contemporary space, Yoshino addressed the exterior with the same intentions. Pitched roofs were flattened and stacked-stone cladding was replaced with simple drywall or the same dark granite used inside.



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As the exterior and interior created a dialogue, the scenery joined the conversation. Landscape designer Don Murakami followed the same directives—clean, minimal, contemporary—and created grounds that would highlight those values. “The exterior hardscape is choreographed as a sequence of experiences,” says Murakami. “There are allusions to a Japanese dry garden, with large stepping stones and a variety of tall, elegant bamboo was installed to provide scale and privacy for the residence.”

Inside, the couple assembled a carefully edited selection of furnishings, including sculptural woven chairs from Artefacto, a custom dining table by Rotsen Furniture and a larger-than-king-size bed custom-made by Interior Services. They purchased all of the artwork from Trudy Labell Fine Art, including a piece by David Willis made with small glass flowers suspended from the ceiling. It was originally meant to be installed on the stair landing, but Yoshino notified the couple that according to the intent

OFF THE MENU

An Ingo Maurer light fixture hangs above a dining table the homeowners had custom-made by Rotsen Furniture. The upholstered highback chairs are from Artefacto and built-in niches of wenge wood lend a layer of functionality and warmth to the space.



STEPPING UP

The staircase—executed by Conti Glass Corporation—sets the house’s tone with its modern mix of materials. Wenge wood marks the treads and risers, stainless steel supports the structure and glass railings all but disappear. The painting is by Joel Babb.



DOMINO EFFECT

Yoshino alternated white plaster and gray granite to break up the scale of the house. A series of square columns and beams help define outdoor spaces, and a rain shear spills from one of the beams into an infinity-edge swimming pool. The furniture is by Royal Botania.



STAGE LIGHTS

His-and-hers sinks in the spa-like master bath were built on-site from eight-foot-long pieces of solid granite and are each anchored by four unseen cantilevered columns. Floating steps of granite, which are indirectly lit with LEDs, lead up to a whirlpool MTI tub.

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of feng shui, which he tries to follow in his designs, this would reject the good chi. “I looked up what ‘chi’ meant exactly,” says the wife, “and I thought, ‘No, we cannot block this.’” The artwork now hangs in the living room near a dramatic curved fireplace wall.

“There aren’t a lot of houses around here like this one,” says Yoshino. Between the two-tone exterior, manicured Japanese-like landscaping and sleek interiors, the structure does command attention. “The owners wanted to garner a ‘Wow!’ from wherever you went in the house,” he says. “That’s what we tried to do for them, and I think we succeeded.” **L**



SLEEP STUDY

Yoshino designed an extra-large platform bed, dressed with sheets from ThreadCount, for the master bedroom. The wenge wood frame—fabricated by Interior Services—reaches up over a Spinneybeck leather-covered headboard and down past the foot of the bed to conceal a 56-inch television.