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SEASONS IN THE SUN

*Hailing From The North, A Couple Basks
In The Casual Florida Ambiance Of Their Waterfront Retreat*

INTERIOR DESIGN Rod Mickley, Rod Mickley Interior Design, Vero Beach, FL

TEXT Roberta H. Freeman-Journey

PHOTOGRAPHY Dennis Krukowski, New York, NY



John's Island, just a few miles south of Vero Beach, Fla., is a private residential community bordered by the Intracoastal Waterway on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Within this enclave, Bill and Alice Bahrenburg's charming courtyard retreat reflects the traditional style of their Rye, N.Y., residence yet with a casual Florida air.

"We fell in love with that Florida feel," Bill says,

ABOVE: McGuire's bonefish rattan chairs, with cushions upholstered in Brunswick & Fils' apple-green-and-red stripe, surround the table in the dining room. An iron chandelier from Niermann Weeks softly illuminates the setting.

ABOVE LEFT: A wicker love seat and matchstick blinds blend with traditional pieces in the living room. The botanical prints are by 17th-century artist/pharmacist Basil Bessler.





“and we wanted to bring it inside with us. The structure of the home was great, but the interior reflected the 1980s, so we knew it would have to be redesigned.”

Designer Rod Mickley, who was introduced to the couple through friends, suggested colors and fabrics that he felt conveyed the carefree attitude the Bahrenburgs sought for their new home.

In the living room, natural materials mesh with traditional furnishings, giving the scheme a more casual feel. “I like to play with textures — wood with glass and metal, for instance. That might sound odd together, but they make a wonderful combination,” Mickley says. On one side of the room, a wicker love seat and a wood-and-cane armchair pull up to an antique-style tray table.

Drawing from classic island hues, Mickley enveloped the dining room in a creamy eggshell hue.

Here, a recessed niche outlined in white molding houses a banquette, which provides additional seating around the handcrafted oval table. On the wall, botanical prints illustrate local flora.

Sun shines through paned windows in the sunroom, highlighting

ABOVE: In the breakfast area, antique-white chairs and a table with a mahogany top give the space a refined vintage look. A trio of prints depicting Capt. Cook’s voyages adds an old Florida feel. Outside, an Indian teak bench rests on the brick patio.

LEFT: Bill and Alice Bahrenburg’s love of Florida comes to life in the sunroom, where the sun shines on island-inspired furnishings and fabrics. “We love the outdoors, we love gardening, and we love the wonderful southern exposure of our home,” Bill says.



the seashell-inspired print on the sofa. "I covered the body of the sofa in woven-grass raffia and the heavy cotton cushions in a colorful collection of seashells," Mickley says. Rattan chairs join the sofa, completing the comfortable grouping.

The majority of the renovations took place in the kitchen and breakfast area, where antique-finished furnishings impart a timeworn elegance. "We did not want anything to be overdone or too traditional," Mickley says. "It was important to keep the textures and colors very natural, almost calming."

Mirrored panels in the master bath further reflect Mickley's strategy to open up each room. The Bahrenburgs added a personal touch by using dolphin faucets from their northern home on the sink and tub.

"Fresh as a morning breeze" appropriately describes the feel

of the master bedroom, where shuttered doors open to a garden outside. Pale green and white striated walls blend with antique-white fabrics and furnishings for a truly soothing setting.

Imbued with the spirit and beauty of the tropics, this retreat affords the Bahrenburgs enjoyable seasons in the sun.

ABOVE: Mirrored panels enlarge the look of the master bath. Awash in a sea of white marble, cabinetry and millwork, the space is an oasis of pure tranquility.

RIGHT: As refreshing as a mint parfait, the master bedroom presents a delicious blend of green, beige and fluffy white hues. A four-poster bed with a distressed finish takes center stage with its hand-carved posts and headboard.



