

"The homeowners wanted to make sure we incorporated natural elements, so we sourced this Palecek pendant made from rattan sticks with the look of a sea urchin," says designer Tiffany Hinton. The mirrored bar area and hits of brass bring a bit of formality.



## Island Jewel

A condo on Amelia Island is reinvented with a modern look that's anything but coastal cliché

By **LISA MOWRY** | Photography by **JESSIE PREZA**

**JUST SOUTH OF** the Georgia-Florida line, find wide beaches, green fairways, and the historic town of Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island. For Sally and Trav Paulk of Valdosta, a vacation home there meant a chance to spend time with their five children and reconnect with a spot Sally visited often in her childhood. But in a world of bland and kitschy

**FAR LEFT** | To accommodate multiple guests in this bedroom, the design team installed custom bunk beds above a king-sized bed. Curtains provide privacy.

**LEFT** | Metal shower doors and funky custom wallpaper bring the cool factor to this guest bath, punctuated with a mustard-colored floating vanity.



**TOP** | Sally Paulk's father painted the artwork above the sectional in the living room, which is furnished mostly from designer Tiffany's local store, Cape House. She designed a clever built-in that frames the TV, provides storage, and serves as a window seat.

**BOTTOM LEFT** | The master bedroom is all about cozy drama. "We used a Schumacher black grasscloth on the bed wall and painted the remaining walls in Sherwin Williams 'Greenblack,'" the designer says. "The African Kuba cloth we sourced at a local festival on the island."

**BOTTOM RIGHT** | As a modern take on a traditional pattern, the designer layered a Schumacher wallpaper and matching fabric on the headboards to create a seamless look in daughter Mary's bedroom. Sconces from Visual Comfort are low-key but sculptural.

beach condos, they wanted something different. After buying a unit in the Amelia Island Plantation Resort, now part of Omni Hotels, they enlisted interior designer Tiffany Hinton of Lola Interiors in Fernandina Beach to bring in rich color, cool furnishings, and clever architectural features.

"This had been your typical '80s beach condo," says Tiffany, a native of the coastal town. "Lots of pastels—including beach-umbrella wallpaper in the hall bath."

Remodeling was key to the new look. "We definitely wanted to open up the kitchen to the living space," says Tiffany. She came up with a creative solution for a pipe that couldn't be relocated, giving it the appearance of a brass pole with custom escutcheon plates. The Paulks were inspired by colorful artwork to give the go-ahead for dark green cabinetry.

Playful wallpaper and saturated colors throughout the condo make every room a visual treat, including a guest bath with a mustard-colored vanity and wallpaper of black-and-white blowfish. Teenage daughter Mary's room includes wallpaper and a headboard fabric in the same brown woodland pattern. Nature-themed features are everywhere, but with a contemporary twist. Says Sally: "I wanted the home to be inspired by the ocean and landscape in subtle ways."



## Vacation Planner

HERE'S HOW TO GET A PIECE OF THE ISLAND

**BUY** | The Amelia Island Plantation Resort (now part of the Omni Hotels) is a multi-use, 1,300-acre community known for its oceanfront property and golf and tennis facilities (plus the largest poolside in north Florida). Homes range from

\$300,000 for condos to more than \$1 million for single-family homes. With nine restaurants in the complex, Sally Paulk and family enjoy the ease of using a golf cart to get around for evenings out. [ameliaislandrealestate.net](http://ameliaislandrealestate.net)

**VISIT** | The classic, beach-front Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, open since 1991, is a luxe landmark. With a focus on wellness, the hotel is rolling

out new offerings like yoga nidra and meditation classes, new spa treatments (including some with CBD), and an in-house naturalist. Explore Fernandina Beach, the quaint downtown area with shops, restaurants, Victorian houses, and a marina. Amelia Island is about a six-hour drive from Atlanta (or a 30-minute drive from the Jacksonville airport), but once you're there, it's fun to explore the island on bicycles. [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

**RESOURCES** | **DESIGNER:** Tiffany Hinton, Lola Interiors, [lolainteriors.com](http://lolainteriors.com) and her Amelia Island shop, Cape House, [shopcapehouse.com](http://shopcapehouse.com)