

Tropic

FLORIDA LIVING & DESIGN

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"Ron is an avid boater," Pierce said. "So a lot of the details are borrowed from a ship." Aluminum handrails suggestive of a cruise ship line the balconies and staircase. Instead of a full third floor, he created a "crow's nest" for the couple's home office with views similar to those you would see from the tower of a yacht.

There were a few challenges, namely, the unpredictable housing market. After the Hinks bought the property in 2006, the economy took a nosedive. The couple didn't want to get in over their head, so they dragged out the design process, all the while watching the housing market for signs of recovery. This also provided time to work out the logistics

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of the unusual shape of the roof. "As a builder, I knew it would be tricky," said Ron. "We needed to make sure we weren't designing something too expensive to build." In 2010, when the Hinks were ready to break ground, they enlisted Tom Krips Construction as the shell contractor. They constructed the roof using wooden forms and reinforced concrete, which gave them the flexibility they needed for the unique shape. From piles to completion, the home was built in 18 months.

When finished, "it felt like we had commissioned a painting. It was a masterpiece," Ron said. It was also the perfect blank canvas for Vicki's shrewd eye for contemporary interior design and continuity.

"I made a big effort to keep the design simple, and simple is hard," she said. "There is so much going on with the shape of the home. I didn't want to compete." To soften the space, Vicki chose a red dry-stack stone for two columns at the rear of the house. Then, she used the earthy grays, browns and beiges in the stone as the inspiration for her neutral, but rich, interior color palette.

The couple had originally planned for concrete ceilings, but Vicki went with a honey-hued wood instead. "The wood ceilings really warm the space," Pierce said. "When you see the house illuminated from Las Olas, it's amazing."

Since guests enter the home on the middle level, Vicki worried that they might lose connectivity to the other floors. To unify the three spaces, she found vendors that shared her

A custom-made 24-foot chandelier By GMB Lighting is composed of hundreds of tiny prisms, stretching through the core of the twisting staircase.



"This part of [Navarro Isle] has a much wider canal than the rest of the isles," said Ron, referring to the southern end. "We said to each other, 'When we see one of the street's first six lots go on the market, we're buying it.'" Their forbearance paid off, and in 2006, they snatched up the third property in from Las Olas on Navarro Isle. It was a 6,500-square-foot lot that was the perfect site for their soon-to-be dream home.

Given its proximity to Las Olas Boulevard, the property is very visible to passersby from each direction, so "we knew it had to be something truly unique," Vicki said. In short, they wanted the wow factor. Ron, who owns construction company Troika Management, had worked with many architects over the years, and sought out his friend Vernon Pierce

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because of his history designing contemporary homes. "We told Vernon that we didn't want some cookie cutter house," Ron said. Pierce's body of work is anything but conventional, running the gamut from an Airbus flight simulator facility at Miami International Airport to the West Regional Library in Plantation, Florida.

The Hinks met with Pierce to discuss their criteria for the home, which included large balconies, three stories and a floor plan that took advantage of the water views. "We shared a common vision, which helped me immensely," Pierce said. "I basically designed the house in a weekend." Rather than sketches, he built a three-dimensional model of the would-be structure and presented it to the Hinks.

"It was not what we expected," Ron said. "It was better. It was a work of art." Pierce's design included all the elements from the couple's contemporary wish list and then some. He created a sloped roof that would simultaneously let in the sunlight from the north and grab the breezes from the southeast. He envisioned a large second floor living space with a 22-foot ceiling and commanding vistas from all angles. And to tie everything together, he designed a spiral staircase that echoes the interior of a large nautilus shell in the home's foyer.



The curved ceiling is composed of 11" thick, steel-reinforced concrete lined with satin-finished hardwood. Floor is a limestone look porcelain from CLAD Tile & Stone.