WHERE IS IT WRITTEN that too many cooks must spoil the stew? In the case of two prestigious architecture and design firms, an independent interior designer, and a family of five, the “stew” involved the creation of a brand-new family home in the elegant and established town of Golden Beach, Fla. But despite many parties’ involvement, the final result is as wonderful as each of them had hoped it to be.

“I spent many hours gazing at designs and finished houses searching for the contemporary approach that would work for my growing family,” owner Patricia Wexler says. And she found two architects whose spare approach, clean lines, and understanding of the indoor/outdoor life the family leads seemed to fit the bill perfectly.

Above: A series of “volumes” with vertical elements make up the contemporary facade of a new home in an older neighborhood. With two architectural firms, and a designer working in harmony, the owner’s dream turned into reality— a home with room to grow.
Without hesitation, architect and designer Stephanie Halfen teamed with architect Lucas D’Adamo Baumann from Argentina. With Halfen coordinating the project and interpreting the homeowners’ desires, the two firms designed this 5,000-square-foot home filled with texture and light; a perfect residence for little people to grow up in.

Though the property was facing an expansive view of a canal and beyond, Golden Beach, the lot’s pie-shape and proximity to the neighbors’ dwellings was a challenge. A waterfront focus and unobtrusive privacy walls solved the problem.

Inside, the creative architects continued the thematic vertical play of aluminum slats seen on the front’s elevation with the use of poured concrete and metallic slats in the stunning stairway entry. Rising even beyond the living room’s 15-foot-high ceiling, “We could have gone very small or very large with the wall art, but opted for four dramatic art panels by Vicky Barranguet,” architect and interior designer Stephanie Halfen says.

Left: Restoration Hardware’s low-lying sofas join a leather bench from Regina Andrew in the great room. Above the dining table from Molteni&C, chandeliers by Moooi are transparent lattices until lit, then glowing spherical stars.
With light from the front, back and overhead, the living area’s expanse is filled with life, as a child’s artistry becomes fabulous abstract originals through the magic of artist Alex Turco.

The stairway’s glass wall soars overhead into its own skylight, leaving the white oak treads and the glass balustrades floating magically in the light.

Halten also worked closely with interior designer Adriana Grauer to select the furnishings throughout. In the living room lined with a wall of glass, the design team opted for sleek, low-lying furnishings that do not interrupt the outside view or the selection of art. “We could have gone very small or very large for the wall art, but opted...
for four dramatic art panels by Vicky Barranguet,” Halten says. Just as the exterior is made of various “volumes” — stacked concrete cubes that intersect — she was careful about the “volumes” that are experienced inside. Beyond, the interplay of the dining ensemble’s legs and the vertical thrusts of the bronzed slats leave the view from the entry through to the water unobstructed.

Normally, a house filled with children will have their various accomplishments on display. Yet it is rare that a three-year-old’s artistry will be blown up and exhibited with as much success as that of the owners’ offspring, whose tiny sketch was turned into functional art by Alex Turco. With but a little shove, the living area’s doors covered with the child’s aluminium reproduction become fabulous abstract originals that slide open to reveal the kitchen and family room beyond.

With sleek kitchen cabinetry from Poggenpohl, a monochromatic palette continues until the playful pop of color in the family room.
Bonaldo’s table and chairs are light enough for little hands to move near a family-friendly banquette. With four bedrooms upstairs, the owners wanted a place for little folks to play, an intimate space just for them. Games, homework and cuddle time all occur inside what appears as a mahogany playhouse. As if stacking dice, the architects have given a narrow lot depth and height by adjusting the arrangement of those dice. The entire master suite sits like a voluminous cube atop another. An overhanging square is topped by a rectangular terrace, and along facades, shadow-box structure gives dimension to windows and doors. With the same South American sensibilities as her client, Halfen understood not only her cultural tastes, but also the needs of her growing family. “I see my children maybe having a first kiss on the balcony, or receiving a graduation bouquet,” Wexler says. “This is the house for us for a long, long time.”

Above right: Tucked beneath a mahogany wrapped sun-shelter, a sofa from Clima Outdoor and Paola Lenti’s lounge chairs set the stage for casual entertainment. Fruit punch served on an Anima Domus cocktail table is perfect for all occasions.

Right: Little color is needed in a master bath when surface, form and function are preeminent. The black porcelain wall from New Stone Age accents the polish of MiaCucina’s vanity with a convenient shelf for linens nestled below.
SUBSCRIBE NOW!

SAVE 50%* OFF THE COVER PRICE

1 Year $19.99
(4 issues)

2 Years $27.99
(8 issues)
BEST BUY
Save 50%

1-800-523-3327
or for faster service go to
www.floridadesign.com

SOURCES

Living Area
Sofas - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL
Fabric - Perennials, David Sutherland
Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
White lounge chairs - Poltrona Frau Group,
Miami, FL
Bench - Regina Andrew Design, Riverview, MI
Cocktail table - Molteni&C, Modus, MDD,
Miami, FL
Orange and purple abstract artwork - Alex
Turco Art Designer, MDD, Miami, FL
Yellow and black artwork and area
rug - Owners’ Collection

Dining Area
Dining table - Molteni&C, Modus, MDD,
Miami, FL
Dining chairs - Bonaldo, Addison House,
Aventura, FL
Sideboard - Custom designed by Agsia Design
Group, North Miami Beach, FL
Fabricated by Artec Custom Wood, Miami, FL
Pendant light fixtures - Moooi, Lumens
Light + Living, Sacramento, CA

Stairway
Stairway fabricated by Ambiance Interiors
Manufacturing Corp., Miami, FL

Kitchen
Cabinetry and banquette - Poggenpohl US, Inc.,
Doral, FL
Countertops - Fine Surfaces and More, Miami, FL
Hood and double ovens - Wolf, Ferguson,
Miami, FL
Table - Bonaldo, www.deplain.com
Side chairs - Bonaldo, Addison House,
Aventura, FL

Family Room
Sofa - Living Divani, Luminaire,
Coral Gables, FL
Yellow accent pillow fabric - Crate&Barrel,
Aventura, FL
Throw on sofa - Missoni, Addison House,
Aventura, FL
Cocktail tables - Moroso,
www.hivemodern.com
Area rug - Surya, Atlanta, GA

Play Area
Table, chairs, lounge chairs and center
ottoman - Owners’ Collection
Throw on ottoman - West Elm,
Hallandale Beach, FL

Wood wall and ceiling treatment fabricated by
South Millwork Corp., Miami, FL
Area rug - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL

Master Bedroom
Bed - Design Within Reach, MDD, Miami, FL
Wood wall unit fabricated by South Millwork
Corp., Miami, FL
Balcony chairs - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL

Vanity - MiaCucina, Aventura, FL
Mirrors - M & J Mirrors and Glass, Miami, FL
Wall covering and flooring - New Stone Age, Inc.,
Miami, FL

Patio
Sofa - Clima Outdoor, Miami, FL
Fabric - Sunbrella, Glen Raven, NC
Lounge chairs - Paola Lenti, www.deplain.com
Cocktail table - AnimA Domus,
North Miami, FL