



Florida Room | A Stark carpet sets the tone in the airy family room (LEFT). The cocktail tables and mirror are by J. Robert Scott. The curtain fabric is from A.M. Collections, NYC, and the upholstery fabric is Larsen. **Blue Note** | Another Stark carpet (OPPOSITE) suggests blue details for the living room. The drapery fabrics are from Old World Weavers and Nancy Corzine. The mirror is from Lorin Marsh, NYC. See Resources.

WHEN A 25-FOOT-HIGH, two-storied room includes an inviting place to curl up and read a book, it's a sure sign that the interior designer has achieved something significant. In this case, a Greenwich, Conn. couple turned to Bruce Bierman, a designer known for his purist modern esthetic, to make their 18,000 square foot Florida house a home. Built by J.F. Brennan in the exclusive Bear's Club, a private golf community in Jupiter, the rambling house includes Palladian architectural references, terra cotta roof tile from South America and grand French-inspired interiors.

That's precisely what the homeowners wanted for their second home. Built on a double lot, the house is an expansive 200 feet from end to end and designed on a central axis so that rooms flow into each other with ease.

The couple, with two young children, prefers large spaces and gracious proportions. Despite the house's grandeur, it is the setting for family life: children running throughout, guests visiting for long weekends, barbecues by the pool and a very private oasis to unwind. For example, says the wife, the comfort and elegance of the living room makes it her favorite room in the house. "I love my living room. The color, the space, the drapes are simple but dramatic.

I can read a book in there or entertain a group of friends," she says.

Staying true to his modern design sensibility, Bierman adapted the same principles he would use in designing a spare white box. The result is a space with a tranquil ambience and distinctive, intimate interiors that could otherwise have felt daunting.

"This," Bierman explains, "is my take on traditional." Utilizing a ton-on-tone color palette with accents of pattern and luxurious materials to add subtle touches of color in the rooms, the designer imbued a traditional house with lightness in every sense. Even the accessories do not overwhelm the space. "I intentionally didn't fill up the spaciousness that was part of the architecture," he adds.

Using a consistent palette is part of his trick. Here, creamy white is a restrained backdrop for Aubusson carpets, mirrored furniture and oversized upholstery, all inspired by the elegance of Palm Beach in the 1940s.

In the serene living room, an ice blue accent color was lifted from the medallion of the room's oval Aubusson carpet. Bierman used the color on the pillows, a throw and glass accessories. The overstuffed sofa, love seat

White Out | In the breakfast room (PREVIOUS SPREAD, LEFT), a creamware collection, chandelier and silver serving bowl are all from Lorin Marsh, NYC. The J. Robert Scott dining chairs are upholstered in white Edelman leather. The marble table was created by Girard-Emilia Custom Woodcarving in Dania. **Delicious Details** | Bierman created a modern aesthetic without sacrificing coziness by working in a tone-on-tone palette with elements like creamware against light wood (PREVIOUS SPREAD, RIGHT). See Resources.