



sweet inspiration

BY KAREN MILLER
PHOTOS BY DAVID BURGHARDT, ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

Jackie and Peter Martin lived in Coral Gables for 30 years, until a trip to Myrtle Beach brought them to Amelia Island, a stop along their way. Walking on the beach, the couple spied a home that intrigued them, with Jackie noting what a unique property it was. It didn't take them long to decide they were meant to live in that house. They bought the villa in 2003, and, just two years ago, they did a total renovation, rebuilding the house to their liking using the home's original footprint.

Jackie loves the ocean and the inspiration she derives from the scene she wakes up to every day. A house on the beach is like no other, offering a landscape that changes from day to day and season to season. She had no need to hire a decorator, as she





and Peter have a great sense of style. Their collection of furniture and antiques has charm and history. “We have collected a lot of things over the years. When we moved here, we had to get rid of a lot,” says Jackie. “We kept the things we loved and cherished, and decorated the home around those items.”

Because the house has been rebuilt, it felt brand new. But the couple wanted to bring a sense of “oldness” to the home as well, and it was Jackie’s idea to use reclaimed materials. “That was one of the reasons we used the reclaimed wood to create a bar around the counter in the kitchen,” said Jackie. “When I stand at the window looking at the view, I feel as if I’m on a ship!” Reclaimed wood from the Jim Beam distillery was used for all the floors, and the dining room table was made with wood that came from an old grain elevator, handcrafted by artisan Kevin Byrnes of Jacksonville.



Details are all about what makes the Martin's home special. The couple tries to purchase as many things as they can from local shops. "We have some small pieces and lamps that we bought at the Plantation Shop," says Peter. "Other furniture has come from Lott's and Roxy's, and Rowland's Upholstery recovered some things for us. Our blinds and shutters are from Bill Scheff of Great Windows, and much of the art on our walls is by local artists."



The Martin home is three stories tall. The bottom floor contains two bedrooms, one for their girls and one for their son, who visit their parents frequently. The winding staircase opens to a great room, the heart of their home, featuring the dining, living, and kitchen areas, boasting beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean. Another story up you'll find a den and master bedroom. Two patios, a ground floor sitting area, and an outdoor shower allow the couple to spend a lot of time outdoors. "We love to walk on the beach and ride bikes," says Peter. "This neighborhood is ideal for that." In addition, Peter and Jackie belong to a book club and enjoy golfing together.



Jackie and Peter are retired now. Jackie was an elementary school teacher, and Peter, a professional director in the utilities industry. When they moved to the island full-time, they were eager to get involved in the community. Peter was invited to join the board of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, and, as a lifetime motorsport enthusiast, he loves the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. Jackie is involved with Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library.

As much as they love being involved in the community, they also enjoy just relaxing with close friends and family, finding inspiration in the heart of their home overlooking the magnificent, ever-changing beach.