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# Welcome Home

Quarterly section devoted to regional design and stylish interiors // Winter 2021

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Ponte Vedra's Houser family  
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JESSIE PREZZA

# Coastal Living

## THE HOUSER FAMILY MAKES A HOME IN PONTE VEDRA

words by Kara Pound / photos by Jessie Preza

**H**AL AND KATIE HOUSER HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS of Ponte Vedra Beach for years, which is why it's no surprise that their newly built home resides within the gated community of Marsh Harbor. The one-of-a-kind corner lot is surrounded by water with the Intracoastal in the back and a creek on the side, offering island-like seclusion. The Houser's were looking for a neighborhood that would allow them to socialize with friends in the community while also providing privacy. "We decided being on the water was our first choice," says Katie. The 5,500-square-foot home offers plenty of space for the active family—four teenage boys and two large dogs—with everything they need while also providing a spectacular view of the water from every window.

The family set out to design a home that would fit their busy lifestyle while balancing elegance and comfortability. What resulted was a unique home packed with personality. "We wanted to design a house that worked well for our boys to come home and visit, bring friends, and eventually their families," says Katie. This five-bedroom home features many unusual spaces such as a billiard room, loft with a kitchenette, and his and hers offices with design finishes including barn doors, exposed beams, and brick walls throughout.





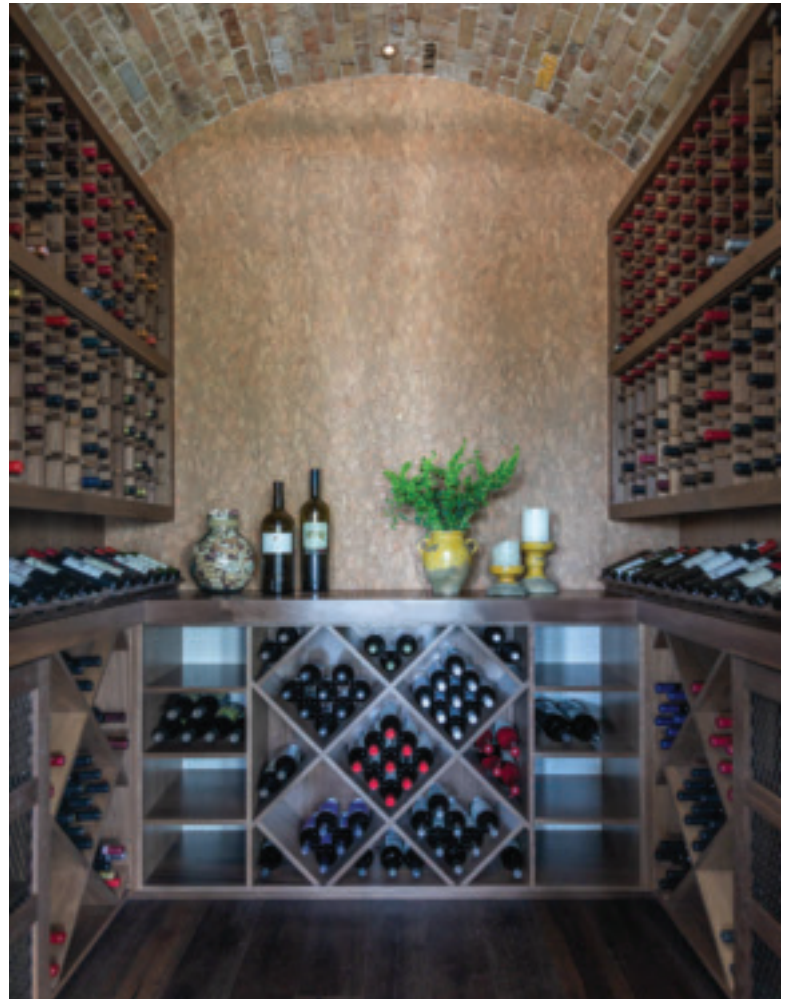
The final product comes from a thorough collaboration between builder, architect, homeowners, and designer who all had one common goal in mind—achieving a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere for the family to enjoy for years to come. “This truly was a collaborative effort,” says interior designer Lisa Gielincki. “The builder, John Denneen, has a beautiful way of creating homes with souls.” The Housers’ home is yet another example of that.

“We could not have picked a better builder or designer to make this big project more enjoyable,” says Katie. “They always strived to come up with the most creative solution to meet our needs and budget.”

Local artisans and craftsmen also helped bring this home to life. The red brick fireplace formed of reclaimed material has two solid-wood mantles stationed on either side, which were crafted by Eco Relics, while the artwork placed throughout the home was commissioned from family friend and artist, Sheppard Morose.

“For a family that is always entertaining, the goal was to create a design that felt warm and welcoming,” Gielincki says. “We focused on bright, clean colors with a heavy emphasis on blues and reds.”

The waterfront home was crafted with entertainment and family gathering at its core. The living room, dining room, kitchen, and billiard room are all located on the ground level with an open-concept floorplan that allows each room to flow into one another with ease.



#### THE BILLIARD ROOM

The billiard room was the most fun for the designer to put together. Accessible from the hallway by a sliding barn door or the living room by two antique wooden doors, the billiard room brings a custom-feel to traditional coastal living. “The family spends a lot of their time in this room,” says Gielincki. It features a pool table and cocktail seating along a red reclaimed brick wall with lantern-style lighting and a live-oak drink rail.







## THE KITCHEN

The home's focus was placed on the areas where family and friends would gather, with the vibrant, cobalt blue kitchen being the main event. "Our favorite room is probably the kitchen," says Katie. "It needed to be a bright, happy place that could handle big groups comfortably."

The exquisite cabinetry, hand-made quilt-textured tile, and custom metal vent hood help make this room one-of-a-kind. "There's two of everything!" says Gielincki. Two sinks, two trash bins, two pantries, and even a perfectly stationed TV hangs over the refrigerator, making this room ideal for large gatherings. The custom 10-foot, well, actually it's more like two-of-a-kind table was also made double-wide, allowing enough room for two to be seated comfortably at either end.





## OUTDOOR LIVING

It wouldn't be a Florida home without outdoor living space, and the Houser's residence is no exception. The side yard includes a basketball court for the family to burn off steam with a bit of friendly competition while the outdoor living room provides year-round enjoyment. "The back porch needed to be a comfortable place to extend entertaining from the clubroom, and it was designed to enjoy year-round with retractable screens," says Katie. "It's our go-to spot for early morning coffee and sunrises, evenings on the water, and often where we gather when having friends over." On the lower deck, there is an elevated pool overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway and a staircase leading to a dock where the family keeps their boat ready for quick getaways on the water.



Builder: Denneen Custom Home Builders • Architect: Kevin Gray Design Group • Project Superintendent: John Denneen • Interior Designer: Lisa Gielincki • Tile: Traditions in Tile • Stairs: Arnold's Custom Woodworks • Electric: Hunter Electric • Roofing: Top Gun Roofing • Interior/Exterior painting: KG Painting • Cabinetry: K.B. Cabinetry • Plumbing: Nelson Plumbing • Plumbing Fixtures: Ferguson ✨