



BLAINE JOHANNATHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

## DESIGNER REFERENCE

# CLEAN SLATE

A DECIDEDLY MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE HOME GETS A MODERN REFRESH

BY GAYLENE SALOMONS



BLAINE JOHANNATHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

**LAUREN LOMBARDI (RIGHT), THE MAIN DESIGNER FOR THE PROJECT, CREATED A MORE STREAMLINED AESTHETIC, REPLACING THE ONCE-POPULAR MEDITERRANEAN STYLE FOUND AMONG AREA HOMES.**



Within the interior design industry, a remodel or redesign of a home's interior occurs "about once every seven to 10 years," reports Lynn Lombardi, principal designer at LDL Interiors, the residential interior design firm she founded in Naples in 1996. She notes, however, that Southwest Florida is a unique area, where "properties tend to change hands faster, with new owners opting for decor that suits their personal tastes," regardless of when a home was last refurbished.

Lynn points out that the Mediterranean aesthetic is a distinct style that was popular in area homes for more than 15 years. She notes that design trends are changing; clients are requesting cleaner lines with less ornamentation and detail,

as well as fewer arches and columns. In gated communities—where homeowner's associations frequently dictate that exteriors meet certain color and design standards—an interior remodel is often the best way to refresh and renew.

Lynn's clients, who are from the northeastern United States, purchased a home in a private enclave of 27 homes within the golf community of Tiburón. Built in 2001, the home boasted an abundance of Tuscan accents, with dark woods, terracotta tile floors and roofs, yellow walls, and stacked-rock pool edges. Seasonal residents at present, they hope to eventually reside in the home full-time. "They bought the property for the amenities and location," explains Lynn.

Not fond of the Mediterranean look, the owners requested a clean slate. They wanted "something casual and comfortable—a family-friendly interior that was still presentable for when business clients visit," says Lauren Lombardi, a design associate at LDL Interiors and the main designer on the project. Not knowing what that would look like, they placed their trust in Lauren.

“They were very open to where we wanted to go with the design,” she states. “Their main request was an outdoor kitchen with ample room for entertaining.”

Featuring a courtyard style, the 3,200-square-foot home had multiple French doors, a private pool and spa, high ceilings, and good bones. “We took it from Mediterranean to more modern without forcing the issue, opening up walls and manipulating the space to make it more functional,” details Lauren. “We even added a gym space.”

Once the home was reimagined, Lauren added glass tiles, wallpaper, built-in cabinets, and numerous playful light fixtures. The chosen color palette trends toward muted browns, blues, and grays, with darker accents. The arched openings found in the courtyard space were removed, and columns were squared off. A screened skylight



THE DESIGN TEAM TRANSFORMED THE HOME'S INTERIOR BY OPENING UP WALLS, SQUARING OFF ARCHED COLUMNS, AND REDUCING ORNAMENTATION.

was preserved, and a Zen-inspired feature wall was installed to replace the original tiered center fountain. The courtyard walls were painted a soft white, and the look was completed with modern art and new furnishings. “We had to leave some Mediterranean elements in place, like the pool, which is organic in shape and bordered by stacked rock,” says Lauren.

“The owners declared that the 21-month renovation, interrupted by COVID and a major hurricane, was—all said and done—worth it,” Lauren adds with a smile. (*ldlinteriors.com*) <<



# THINGS I LIKE

by Catherine

A CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY



paintings · sculpture · glass · artisan jewelry

239.778.4665 catherine@thingsilikebyc.com

3954 bayshore drive, naples, florida 34112

[www.thingsilikebyc.com](http://www.thingsilikebyc.com)

f things i like by c @ @things\_i\_like\_by\_catherine

