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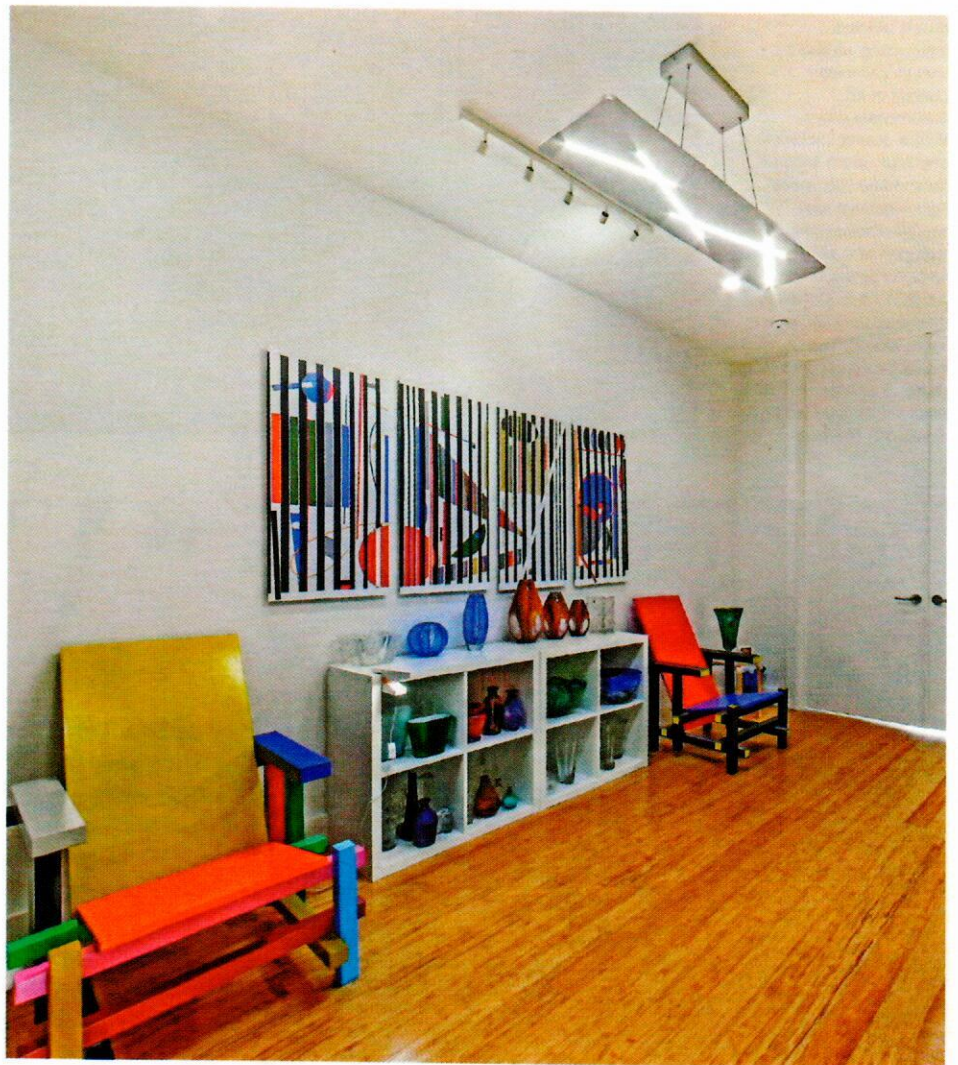
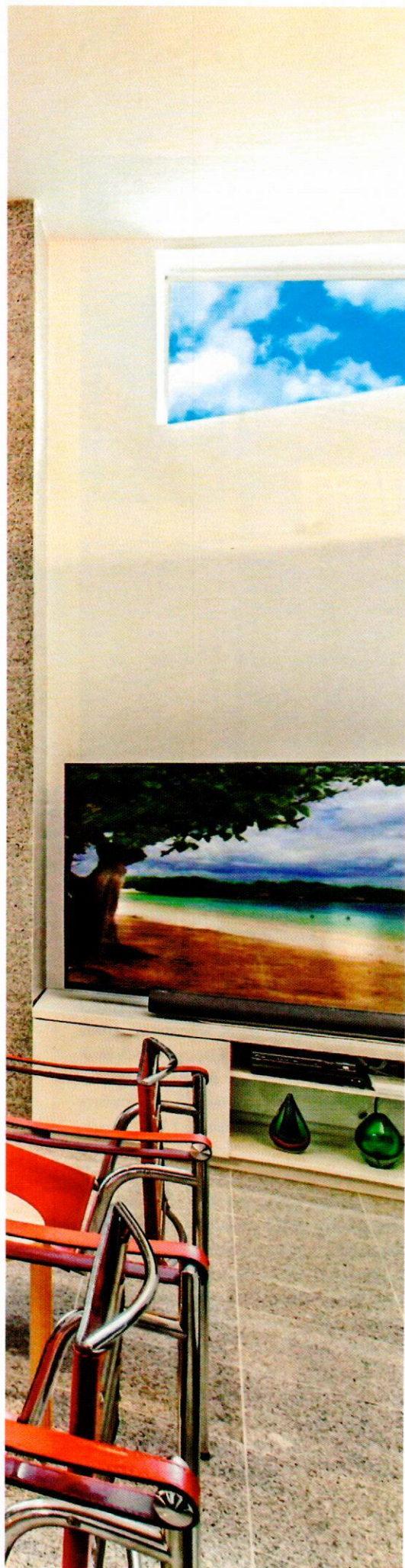


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GETTING CREATIVE, VERY CREATIVE

How the owners transformed “a dump” into a stunning home in Naples’ Quail Creek Country Club. BY MICHAEL KORB

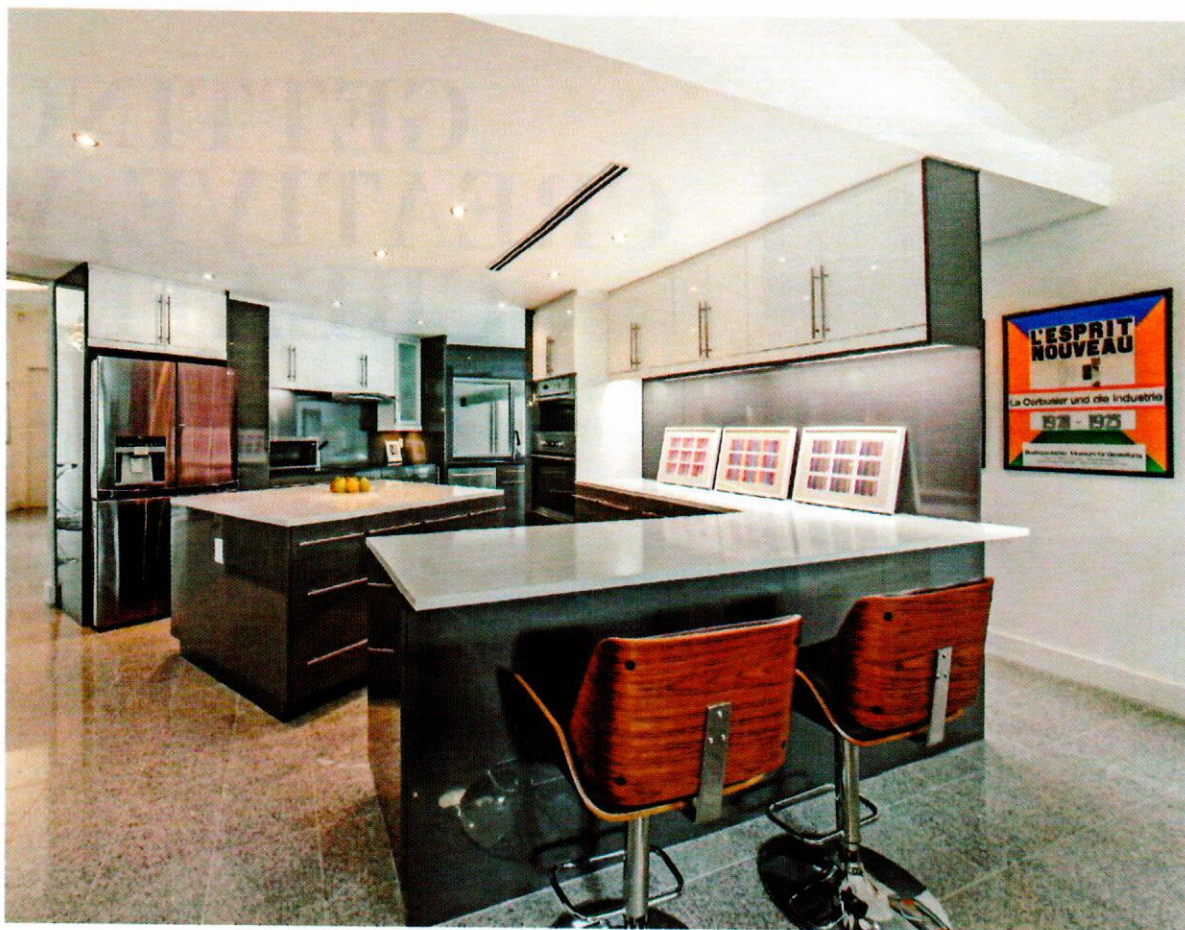


DESIGN DIRECTIVE

When husband and wife Albert J. Socol and Marlene Weiss bought this Quail Creek home, it was a small, dark, mid-century ranch that they planned to tear down. But Albert saw potential and knew Marlene, a talented interior designer, could work some magic. They expanded the property and Marlene brought in pieces from her previous home in Miami.

FOOD COLORING

Located in the center of the home, the kitchen is unique in that it utilizes interesting angles as well as cabinetry coated in an automobile paint. White quartz surfaces and high-gloss lacquer finish keep the space light, modern and stylish (though the thought of rubbing it with Turtle wax every 3,000 to 5,000 miles certainly sounds exhausting). The home's dining room (below) brings a bit of Miami to Naples and overlooks the pool.



“W

E BOUGHT A DUMP.”

Homeowner Marlene Weiss has many wonderful qualities. Mincing words is not one of them. She and her husband, architect Albert J. Socol, who own Summa Development Group (which built the Fifth Third Bank building on Vanderbilt Beach Road), bought this 1-acre property overlooking a beautiful lake in Quail Creek Country Club with the initial thought of tearing down the existing 2,700-square-foot mid-century modern home onsite.

“We bought it for land value and everyone said, ‘Tear it down,’” Marlene says. “But Albert was certain it was worth saving.” Built in 1986, the structure incorporated many of the iconic features that were once so trendy: sunken living room, step-down bathtub, patio pit out back. “We filled them all in with concrete,” Marlene says.

But before the couple could get too far into the project, they decided to build the \$57 million CitiTower, a 24-story, 233-unit luxury rental and commercial space in downtown Orlando. Two years later, with that project well in-hand, Marlene had a dream. “It said, ‘Go back to Naples,’” she says. “The traffic in Orlando was impossible. Plus, my brother and other friends and family are in Fort Lauderdale, and it’s too much to get there from Orlando. ... I told Albert, ‘We’re going back.’”

They got permits to expand the home in Quail Creek by another



LINEAR EQUATIONS

You can take the girl out of Miami ... With glass, leather, chrome and stone, the home's living room is a designer's dream, with pieces from Cassina, Eames and Le Corbusier over geometric carpeting and gray granite flooring. Albert's former home on the east coast of Florida was once featured in an episode of *Miami Vice*. It's not hard to imagine Crockett and Tubbs stopping by this space.



3,800 square feet for a total of 5,880 square feet under air. The new additions feature high-pitched roofs with aluminum standing seams, reminiscent of the homes by award-winning architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen in Vero Beach.

Now the new beauty features four bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms, an expansive kitchen, an enlarged patio and pool area, a home office, a workout room and an expanded garage. But inside is where the home truly shines, thanks to Marlene's talent as an interior designer (she also has an architectural degree). The Miami Beach native has a penchant for modern design, high-gloss surfaces and a purposeful use of color.

She used gray granite for the flooring and walls in much of the origi-

LOVING THE LOT

The original home was doubled in size thanks to added wings, which give the home a decidedly Hugh Newell Jacobsen look. The additions house an expanded garage, new office, bathrooms, exercise room and master suite. The lines are clean and beautifully balanced, while out back the home overlooks a large lake.

MASTERING THE SUITE

Who needs the rest of the house when you have a master bedroom like this? A king-size platform bed and multiple seating areas (not to mention beautiful views overlooking the pool and golf course) make the master suite a self-contained oasis. The master bath (below) gets wall-to-wall granite, the automotive lacquer found in the kitchen and a show-stopping red barn door that takes no prisoners.



nal structure and bamboo flooring elsewhere. The centrally located kitchen, which Marlene wanted to be neutral, is a stunning balance of gray and white cabinets, all of which have been finished in a gloss automotive paint. Surfaces are white quartz. The gray high-gloss paint continues in the master bath, accessed by a blood-red barn door.

The cavernous master suite is a study of proportion, with a sitting area replete with fireplaces overlooking lake and golf course views and outfitted in Le Corbusier and Eames. If they added a mini fridge and a hotplate, the rest of the home would be superb.

But there is more to the home, and it's outside with furniture from Knoll, Cassina and Herman Miller. The artwork is from Le Corbusier, Piet Mondrian, Agam, Vasarely, Salinas, Guevara, Jerry Ulsesman and other photographic canvases from the Alford Hotel Collection at Rice College.

It's safe to say that Marlene thinks the house is now anything but a dump. And we'd be in agreement. 🍷

ARCHITECT: Albert J. Socol
BUILDER: Sullivan Construction
INTERIOR DESIGNER: Marlene Weiss
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: JRL Design Studio