



Holiday House

LIBERATED FROM THE DESIGN DEMANDS OF THE EVERYDAY, POOL HOUSES ARE PLAYHOUSES FOR ALL AGES.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY GRACE BEULEY HUNT AND SARAH SHELTON

PHOTO: STACEY VAN BERKEL

Tabarka Studio's Palio 2 tiles provided the jumping off point for this whimsical North Carolina pool house by MA Allen Interiors and Carter Skinner Residential Design. Eschewing upper cabinets for pattern-forward wall treatments, the space gains task lighting from wicker Arteriors sconces.



The open concept kitchen-living room is linked by complimentary wallpapers: Faye Bell's Atoll (above) and Nobilis' Ipanema (right). TileBar's Terrazzo Italy Sacra Grigio carries through to the bathroom (below), where a mirror from Cooper Classics hangs above a double tap Kohler bucket sink.



SUNNY SIDE

This Chapel Hill, North Carolina, retreat designed by MA Allen with senior designer Margaret Richards balances poolside practicality with spunky, tropical-nodding style. Below, Allen dishes on the details that bring the look to life. maalleninteriors.com

Happy Hour: Beneath the pass-through counter to the pool is a beverage center with Marvel drawer refrigerators, a True Residential ice machine and glassware storage. On the opposite wall, we hung custom scalloped shelves to display the client's collection of tiki barware. This feature wall has incited her to keep collecting!

Tough Stuff: Flooring throughout is a very cool precast terrazzo tile that is easy to clean and slip-resistant for wet feet. All of the fabrics we used are indoor-outdoor and the counters are White Zen quartz from Cosmos Granite & Marble—a win for these clients who enjoy squeezing fresh juice for cocktails. Entertaining is much more relaxing in a bulletproof space.

Destination Design: We wanted this pool house to highlight what the homeowners love—which is a colorful, preppy Palm Beach look. This scheme wouldn't necessarily work for a main house in North Carolina, but it was a lot of fun to create a Floridian escape in the backyard. Now, they have a place that expresses their chosen design style. How great is that?

Fans of clé will rejoice at the news of their first-ever outdoor tile collection, OUTERclé. Launching with an array of materials and styles, including Origami in Basil, a pleated cement tile, and the Partizioni Breeze Block Tile in terra cotta (right) by Fornace Brioni and Cristina Celestino. Such varied options will add a dose of high-style to exterior spaces everywhere. cletile.com

Want the look of hardwood without the maintenance? TimberTech's polymer decking options, like this Oyster stain from the Porch Collection, can withstand the elements while remaining timeless. timbertech.com



A fixture pretty enough for the indoors, Serena & Lily's Watermill Outdoor Chandelier features a rattan shade and white powder-coated frame. serenaandlily.com



Splash Zone

DIVE INTO CHIC AND STALWART PRODUCT DISCOVERIES FOR THE POOL DECK AND BEYOND.

For a resort-ready feel, Tuuci's newest silhouette, the Cupola, is designed to allow a continual breeze beneath its canopy and is available in custom colors and finishes. tuuci.com



Stretch out on the Gio Outdoor Laf Chaise from NYC-based design firm Carrier & Company, a standout from their inaugural outdoor furniture collection with Century Furniture. centuryfurniture.com



Dornbracht's line of MEM faucet handles in collaboration with Nature Squared boasts natural materials like pearl shell (shown), agate and eggshell hand-laid into sleek metal finishes. dornbracht.com

Cosentino has partnered with designer Claudia Afshar to debut Ukiyo, a new Dekton collection. Featuring two distinct fluted tile designs in five colors (shown here is GV2 in Umber), the linear texture brings depth and warmth to its wide use of indoor and outdoor applications. cosentino.com



POOL PARTY

In the rolling hills of New York's Hudson Valley, a Manhattan-based family found the acreage they needed to build a multigenerational holiday estate. In order to comfortably host their grown children and grandchildren—along with their many-numbered friends seeking solace from the city—the clients tasked interior designer Hilary Matt and architect Carol Kurth with creating a bespoke pool house with plenty of room to play.

While the resulting modern barn-style dwelling boasts such fun spaces as a bunk room and rock-climbing wall, the joyful bathroom suite manages to

steal the show. With direct access from both the pool and the interior, and separate chambers that can be closed off during times of high traffic, it offers a master class in how to cater to a crowd. *Luxe* chatted with Matt and Kurth to glean the spatial considerations, material makeup and design details that render it pool house perfection. hilarymatt.com; carolkurtharchitects.com

At an Upstate New York pool house designed by Hilary Matt and architect Carol Kurth, Thermador horizontal wood siding nods to indigenous barns found on the property in a contemporary manner. The architectural cubist lighting fixtures are Simes.



The vanity features a countertop with a seamless trough sink composed of Trueform concrete that was designed to be “big enough to bathe a baby,” notes architect Carol Kurth. Matte black Watermark fixtures lend a high-contrast pop. The wall and floor tiles are from TileBar and Studium, respectively.



Functionally speaking, what were the goals? **CK:** Programmatically, we wanted to achieve a plan for separation of access zones, thus this “wet feet-dry feet” layout of two separate rooms was conceived. From the pool deck, one can directly access the playful trough sink area, which is then sectioned off from the tub, shower and toilet area. The bathroom can also be accessed from the interior of the pool house for overnight guests and those already inside. **HM:** We went with some really practical fixture decisions, like a full bathtub instead of a shower. All age ranges will use this space, so that was a necessity. Also, a double vanity that allows multiple users was the best choice.

Which design details were the most impactful? **HM:** We found the wallpaper—Swimmers from Walls Need Love—early in the process and knew it was the perfect starting point for the rest of the design.

The bathtub walls are covered in a bright, aqua-colored glazed ceramic tile and the flooring is a modern, oversized take on traditional penny tile. The rope sconces from Cuff Studio were the final element to bring in texture and summertime style. **CK:** Having the vanity “float” in the space was an important aspect of the design, too; it’s almost a literal interpretation of floating in a pool. I always like a focal point when entering a doorway, so we designed a towel storage niche in the entry as a three-dimensional element to draw the eye that is also highly useful.

What’s the report? **CK:** This bath is as much fun for adults as it is for kids. You can’t help but feel uplifted when you’re in there. **HM:** The pop of color from the wallpaper is such a fun surprise for visitors. As for the grandchildren, they now refuse to bathe anywhere else on the property!