LET THE SUN SHINE IN

DESIGNER ELLEN KAVANAUGH TRANSFORMS A DARK AND DATED PALM BEACH APARTMENT WITH A SUNNY PALETTE, STARRING THE RETURN OF RETRO-FABULOUS PEACH

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ENTRY
Designer Ellen Kavanaugh and architect Michael Perry transformed this once-lackluster condo into an airy retreat full of architectural interest and color with gestures like the foyer's custom, lattice-covered walls, painted a soft pink-peach—an ode to vintage Palm Beach.

GREAT ROOM
"We call the living room 'the great room,'" says owner Moira Dooley, "which is amusing because it really connotes a multipurpose room for cocktails, dining, and reading." Kavanaugh upgraded a classic blue-and-white color scheme with peach tape trim and scallops added to the custom sofa and chairs covered in a grand Chivasso print. Adds Kavanaugh: "This space celebrates the color, and says peach is back!"

DINING ROOM

A mix of furniture styles—Swedish chests, Chippendale chairs, a Regency table—achieves Moira's request for a layered and collected aesthetic. The chairs and settee are covered in a blue-and-white Schumacher print, and the brass wall sconces are by Soane Britain.

It's hard to imagine a pied à terre in Palm Beach ever inspiring the deployment of tartan anything, but this is precisely what Moira and Dave Dooley inherited when the couple bought their apartment—which came furnished—eight years ago.

Along with a paradoxical Scottish vibe, the couple took on the legacy of the building's early-1970s construction: a lack of architectural character bordering on the austere, Moira says, along with low ceilings, a dark galley kitchen, and dated baths.

But the couple loved the location—oceanfront and within walking distance of Palm Beach's lively cluster of shops and restaurants—so they called on interior designer Ellen Kavanaugh to transform their 1,600-square-foot space into something as light, airy, and inviting as the town itself.

The challenge was substantial, says Kavanaugh. "They bought it furnished with dark wool tartans, but the photos [Moira] showed me were of whimsical Brighton Pavilion and a pale Palm Beach aesthetic," she says. The only option? "It had to be gutted." With architect Michael Perry, Kavanaugh and the Dooleys began, as the designer says, "anew."

To achieve their combined goals, Perry laid out elevations and schematics to make the most of the space and maximize natural light and views inherent in the western exposure. The duo also focused on important decorative moldings and trims that they added to low ceilings and blank walls for architectural interest.

Then, Kavanaugh brought it all together with a carefully selected color palette of "Creamsicle shades" that references vintage Palm Beach. "We were looking to create a fanciful color story, and we just fell in love with peach," she says. "Everyone has seen plenty of blue and white, but not blue and white with peach! It's a throwback color reinvented in a new fresh way. This space celebrates the color, and says peach is back!"

That element of surprise was not just limited to the paint choices. Fabrics, furniture, lighting, and *objets* were all found along the way, "with the mantra that each piece have a distinct personality that would add something fun and unexpected to the plan," says Kavanaugh. Pointing to the dining room's settee, ornate mirrors throughout the home, and Swedish accents, Kavanaugh says each individual element became part of a delicate layering scheme of functionality and whimsy.

"Our home now reflects our town—coastal yet formal," says Moira. "We realized after moving here that every night can feel like Saturday night, where you can go to a beach party as easily as a black-tie formal. We wanted to embrace this extraordinary feeling at home, surrounded by things we love that are fresh and elegant, yet functional. We use our best china every day because, well, why not?"

KITCHEN

Graphic Moroccan tile by Mosaic House adds punch to the airy, all-white space, which is in constant use by Moira and Dave, two ardent cooks who love to entertain. In an efficient use of space, a paneled wall (on the opposite side of the room) opens to reveal a full-size washer, dryer, and ironing area, which disappears when not in use.

STUDY

Variations of Nantucket red—in the custom Quadrille fabric–covered side tables and Cowtan & Tout grasscloth wallcovering—add punch to the turquoise Brunschwig & Fils pattern on the sofa. The clear cypress tray ceiling lends texture and adds the illusion of height while helping to conceal unsightly ductwork. Able to close behind pocket doors, the space is outfitted with surround sound and several televisions to function as both an office and sanctuary for Dave.

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—DESIGNER ELLEN KAVANAUGH

GUEST BEDROOM

Soft pink scallops on the ceiling trim "are classic, but not juvenile," says Moira. "We wanted grown-ups as well as children to feel comfortable here, so this room represents a nod to Palm Beach of the 1950s and '60s." Kavanaugh repeated the scallop motif throughout the room on the linens and Ferrick Mason drapery fabric. The walls are covered in a Cowtan & Tout grasscloth, and the large wicker lamp is by Soane Britain.

Designer Ellen Kavanaugh

A SOFTER SHADE OF PALE

Re-create the peachy-pink tones of this Palm Beach getaway in your own home with these paint colors.

Pale Pink Satin 008
Benjamin Moore

Daylily 080
Benjamin Moore

DRESSING ROOM

Off the master bedroom, Kavanaugh covered the walls of Moira's glamorous dressing room with striped wallpaper by Waterhouse Wallhangings and added a pink decorative silk trim by Samuel & Sons to define the edges.

MASTER BEDROOM

Decorative wall treatments abound in the master bedroom, where Kavanaugh applied a wave-like trim to the ceiling and covered surrounding walls in a celadon-hued silk wallpaper by Gracie. She created the mirrored wall behind the bed with antique mirrors to help visually enlarge the space. The corner next to the sliding glass doors to the terrace is dominated by a desk for Moira that has stunning views of waving palm trees and a brilliant turquoise pool.

BALCONY TERRACE

A Chippendale-inspired metal patio set (Calcutta by Brown Jordan) and a Dash & Albert outdoor rug create a happy spot for morning coffee or cocktails overlooking the pool.