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From its earliest conception, this Siesta Isles residence was designed as far more than a beautiful waterfront home. It was envisioned as an expression of freedom — a highly personalized coastal retreat where architecture, function, and refined living converge to support every family member.

Created for homeowners whose daughter navigates daily life from a wheelchair, the residence reimagines universal design through a distinctly elevated lens. Accessibility is not treated as an add-on or a visual compromise; instead, it is woven quietly and seamlessly into the home's architecture, allowing independence to feel natural, intuitive, and entirely at home within its sophisticated setting.

“It was extremely important to the client that the house was ADA compliant from top to bottom and front to back — not only for aging in place, but for a current need within the family dynamic,” says Jennie Shumway, co-owner and vice president of Talon Home Builders. ►

Front Elevation: A bold yet refined façade introduces the home's contemporary coastal character. Layered rooflines, expansive glazing, and a distinctive vertical cultured-stone application create texture, height, and architectural presence. “Our client had a strong vision to use the stone façade material in a unique way — in a vertical pattern — and it worked out great,” says Tom Shumway, co-owner and president of Talon Home Builders.

Rear Elevation (Opposite): From the water-facing side, the home's stepped geometry responds beautifully to the site's shape and its long canal views. “The house had to stagger and geometrically bend to the shape of the lot,” residential designer Shawn Ambrose says. Expansive glazing, coral-stone pavers, and layered outdoor spaces reinforce the residence's easy connection to the waterfront.



BARRIER-FREE LIVING

A HIGHLY TAILORED COASTAL HOME EMPOWERS INDEPENDENCE THROUGH THOUGHTFUL DESIGN



Living Room: The living room pairs relaxed sophistication with thoughtful functionality. Large-format travertine creates a dramatic backdrop for the integrated fireplace and television, while a statement chandelier anchors the seating area and generous clearances preserve an easy flow for gathering.

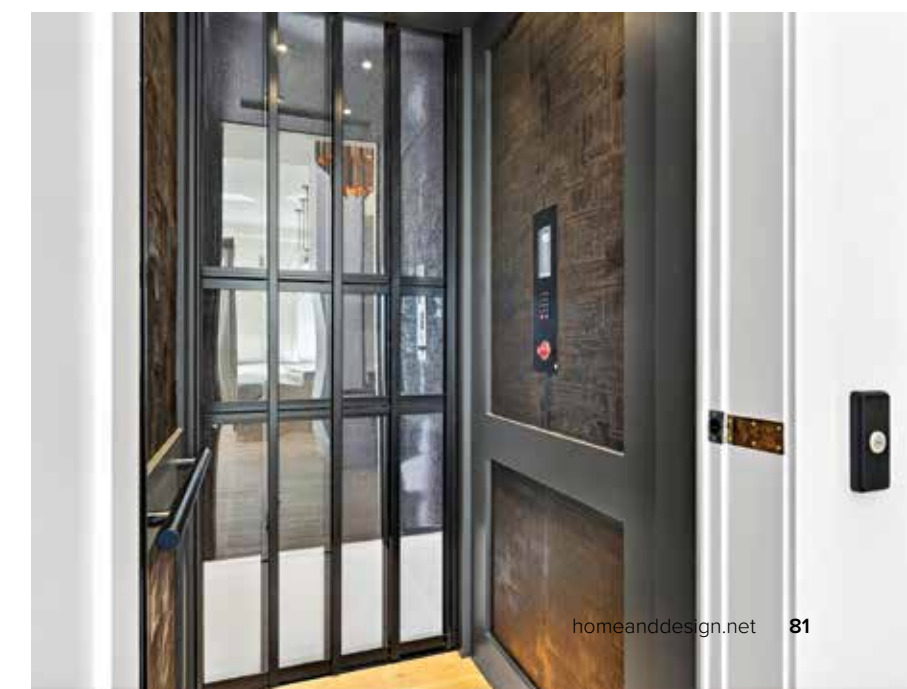
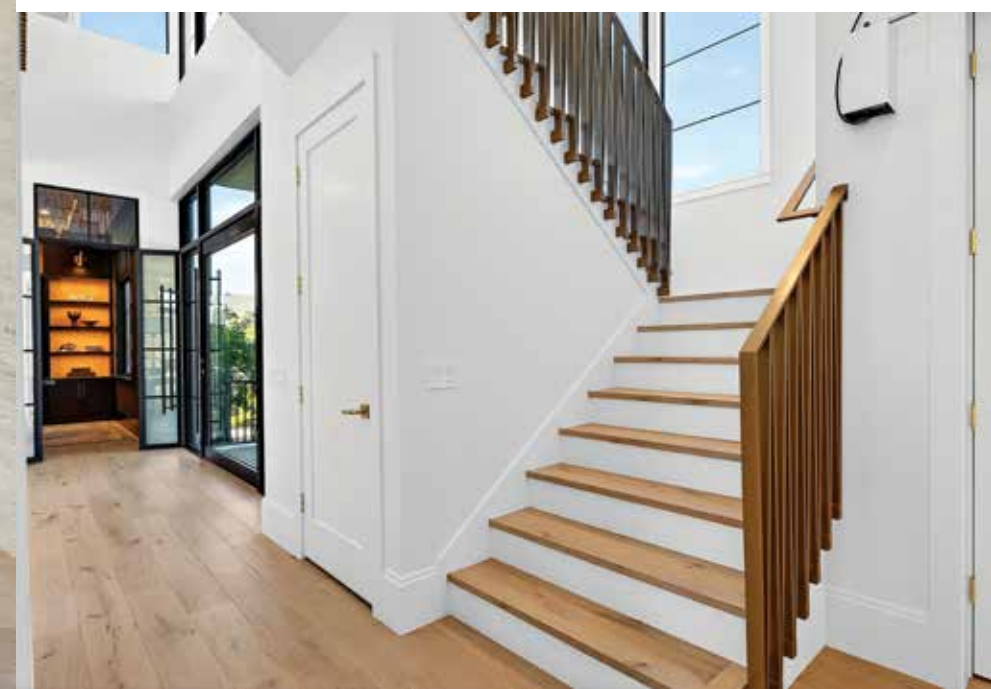
Entry View: A clear sightline carries the eye from the entry through the great room and outward to the lanai beyond. Warm wood ceiling details, white oak flooring, and generous circulation paths establish an inviting sense of openness while supporting effortless movement throughout the home.



Office: Rich, moody finishes give the home office a dramatic, tailored presence. Dark walls, a detailed ceiling treatment, and integrated lighting create a focused yet luxurious setting, while built-in shelving provides handsome and practical storage.

Entry Detail & Staircase: Equal parts sculptural and functional, the staircase features satin brass-finished, powder-coated aluminum railings with an intricate geometric pattern. White oak treads complement the flooring below, while the open design preserves visual continuity within the home's accessible floor plan.

Elevator: One of two elevators within the residence, the interior lift provides seamless access from the garage to the main living areas. Dual-entry functionality eliminates the need to turn within the cab, while textured wall panels and integrated lighting lend a refined finish to this essential feature.





Kitchen: Designed as the heart of the home, the kitchen combines elegant finishes with inclusive function. Its multilevel island includes a lowered surface that allows the homeowners' daughter to join family and guests comfortably. "The client can roll up in her wheelchair and sit with everybody comfortably," says Shumway.

Custom cabinetry conceals appliances from Mullet's Appliances while providing highly functional, user-friendly storage. An under-cabinet plug-mold system preserves the backsplash's clean sweep, demonstrating the project's careful balance of visual refinement and everyday usability.

A discreet beverage and entertaining station includes an ice maker and beverage center integrated into the custom cabinetry. Behind it, a vertical marble mosaic backsplash echoes the exterior stone installation, creating a subtle yet striking connection between indoors and out.



That directive informed every decision, from the home's site plan and circulation paths to the details that shape daily routines. The result is a residence in which thoughtful accommodations recede into the background, leaving the experience of the home defined by light, openness, comfort, and connection.

Residential designer Shawn Ambrose approached the project with a human-centered philosophy that guided the home from its earliest planning stages. "You start with the people, and you help them realize their goals," he says. "My job is to mold and shape these objects around how people live."

Situated on a challenging, sloped site overlooking the canal, the home's composition evolved in direct response to the terrain and the family's accessibility needs. Rather than relying on ramps or utilitarian solutions, the design incorporates two elevators: one serving the interior spaces and another providing access to the outdoor living areas. This approach lets the family move easily between the home's levels and amenities while maintaining the clean architectural lines and relaxed elegance expected of a Siesta Isles residence. ►



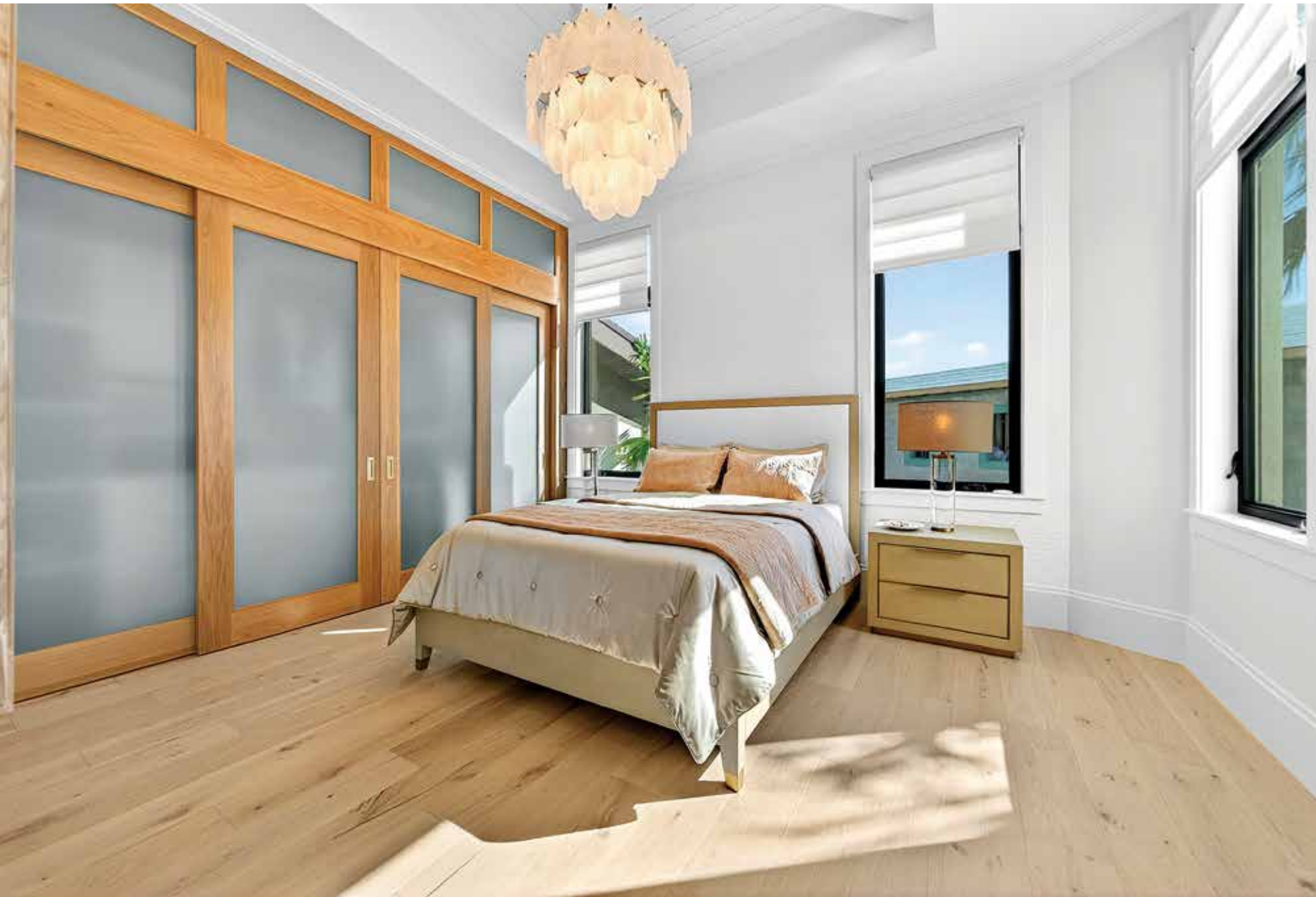
Primary Bedroom: Soft textures, layered neutrals, and serene views create a calming retreat in the primary bedroom. Sliding glass doors open to a private terrace, extending the home's indoor-outdoor lifestyle while generous clearances maintain an easy, accessible flow.

Primary Bathroom: Understated luxury defines the primary bath, where quartzite surfaces, marble mosaic details, and warm brass fixtures from Gorman's Gallery Kitchen & Bath Studio create a polished, inviting atmosphere. A floating vanity enhances visual openness, while the spacious layout supports ease of movement.

Laundry Room: Designed to encourage independence, the laundry room accommodates full wheelchair access and maneuverability. Pull-out platforms beneath the appliances add ergonomic support, proving that even the most practical spaces can be tailored for comfort, confidence, and daily ease.



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Daughter’s Bathroom: Thoughtfully designed for both independence and beauty, this sophisticated bath integrates ADA-conscious features without compromising its polished aesthetic. A curbless, fully open shower accommodates an easy transfer from a daily wheelchair to a shower chair, while generous turning clearance and a roll-under vanity with knee space support comfortable everyday use. “There’s plenty of space for the wheelchair turning radius, and the vanity has knee space for her to roll up to it,” Shumway says.



Daughter’s Bedroom: Designed specifically for the homeowners’ daughter, this serene bedroom combines personal style with tailored functionality. Adjustable closet rods, accessible shelving, and sliding doors support independence, while a soft palette and layered textures create a welcoming, private retreat.

Inside, generously proportioned passageways, carefully considered clearances, and a fluid floor plan make movement feel effortless. Every room has been planned to support comfort and autonomy, whether preparing a meal in the kitchen, gathering with family and friends, enjoying the waterfront setting, or managing the everyday rituals of home.

“The client has access to almost every part of the home, inside and outside, with the exception of the front entry stairs,” Shumway says. That level of access is central to the project’s success. Here, independence is not limited to a few designated areas; it is embedded throughout the home, allowing the family to experience the residence fully and without unnecessary barriers.

The home’s design language is equally compelling. A dramatic vertical stone application gives the façade texture and presence, while expansive glazing draws daylight deep into the interiors and frames serene canal views. Contemporary coastal detailing establishes a crisp, welcoming backdrop for the family’s lifestyle, balancing clean-lined architecture with warmth, natural materials, and an easy connection to the outdoors. ►



Loft & Fitness Room: This flexible upstairs retreat pairs a relaxed lounge with a fully equipped fitness room enclosed by black-framed glass doors. A warm wood-clad vaulted ceiling and modern circular light fixture bring character overhead, while reeded cabinetry, a built-in beverage refrigerator, and canal views add thoughtful comfort for family and guests.



Guest Bedroom: A warm and welcoming guest retreat, this bedroom layers tailored furnishings with a calming neutral palette. Large windows bring in abundant natural light, while access to both the outdoor living area and adjoining guest lounge adds flexibility for family and visitors.

Pool Bathroom: Dark fluted tile makes a dramatic statement in the pool bath, complemented by a sculptural floating vanity clad in quartz. Warm metallic accents, integrated lighting, and Kintsugi-inspired wallpaper soften the contrast, creating an artful and accessible space with convenient poolside access.





Outdoor Living TV Wall: A textured tile surround unifies the lanai’s outdoor kitchen, fireplace, and television wall. The composition creates a sophisticated focal point for lounging and entertaining, allowing the space to transition easily from relaxed afternoons to evenings by the fire.

Outdoor Living: The lanai continues the home’s seamless approach to accessibility, with level transitions that allow uninterrupted movement from the interior to the outdoor living spaces. “There’s no transition from one part of the home to another part of the home, and no step down going out to the lanai,” says Jennie Shumway. A chevron-patterned Synergy Wood Products ceiling wraps the beams and shelf, while concealed motorized screens allow the space to be comfortably enclosed. Positioned at the far end of the lanai, this well-appointed outdoor kitchen extends the home’s entertaining capabilities with generous counter space, integrated appliances, and a richly textured backsplash that echoes the interior palette. A central dining area connects the kitchen to the adjacent living space, creating an easy flow for open-air meals and gatherings.



Throughout the residence, the collaboration among client, builder, and designer is evident in the precision of every transition. Thresholds are minimized, pathways are purposeful, and each feature supports a larger vision of graceful, barrier-free living.

This is universal design at its most elegant: a home in which accessibility does not announce itself, but instead becomes part of the architecture’s quiet intelligence. The result is a residence that is not simply ADA-compliant — it is liberating, deeply personal, and beautifully suited to the way this family lives. ■

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