

RIGHT: "A key part of all my design work is personalized layering in every room," says Palm Beach Gardens designer Shani Core.



Work-Home Balance

SHANI CORE TRANSFORMS HER PALM BEACH GARDENS GUEST HOUSE INTO A LIVING PORTFOLIO OF HER DESIGNS

TEXT CHRISTOPHER DAY

DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEL BRANTLEY



ABOVE: The entrance to Core's at-home design studio (formerly her guest house) is flanked on either side by confederate jasmine that blooms in spring and summer.



You can't beat designer Shani Core's daily work commute. After some morning coffee in her kitchen, she crosses the pool deck of her Palm Beach Gardens residence, enters her studio (once the property's guest house), and is at her desk answering emails or inspecting fabric swatches in less than five minutes.

"It's like a private showhouse/design laboratory where I can bring clients to experience an entire, although tiny, home filled with unique accessories, window treatments, upholstery details, custom lampshades and plenty of inspiration," says Core. "It's a place where people can see and feel critical design details that are often only discussed in the abstract."

Delineated by different rooms as any house would be, the 650-square-foot space's overall style was inspired by a variety of factors. "My majolica collection was the original jumping off point for the design," says Core. "And when I saw the new colorway

LEFT: The living room area of the studio features a sofa from CR Laine, a coffee table in a custom finish from Highland House, and a slipper chair by Billy Baldwin upholstered in a favorite Imogen Heath linen print. Core's collection of majolica pottery surrounds a hand-carved pagoda mirror.

of William Morris' Strawberry Thief textile pattern, I knew I had my hero print. I also love chinoiserie, and that's the idea behind the pagoda-style window treatments in the house. The remaining textiles and accents were selected organically."

In terms of palette, soft green and blush pink emerge as top shades, with hints of yellow and chartreuse following close behind.

Above all, the studio is a testament to Core's penchant for layering with color, pattern, and texture. "This small space has given me an opportunity to show clients how mixing different elements can create that elusive jewel-box feeling without overwhelming," she says. "Accessories, trims, tabletop, antiques, and artworks are just some of the items that I used here to bring in layers of interest because layering is what creates the depth and richness that sets fabulous homes apart."

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RIGHT: The studio's bathroom features a rattan mirror from Anthropologie, sconces from Visual Comfort, and Vienna Woods wallpaper by Meg Braff.

RIGHT: A close-up of the studio's bedroom shows an antique Murano glass lamp and Cole & Son's Hummingbirds wallcovering.



ABOVE: A vintage Lucite dining table serves as Core's desk. A Palm Beach Regency rattan shelf is filled with accessories used in photo shoots. Benjamin Moore's Bali color saturates the walls.