

AD

POWER PLAYERS

SERENA WILLIAMS
dazzles at home in florida

TADAO ANDO
completes his paris
masterpiece

L.A. legend
SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN
dreams big

JACQUES GRANGE
reinvents french chic

PLUS rising stars
coast to coast

GLAM

SLAM



WILLIAMS, POOLSIDE IN GUCCI AND SERENA WILLIAMS JEWELRY. THE TERRACE IS CLAD IN WHITE FALDA PORCELAIN TILE. LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY LUCIDO & ASSOC. FASHION STYLING BY KESHA MCLEOD. OPPOSITE THE INFINITY POOL CREATES A CLEAN TRANSITION BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUT. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.

HAIR BY ANGELA MEADOWS; MAKEUP BY LUCY SHAW; STYLING BY KESHA MCLEOD; MARKET EDITOR: ALEX MANGAT

At home in Florida, *Serena Williams* holds court in a house designed in collaboration with her sister *Venus*

TEXT BY ELAINE WELTEROTH PHOTOGRAPHY BY LELANIE FOSTER STYLED BY MIEKE TEN HAVE



A GROUPING OF PENDANT LAMPS BY TOM DIXON (BRASS) AND SIMON LEGALD FOR NORMANN COPENHAGEN (GLASS) SETS THE TONE IN THE DINING ROOM. ARTWORK BY SERENA WILLIAMS.

It's

yet another cozy Sunday afternoon during quarantine, and Serena Williams is lounging in her newly decorated home office on Zoom with her big sister Venus. It's just two months after the tennis titans went toe to toe at the Top Seed Open in Kentucky, which was their first time back on the court since the forced hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The world-famous pair, who have played many roles in each other's lives in the 23 years since their first match against each other—best friends, former teammates, competitors, and longtime roommates—are giggling as they reflect on the five-year journey of collaborating on their greatest joint effort yet: designing Serena's dream home.

After co-owning a Palm Beach Gardens property where the Grand Slam duo lived together on and off since 1998, with Serena splitting her time between secondary homes from Bel-Air to Paris, she purchased a sprawling waterfront property of her own, with breathtaking views in a coveted enclave north of Miami, just minutes away from Venus and their parents. To help make the house ideal for her own family, naturally she turned to V Starr, Venus's world-class design firm.

"I was moving away from Venus for the first time in my life, so I wanted it to be really meaningful," Serena says. While mixing family with business can be risky, the secret to their success as siblings and creative collaborators is simple: "You have to know your lane. I'm really good at playing tennis; I'm not as good at interiors. But I was able to learn through just watching Venus."

As with any other client, Venus says, her priority was catering to Serena's vision—which did a complete 180 during the design process. After she purchased the 14,500-square-foot Spanish Mediterranean-style home, Serena's traditional tastes suddenly felt out of step with this new phase of life. She credits her love of modern art and technology for ushering in a more modern, minimalist aesthetic. Then, of course, there was the burgeoning romance with tech tycoon Alexis Ohanian. The high-profile couple had only recently begun dating just after Serena embarked upon this massive real estate project, but Sonya Haffey, principal of V Starr, says Serena's future family goals were an integral part of the design plans all along.

Last July—after three years, including a gut renovation—Serena finally moved into the completely reimagined, ultra-modern, intracoastal property with a husband and toddler in tow. As the old adage goes, "If you build it, they will come."



THE SÉRÉNADE KARAOKE ROOM FEATURES A BESPOKE NEON SIGN DESIGNED BY V STARR. WALL COVERING BY PHILLIP JEFFRIES; CUSTOM BANQUETTE AND FAMA CHAIRS IN A BRENTANO VELVET.

Though, they all maintain, it was mostly Serena's singular imagination—with guidance from V Starr—that spearheaded the design.

"We had just met," Serena says regarding Ohanian. "And I wasn't going to be like, 'Hey, let's do this together.' That would have been really weird for him," she says with a chuckle. "Yeah. That would've been kind of creepy," Venus chimes in.

WHILE OHANIAN PLAYED the easygoing, supporting role to Serena's more hands-on approach, one space the doting dad took the lead on perfecting was their three-year-old daughter's bedroom. Both parents agree the pièce de résistance of their entire home is Olympia's pink custom-designed castle bed complete with a built-in slide and an equally spectacular, one-of-a-kind chandelier created by blown-glass artist Josh Fradis. Indeed, it is positively fit for a princess.

"She goes down the slide every night while we're thinking, Man, we shouldn't have done that, because now at bedtime, she just wants to slide," Serena admits. "But whatever makes her happy makes me happy."

While Olympia's room is decidedly the most extravagant space in the house, Serena insisted on exercising a bit more restraint in other areas. The marriage of sleek, clean lines and



ABOVE RH PENDANT LIGHTS HANG ABOVE A TRAPEZOIDAL TABLE. OFFICINE GULLO APPLIANCES; BRIZO SINK FITTINGS; CAESARSTONE COUNTERTOP.

high-end features with warm woods and casual touches that complement Serena's laid-back vibe resulted in a cohesive visual narrative that embodies Serena's newly evolved design aesthetic, which Haffey calls "livable luxury," adding that the client was a well of creativity, serving up references from hotels she's stayed at all over the world.

"Serena is not formal," Venus notes. "She's fun-loving; she's very free, and not someone who wants to sit in a chair and serve someone tea. So it had to be a very welcoming space."

At Serena's request, the V Starr team came up with an out-of-the-box design solution to refashion what was once a classical Floridian-style foyer and formal sitting room with beautiful chairs no one sat in, into a colorful art space with eccentric pieces on display. "When you walk in, it's like walking into an art gallery," says Serena. "That's my favorite part of the house. It's so unique. I've never seen anything like it."

Venus adds: "I am not a fan of just having spaces to have them. Maybe some people use their formal living rooms, but we don't. So we created a space that she can actually use and enjoy and live with the art, and invite other people to absorb it and have that emotional connection as soon as you walk in. It sets the tone for the rest of the home."



ABOVE ART ON DISPLAY IN THE GALLERY INCLUDES WORKS BY (FROM LEFT) LEONARDO DREW, RADCLIFFE BAILEY, AND DAVID KRACOV, AS WELL AS A KAWS X CAMPANA CHAIR, A LIVE-EDGE WOOD BENCH, A PIECE FROM THE KONYAK NAGA TRIBE OF INDIA, AND A VINTAGE WURLITZER PIANO.

LEONARDO DREW, RADCLIFFE BAILEY, DAVID KRACOV.

"When you walk in, it's like walking into an art gallery," says *Serena Williams*. "That's my favorite part of the house."

BELOW CUSTOM SHELVING BY GRAFTON FURNITURE LINES THE TROPHY ROOM. RIGHT A TERRACE OUTFITTED WITH RH FURNITURE OVERLOOKS THE WATER.



That very grand entrance then unfolds into an airy, open floor plan drenched with sunlight pouring in from soaring 28-foot-tall windows. Among the many standout features of the home are heated floors in the bathrooms, a sauna in the gym, a wine cellar the size of a small NYC apartment, an expansive terrace offering indoor/outdoor living spaces that overlooks an infinity pool complete with submerged chaise longues, Serena's 620-square-foot closet fashioned after a luxe retail space, and a private trophy room to house the superstar athlete's many awards. But there is one amenity that's noticeably absent: a tennis court.

"I WANTED TO SEPARATE home from work," Serena says. "I love being home. When you have our job, you never get time to relax. So it's good for me to be able to sit still and not do anything."

Moving into your dream home during a global pandemic no doubt has its challenges, but for this jet-setting athlete and mogul, being unexpectedly homebound for months has offered a welcome reprieve. The perks include ample quality time nesting with her young family, and a chance to hone her cooking chops. To that end, nailing the kitchen design was of supreme importance to Serena, who is the self-proclaimed cook of the family. The remit: "Somewhere in-between 'super impressive' and 'Come in and grab something out of the fridge,'" Venus shares.

"So we had to find that balance within the design." Devised in consultation with Serena's private chef, it was outfitted by V Starr with the finest appliances, including Gaggenau wall ovens, an Officine Gullo cooktop, and customized gold and black marble backsplash in a diamond-pattern mosaic that over-delivers in wow factor.

Tennis, tech, and fashion empire-building aside, one of Serena's favorite Williams family pastimes is karaoke. After winning the U.S. Open, the world champions would celebrate in a private karaoke room on 50th Street in Manhattan. Naturally, Serena had to have one of her own. So, just off the gallery, behind a secret doorway disguised as a bookshelf, lies a karaoke room. This unusual amenity features a small stage, a plush aquamarine velvet banquette, and foliage framing a neon sign that spells SÉRÉNADE, a playful tribute to Serena's karaoke persona.

Of course, she and her sister even sing karaoke like it's a competitive sport. House rules? No "Bohemian Rhapsody." No "Love Shack." No "I Will Survive." No "Don't Stop Believin'." According to Serena and Venus, this room is reserved for "serious karaoke singers only."

"We all like to have a really good time," Venus declares. "Our friends all have this very same attitude of loving great design, but not taking themselves too seriously." ▲



A VICTORIA + ALBERT TUB STANDS IN THE BATH. BRIZO TUB AND SHOWER FITTINGS. ON SHOWER WALLS AND FLOOR, MARBLE FROM CERAMIC MATRIX. IN FOREGROUND, MOSAIC TILE BY NEW RAVENNA.

resources



All products have been identified by the designer of each residence. Items similar to vintage and antique pieces are often available from the dealers listed. Contact information was up to date at time of publication.

GLAM SLAM

Interior design by V Starr; vstarr.com. Landscape design by Lucido & Assoc.; lucidodesign.com.

White Falda porcelain tile by Pental Surfaces; pentalonline.com.

Beat pendants by Tom Dixon; tomdixon.net. Amp pendants by Simon Legald; normann-copenhagen.com.

Bespoke neon sign; manhattanneon.com. Granite Stone-Platino wall covering; phillipjefries.com. Chair; famaliving.com. Gem velvet in Lapis; brentanofabrics.com.

In kitchen, Aquitaine pendant; rh.com. Appliances; officinegullo.com. Litze sink fittings; brizo.com. Calacatta Nuvo countertop; caesarstoneus.com.

In gallery, KAWSxCampana chair; friedmanbenda.com.

Custom shelving; graftonfurniture.com. On terrace, Havana lounge chairs and Marbella teak sectional sofa; rh.com.

In bath, Barcelona tub; vandabaths.com. Litze bath fittings; brizo.com. Marble tiles; ceramicmatrix.com. Simone mosaic tile; newravenna.com.

PUT A RING ON IT

Interior Design by Jacques Grange; +33-1-55-80-75-40

PLAY TIME

Architecture by Jerome Byron; jeromebyron.com. Landscape Design by Terremoto; terremoto.la.

Akari ceiling lamp by Isamu Noguchi; shop.noguchi.org.

WILD AT HEART

Interior Design by Charlap Hyman & Herrero; ch-herrero.com.

In garden, Antique planters by Willy Guhl; 1stdibs.com. Patricia Urquiola Garden Layers sofa set; shop.gan-rugs.com. Sauna; almostheaven.com.

In entry, wallpaper by Fornasetti for Cole & Sons; leejofa.com. Custom stained glass door fabricated by David Scheid; davidscheidstainedglass.com.

In dining room, table; blackmancruz.com. Mohair Velvet upholstery fabric; maharam.com. Nuvola pendant light by Mario Bellini and antique rock lamps by Andre Cazenave; 1stdibs.com.

In living room, vintage De Sede Terrazza sofas by Ubald Klug; 1stdibs.com. Lolo Curtains; gastonydaniela.com. Rug; pattersonflynnmartin.com. Philippe Starck Gnome tables; kartell.com.

In bedroom, Couristan leopard-print rug; chelseafloors.com. Antique Bocca Della Verita bed by Mario Ceroli; 1stdibs.com. Overgrow wallpaper and fabric by Charlap Hyman & Herrero; calicowallpaper.com. In primary bath, soaking tub; zenbathworks.com. Fittings; waterworks.com.

In powder room, terrazzo cladding; maxlamb.org. In guest room, antique Kimono Pillows; ch-herrero.com. Antique Marc Held bed for Prisunic; 1stdibs.com.

In kitchen, Jade Manganese Field tile; heathceramics.com. Oven range; lacanche.co.uk. Locus Solus table and chairs by Gae Aulenti; 1stdibs.com. Cork floor; duro-design.com. Fittings; waterworks.com. Vintage Andre Rotte pendants by Raak; 1stdibs.com.

PERSONAL BEST

Interior design by Suzanne Rheinstein; suzannerheinstein.com. Architectural renovation by Bories & Shearron Architecture; boriesandshearron.com. Landscape design by Nancy Goslee Power & Assoc.; nancypower.com.

In living room, custom bronze and lacquer cocktail table; quintushome.com. Mouse's Back paint; farrow-ball.com. On sofa, linen; victoriahagancollections.com. On chaise longue, fabric; claremontfurnishing.com, and trim; samuelandsons.com. Fabric on slipper chairs; carolinairvingtextiles.com. Custom Float Lamp; giancarlovalle.com.

Poolside, lounge chairs; anthropologie.com. Cushion fabric; nomiinc.com. India Yellow paint; farrow-ball.com.

In bedroom, custom bedframe; diospri.com. Fabrics; rosetarlow.com and claremontfurnishing.com. Bedding; juliab.com. Throw; jennikayne.com. Printed fabric on Louis XVI settee; hazeltonhouse.com.

In reading room, on lounge, Indian Zag by Suzanne Rheinstein; leejofa.com. Plates; robertkime.com. Vintage rattan chairs; williamlaman.com. In kitchen, 1960s light fixture from Richard Shapiro Antiques; studiolo.com. Table by Sawkille Co.; marchsf.com; Chairs; williamlaman.com.

In pergola, vintage rattan; chairish.com and etsy.com. Cushion fabrics; nomiinc.com and pindler.com. Cocktail tables; rh.com.

In bath, freestanding tub; laufen.com. Tub filler; waterworks.com.

In the garden, 18th-century French iron table; getthegusto.com. Chairs; palecek.com. In guest room, custom bed; valleydrapery.com, in fabric; therosabernalcollection.com. Bedding; juliab.com and deborahsharpepinens.com. Throw; roomandboard.com.

FRANÇOIS HALARD.

