David Kleinberg and
Madison Cox fulfill
an equestrian's dream.
• indoors and out ricing h





"Bryan's like a wild tomboy who's as determined as Cruella de Vil"



hen Bryan Baldwin first showed landscape architect Madison Cox a neglected, halfdead citrus grove in Florida and told him she envisioned it as rolling pastures and elaborate paddocks for her horses, he said to himself, "Lady,

you're bananas to build a horse farm here!" The tenacious Baldwin, an amateur competitive rider on the "A" Circuit with the fresh looks of Ali MacGraw, nonetheless prevailed. "She's like a wild tomboy," says Cox, "or a fairy godmother who's as determined as Cruella de Vil."

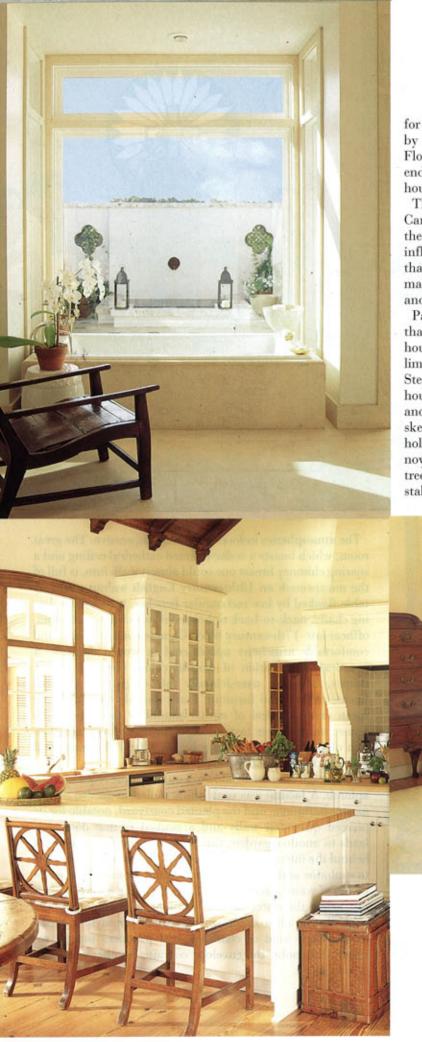
Interior designer David Kleinberg was enlisted for the new home's decor, making this the pair's third collaborative effort with Baldwin. "We're always of one mind about what's going on, so we're trusted to make decisions," says Kleinberg. "The challenge was that this was entirely her vision, and we had to create completely from scratch."

The first step was to clean the slate. Only five trees on the 40-acre property—four oaks, one magnolia, no oranges—were saved. Cox then began to sculpt the sunbaked earth, siting roads, the house, a pool house, stables, paddocks, a bridle trail, jump fields, and new plantings. The logistics of coordinating with Kleinberg and the architects (Neil Turner



This page, clockwise from top left: Bronze candlesticks on an 18th-century English refectory table. A view of the stables. A Sally Gall photograph hangs above a demilune table; the late-19th-century oak side chairs are English. Facing page: The limestone fireplace surround in the great room was made by Elizabeth Street Gallery. See Resources.





for the house, John Blackburn for the stables) was managed by blueprints and sketches faxed and FedExed between Florida, Georgia, Washington, D.C., and New York, and by endless conference calls. A year in the design phase, the house took another two years to build.

The overall look was inspired by Baldwin's visits to the Caribbean and pictures she'd seen of houses in Spain and the South of France. "I wanted to blend architectural influences," she says, "so I specified the barrel-tile roof that uses three different shades of terra-cotta, as well as mahogany doors, arched doorways, creamy stucco walls, and coral stone."

Pairs of French doors open to a colonnaded breezeway that sweeps around the perimeter of the light-flooded house, which benefits from a natural continuity between limestone pavers inside and exterior coral-stone porches. Steps and a lawn lead to a 25-by-75-foot pool, the pool house, and a fire pit where Baldwin's children, aged seven and ten, indulge in the fine art of roasting hot dogs. Where skeletal orange trees once stood, tulip poplars, magnolias, hollies, jacarandas, sweet gums, junipers, and oleanders now flourish. The bridle trail, lined with 4,000 young oak trees, meanders along the property; out in the paddocks, a stable of hunters is training for competition.

