

BRANDSTORY THE HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT

MARCH 2026

SROTM

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF OUR HOMETOWN | SARASOTA | BRADENTON

HOME OF THE YEAR

AWARD-WINNING RESIDENTIAL SPACES





SRQ

PRESENTS THE

2026

HOMIE OF THE YEAR

Home remains the most meaningful architectural space we experience throughout our lives. It reflects individuality, togetherness, privacy, stability and inspiration. As we continue to explore the role homes play in our everyday lives, the annual SRQ Magazine Home of the Year Competition invites local architects, builders, interior designers and landscape artists to share fresh perspectives on residential living by submitting their recent projects. Year after year, the competition reimagines the spaces where we live and thrive—expanding the conversation around what a home represents and what it can become through today's building innovations, renovation approaches and regional influences. From seaside to streetside, inside and out, these award-winning homes celebrate and shape a growing legacy of inspired residential design.

COMPETITION PRODUCED BY SRQ MAGAZINE | LAUREN SUTTER

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES, LISTED ON PAGE 105.

PROGRAM PARTNER

SMARTHOUSE
INTEGRATION
DESIGNER OF INTERIOR TECHNOLOGY



WATERCLUB
TRACTION ARCHITECTURE

Perched high above the Gulf of Mexico in a condominium tower on Longboat Key, the Waterclub project replaces an awkward 1980s interior with an airy, serene residence that celebrates the deep blue and green hues of the surrounding water. The renovation transforms a dated plan into a calm, light-filled retreat with clear sight lines, intuitive circulation and a strong connection to the horizon beyond. The design began with a complete interior gut, removing all finishes, fixtures and wall framing to establish a clean slate. Working within the constraints of existing plumbing, HVAC chases and structural elements, the floor plan was carefully reconfigured to open views across the Great Room and improve flow between spaces. The resulting layout emphasizes clarity, balance and visual continuity. Smooth white walls are grounded by white oak flooring, bringing warmth and texture throughout the home. That same white oak reappears on dropped ceiling planes in the Kitchen and Hallway, reinforcing a more intimate scale and creating a sense of enclosure through natural materials. These lower, wood-clad ceilings heighten the experience of the Great Room, where a tall ceiling and large glass sliders draw the eye outward toward the shimmering Gulf. To maintain clean ceiling planes, recessed downlights were minimized in favor of perimeter cove lighting with concealed LED strips. This indirect illumination washes the walls and subtly separates horizontal and vertical planes, while minimalist linear pendants accent larger spaces. Custom built-ins establish a cohesive language of oak and carefully placed color. A gray oak cabinetry block defines the transition between Entry Hall and Kitchen, integrating entry storage, seating, pantry space and appliances. Finishes throughout echo the Gulf's shifting blues and greens, with moments of whimsy such as a periwinkle tile backsplash, an internal kitchen window and a glossy blue powder room faucet adding brightness within an otherwise serene palette.



Architect: Traction Architecture **Contractor:** Frieler Construction Inc **Interior Design:** Traction Architecture **Cabinetry:** Space Theory **Fixtures/Kitchen:** Dombrecht **Fixtures/Bathroom:** Artos, Toto, Kohler, Vola, Nood **Flooring:** Naples Flooring Company / Legno Bastone **Furnishings/Furniture:** Design Within Reach, Arper, Bludot, Herman Miller, Henrybuilt, Loll **Photographer:** Seamus Payne

