going home

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special report

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With her easy, breezy approach to decorating—and life—Lulu de Kwiatkowski creates an artful home for her family in Lyford Cay.

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LULU DE KWIAWKOWSKI SITS POOLSIDE, WITH HER SONS, FRANCESCO, MATTEO, AND PIER, FOR DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES.
in sun hat and tennis whites at the Lyford Cay Club’s courts that hangs above a marble-topped Biedermeier chest. Next to it, a basket bulging with well-used rackets seems to be in dialogue with the photograph. On the opposite wall, an anthropomorphic wire bench by John Risley serves as a catchall for towels, backpacks, beach bags, and soccer balls.

“Hunt and gather,” de Kwiatkowski says of her eclectic and colorful approach to decorating. This is evident in the generously sized living room, which features a ram’s-head-base coffee table scored on eBay in 2000, the pair of giant ceramic frogs found at a Paris flea market that flank the fireplace, and an expansive L-shaped sofa that has been with the family in three houses. Even the round Julian Opie portrait, so perfectly sited above the mantelpiece here, has been a feature of each home the couple has inhabited. In fact, the only piece de Kwiatkowski expressly commissioned for the room is a pair of hand-painted Gracie Waves wallpaper panels on the back wall.

An expansive, multipurpose white room with picture windows overlooking the veranda is the heart of Terrenia. It houses a book-lined, library-like corner with a big table and director’s chairs, a much-played piano, a backgammon and Ping-Pong table, and a sitting area. In the sitting area, crisp white upholstery contrasts cleanly with her sinuously shaped and vividly hued artwork hung in a grid, while the abstract foliage on a hand-painted screen mirrors the verdant palm fronds outside the picture window. Reflecting on the color scheme, de Kwiatkowski notes: “It’s all about the greens and blues, recalling the nature and sea outside.”

The room that probably best encapsulates de Kwiatkowski’s point of view is her studio. Pieces evoking a botanical garden of whimsical flora painted with her distinctively easy hand create an exuberant collage that unfolds across its walls.

Before sunset, de Kwiatkowski ferries visitors in a golf cart for a tour of the chic Tom Scheerer–decorated clubhouse and one of the Club’s deceptively strong signature Rum Dum cocktails. It all feels so effortless, and de Kwiatkowski sums it up perfectly: “Being down here, where the heartbeat is the sun and there’s simplicity for the kids, is a really beautiful thing.”
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The details that make the look.