

DESIGN + DECOR

THE FLORIDA EDITION



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Living beautifully with intent, soul and style

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APRIL RAQUE
WELLNESS DESIGN GROUP

THE ART OF THE HOLISTIC HOME

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE PORTER



Airy and inviting, this great room celebrates connection, between spaces, between people, and between indoors and out. Natural light floods every surface, bringing warmth to contemporary lines and layered texture.



For April Raque, the idea of living beautifully isn't about following the latest trend or filling a home with magazine-worthy vignettes. It's about crafting spaces that feel like an exhale—tranquil, intuitive and in harmony with the life her clients want to live. As the founder of Wellness Design Group, April brings together decades of personal wellness practice, environmental health expertise and a deep respect for nature to create homes that nurture both people and the planet.

Her path to this work was far from linear, but it all aligned in its own time. "I knew that my puzzle-piece résumé would finally pull together one day," she says with a laugh. That day came when her personal commitment to low-impact living, eschewing chemicals, embracing natural products and studying energy flow lined up with her national board certification in health and wellness coaching and her passion for leaving a positive impact on the world around her. The result is a design philosophy that marries environmental stewardship with holistic well-being, starting at the most fundamental level: the home.

April sees each project as an opportunity to remove roadblocks to healthy living. "Your home can be either an obstacle or a pathway," she explains, and that path can take many forms. For some clients, wellness design in the home means conscious selection of natural, low-impact materials that elevate both beauty and comfort, or integrating a space dedicated to their meditation practice.

For others, it's a full integration in every aspect of the home and living experience. April is currently designing a truly "pure home," one that is entirely toxin-free. In such cases, she specifies elements

like organic latex cushions, water-based stains, FSC-certified wood and artisan-crafted pieces free from harmful glues and chemical finishes. This ensures that even the most uncompromising health standards are met without sacrificing design integrity.

Her Lake Park project, a collaboration with a biophilic furniture company and local designer, Carleen Young, exemplifies this approach. Every element was created specifically for the home, including handcrafted furnishings and clean-air systems, resulting in a seamless sanctuary where indoors and outdoors flow together. Natural textures, grounded color palettes and intentional spatial planning invite balance and calm for daily living.

Florida, with its abundant sunlight and easy access to nature, provides fertile ground for April's philosophy. While many arrive with preconceived ideas of "coastal style," she focuses on the individuality of each client, steering away from one-size-fits-all aesthetics. "Beauty isn't just seen, it's felt," she says. "The moment you enter a space designed for well-being, you know it."

In a fast-moving, trend-driven industry, April's work is a reminder that the most luxurious thing a home can offer is the ability to live well and live far into the future. For her, that's the essence of living beautifully: a space that reflects who you are, supports how you want to live, and treads lightly on the world you call home. ♦

Resource: Designer: Wellness Design Group; April Raque, Founder; Naples, FL; 239.544.6743; wellnessdesigngroup.com. **Photographer:** Carlos Escobar.