



EARTHILY AERIE

NATURAL HUES AND BOLD TRIBAL ARTWORK
BRING A GLOBAL VIEW TO AN ANYTHING-
BUT-ORDINARY MIAMI APARTMENT.

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INTERIOR DESIGN / PHYLLIS TAYLOR,
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When an international couple who were seasonal Miami residents happened upon their dream home in a Brickell Key condominium they had long admired, they jumped at the chance to purchase it. And after doing some research, they were drawn to the work of design and architectural firm Taylor & Taylor Partnership. “The wife referenced pictures of one of our projects and said it reflected her aesthetic,” recalls interior designer Phyllis Taylor of her first phone call with the clients. “Initially, they wanted me to replicate a home I had designed previously, to which I replied that I was unable to do that, but what I could do was make a home just for them.”

Instead of ocean vistas, the corner condo faces adjacent towers that immediately imbue the residence with an urban feel, and the interior designer and her husband, architect Bill Taylor, knew they needed to devise an interior scheme that was as sophisticated as the setting. “Brickell Key is really the epicenter of high-rise construction in the city,” says Bill of the condo’s metropolitan views. In response, the duo reworked the original quirky floor plan into a sleek envelope that enabled a more graceful flow for the rooms. “We have a good synergy,” says Phyllis of working side-by-side with her husband. “He sculpts the space based on my design sensibilities.”

After the new plans were completed, the Taylors turned to McKenzie Construction, and the gut renovation began. With project manager Alejandra Botero at the helm, the team set about recreating the floors, walls and ceilings while installing the latest home technology. “Working within condominium buildings is always a little more challenging due to sound and time restrictions, but we overcame those hurdles,” recalls Botero. As well as logistical concerns, there



Interior designer Phyllis Taylor, who reimaged a Miami apartment with her husband and architect Bill Taylor, kept the living area light with a textured Phillip Jeffries wallcovering from Holly Hunt and a Liaigre leather sofa and loveseat. A Silencio coffee table purchased at Liaigre and an Ironies armchair from Jerry Pair add depth to the vignette, anchored by The Galerie Diurne rug from Wayne Thomas Engel in Paris. The hurricane lamp on the coffee table and the white-painted vine lamp are from Jalan Jalan; the vases and throw are from Taylor & Taylor Finds; and the wall-mounted Kongo shields behind the sofa are from The Watchful Eye.

were structural limitations, so elements that could not be changed were updated. For example, the original white windows were powder-coated in bronze to naturally draw attention to the space's expansive views. The skyline vista, after all, was one of the reasons the homeowners were attracted to the unit. "This isn't a typical tropical fantasy focused on aqua water and blue skies; it's an urban center," says Phyllis. "And while we still have this unique Florida sunshine, it's the first time I've really experimented with such saturated colors." The interior designer worked with artist Austin Kerr, whose paintings can be found in the couple's collection, to develop a palette based on the "sea-glass, abalone and purple hues you find on the inside of a shell." There are darker shades, too, like a brick-colored paint chosen for the living area and a toffee-colored leather wallcovering in the office.

As earthen tones ground the strong interior statement pieces, they also establish a backdrop for the homeowners' collection of ethnic artifacts acquired on their worldly travels and at local galleries. "The wife is spellbound by masks and faces, so we built upon that," says Phyllis. "Stylistically, everything is always about the clients' point of view." To that end, the private elevator opens into a foyer resplendent with key pieces from the couple's collection: mounted Puna and Dan masks, a Kongo shield and a monumental Toma mask. The homeowners also wanted to showcase their framed collection of carved tribesmen—the first pieces they bought for their new home. So, the interior designer displayed them in the foyer hallway that leads into the living area to greet guests.

Tanzanian figures mark the entrance to the custom kitchen, featuring cabinetry by Downsview Kitchens, where Holly Hunt barstools join with a live-edge island built by Peace Millwork. The Wolf cooktop and Miele hood are from Monark; the backsplash is from Naturali Stone.



A dining nook off the kitchen features a custom Stone Yard table from Wayne Lagana & Co. and Tucker Robbins chairs from Jalan Jalan, topped by a Michael Weems chandelier from Kakar House of Design. Paintings by Austin Kerr hang above a custom sideboard by Downsview Kitchens.



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—PHYLLIS TAYLOR



In the dining room, Phyllis paired a custom Joseph Jeup table from Holly Hunt with Holly Hunt Studio leather chairs; underfoot, and throughout the home, is oak flooring from Dr. Hardwood. Étagères from Liaigre flank a painting by Oswaldo Vagas and hold bronze Nigerian leopards from Jalan Jalan. The vintage Italian sideboard is from Kakar House of Design.

The main living space is comprised of a comfortable sitting area designed with a circular flow, as well as a dining area where Phyllis placed steel-and-lacquered-wood étagères showcasing the couple's bronze Benin leopards from Nigeria. "I like to source things with my clients," the interior designer adds, noting trips to Holly Hunt, Liaigre and Jalan Jalan. "Many times, they'll light up over something that makes me open up my ideas." To that end, there are elements of Italian and Scandinavian design mixed with Moroccan influences and custom pieces, like the handmade Indonesian ceiling panels crafted from resin-dipped bamboo that float over the room like clouds. There are playful aspects too, most notably in the eat-in kitchen where a Michael Weems chandelier, found locally at Kakar House of Design and made from vintage Cadillac hoods, hangs above figural Human Friendship chairs from Jalan Jalan that delighted the interior designer. "I'm so pleased with that vignette," she adds. "The chairs are having a conversation—the space never feels empty."

In the master bedroom, Phyllis brought in touches of green and devised a dark-wood paneling for an intimate effect. "The proportions were tricky," says the interior designer. "The homeowners didn't want artwork over the bed, but I really wanted to make something cozy happen there." After giving it some thought, she designed a fabric panel with horizontal bands that makes the space comfortable despite the room's tall ceiling. And the homeowners are comfortable, too. "This was a labor of love for them," Phyllis says of the year-and-a-half-long project that resulted in an urban global oasis. "It's peaceful and calm; it's their cocoon." ■

In the office, a leather wallcovering from Suncrest Supply provides the backdrop for framed antique cloth fragments from Taylor & Taylor Finds. Pierre Frey pillows from Jerry Pair top the Room & Board sofa, which is illuminated by Holly Hunt Studio sconces. The throw, rug, wood tables and brass knot are all from Jalan Jalan.



On the opposite side of the office, Phyllis grouped a Dedon chair, a Poltrona Frau desk and a bronze lamp from Jalan Jalan, where she also found the circular leather chair. Peace Millwork built the custom bookshelves, and the Phillip Jeffries wallcovering is from Holly Hunt.



Opposite: The master bedroom features a Minotti bed, nightstands and bench; the custom linens, velvet Saccaro pillows and Pollack print pillows are from Carlotta's Fine Linens. Lunatika pendants hang above a jade disc from Jalan Jalan, where Phyllis also sourced the stool. The Phillip Jeffries Knock-on-Wood paneling was sourced from Holly Hunt; the custom carpet is from the Rug Company; and the painting is by Austin Kerr.

Below: Walls clad in marble from Naturali Stone define the master bathroom, which includes a tub, sinks, fixtures and hardware all from Waterworks. A mirror and a Jerry Pair sconce hang above the custom Peace Millwork vanity. The Thai rain drum table is from Jalan Jalan.



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