

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN
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"We believe comfort is the greatest luxury. We derive our inspiration from nature, architecture and fashion, as well as our patrons and other talented individuals."



*spirited
vibes*

A COUPLE'S MIAMI BEACH RETREAT TRANSFORMS INTO A WORK OF ART THAT CELEBRATES AN IDYLIC TROPICAL LIFESTYLE



ABOVE: White paints the stucco facade of the home created to provide both artistic and architectural interest. Louvered privacy slats on one side and a custom garage door on the other, both in teak, hold their own with the custom bronze entry gate. Aromatic, 27-foot-tall bay rum trees encircle the property to augment the peacefulness that abounds.

LEFT: In the foyer, black American walnut treads climb the spiral stairway designed by Brown Davis and crafted by Gil Development in stainless steel polished to a mirror finish. A graphic find by designer Rob Brown, *Pietre*, an oil on canvas by artist Marco Lorenzetto colors the study beyond.

FOR ONE COUPLE'S NEW WINTER HOME, the location for this centrally situated Miami Beach getaway could not have been more perfect. "It is close to shopping, entertainment and the beach," designer Rob Brown says. "The problem was the house did not fit my clients' needs in any way. We had to knock it down."

Having consulted with the clients on multiple homes throughout the years, the design team was up for the challenge. This latest collaboration had to be comfortable, full of character and large enough to fit their family. "They wanted this retreat to be idyllic for everyone. Their children and grandchildren visit frequently and enjoy walking to all sorts of events," Brown says.

Looking very much as if it was carefully placed amid its lush tropical setting, the 5,600-square-foot house now lives as one with its environs. "Our firm offers architectural, interior and landscape design, so we encouraged something architecturally and artistically adventurous," designer Todd Davis says. "Everything about this home works in harmony."

Today, the newly built contemporary residence radiates spirited Miami Beach vibes that embrace the area's artsy feel inside and out. Pulling up to the home, the eyes are instantly engaged with an aesthetic fusion of materials: white stucco, teak wood, glass and stainless steel. Pale to medium grays are the foundation for



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One of the most unique features in the home is the modern-styled custom plaster ceiling. “We were classically trained, and in a classic home everything, including the ceiling, is adorned. Everywhere you look, this home is a piece of art,” designer Todd Davis says.

the designers’ color scheme and contrast well against the many white walls inside and out. To create balance, varying tones of gingers and browns were added to the modern scheme. “With that as a base, we used pops of strong green to reflect the gardens and create an indoor/outdoor aura,” Brown says.

The design unfolds with artist Zachary Oxman’s bronze gate that opens to an intimate courtyard leading to the home’s entry. Step beyond the front door clad in Peruvian hardwood planks and be “wowed” as the line of vision spirals up and around the foyer. Rather than paint the sinuous stairway crafted of raw steel, the designers decided to polish it to create a mirror finish — even though it took more time to complete. Walnut treads warm the modern, sculptural composition as it ascends to the private second-level spaces.

Unexpected details fill the home as limestone flooring flows from the husband’s study on one side of the sculptural stairway to the great room on the other. Here, a three-dimensional block puzzle playfully crosses the ceiling in the living area, dining area and kitchen. Accommodations were made to conceal the ambient lighting that was crucial in the home’s design.

LEFT: Recessed lighting accents Opustone’s St. Tropez limestone that steps up to the nautilus shell-inspired, stainless steel swirl and continues to flow into the living area. Here, book-matched quartzite dazzles a hearthside setting with 1940s Gio Ponti wingbacks from Gustavo Oliveri, a two-sided sofa clad in a Holly Hunt Great Plains linen blend and a vintage Armand Jonkers cocktail table.



In the dining area, Studio Van den Akker mahogany chairs comfortably seat guests at the “Divine” walnut table. Nearby, the “Michele” cabinet appears to float, vintage Mazzega Murano chandeliers shimmer above, and an area rug custom angled by Rob Brown echoes the home’s contemporary design.

A feature fireplace wall of white quartzite with green and black veining makes an artistic statement in the living area. “We wanted stone that would create interest and pattern,” Brown says. The designers added warmth with a ginger hue that wraps the 1940s wingback chairs and the soft grays of the area rug. Walls of glass welcome garden views into the elegantly casual great room.

Rather than one grand chandelier for the dining area, the design team chose four smaller vintage Mazzega Murano fixtures to illuminate the custom walnut dining table by Brown Davis. Flaunting a modern classic design on a walnut frame, the dining chairs easily seat a party of eight. Artist Donald Baechler’s botanical prints dot the wall in complement to the tropical motif.

Opustone’s “Celeste Mist” quartzite countertop and backsplash carve a picture window in the kitchen’s rosewood veneer cabinetry. Artistic Frame’s counter stools wrapped in a bold pistachio-hued leather from Jerry Pair provide a lively pop of color.



Rosewood veneer cabinetry warms the kitchen, where a trio of pistachio-hued counter stools are fun sidekicks for the massive Caesarstone island countertop. “Natural woods and warm hues add to the comfort level in this contemporary home,” Brown says. When floor-to-ceiling glass doors slide open, the kitchen seamlessly blends with the outdoor living area. Finishing touches carry through to the outside, where a partial quartzite wall and an inlaid tile rug define the open-air dining area.

This jewel comes alive in the “Magic City” as artistic vibes embrace the spirit of its eclectic surroundings. “The home is unique, and the clients love it,” Davis says. “It’s wonderful to have all of the architecture, design and landscaping come together, and see our ideas come to fruition.”

Lined with aromatic bay rum trees and indigenous flora, the entrance courtyard makes a tropical statement. John Hutton's Adirondack chairs from David Sutherland's showroom shape an intimate social grouping.



Staying true to the home's Miami Beach roots, the modern white sofa, lounge chairs and pistachio-hued cocktail table from Vondom pair with Dedon's dining ensemble from Clima Outdoor to shape the open-air living area — a favorite gathering spot for family and friends.

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SOURCES

FRONT EXTERIOR

Courtyard entry gate - Oxman Studios, Inc., Rockville, MD
Window slats and garage door - Gil Development, Miami, FL
Granite driveway pavers - hardscape.com
Balcony glass and hardware - C. R. Laurence Co., Inc., Miami, FL

FOYER

Stairway - Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami Beach, FL
Front door, stairway and railing fabricated by Gil Development, Miami, FL

STUDY

Sofa and lounge chair - Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami Beach, FL

Fabricated by Jose Goncalves & Co., Arlington, VA
Fabric - S. Harris Fabrics, Jeffrey Michaels, Hollywood, FL
Artwork - Marco Lorenzetto Studio, Los Angeles, CA
Cocktail table - Bohnic Studio, New York, NY
Drapery fabric - Clarence House, Holly Hunt, Miami, FL

LIVING AREA

Wingback chairs - Gio Ponti, Gustavo Oliveri, 1stdibs.com
Fabric - Giant Fabrics, Jerry Pair & Assoc., Hollywood, FL
Floor lamp - Phoenix Day, Thomas Lavin, Hollywood, CA
Lounge chair - Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami Beach, FL

Fabricated by Jose Goncalves & Co., Arlington, VA
Fabric - Great Plains, Holly Hunt, Miami, FL

Accent pillow fabric - Scion, Style Library, UK
Cocktail table - Armand Jonkers, 1stdibs.com
Occasional table - Caste, Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Accent table next to lounge chair - Antu-Made, Chicago, IL
Fireplace surround - Opustone, Doral, FL
Fabricated by Gil Development, Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - Carleton House, Jeffrey Michaels, Hollywood, FL

DINING AREA

Table - Brown Davis, Keith Fritz Fine Furniture, Ferdinand, IN
Chairs - Studio Van den Akker, New York, NY
Fabric - Great Plains, Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Lucite prism sculpture - Alessio Tasca, 1stdibs.com
Wasi accessory - Britto Charette, Miami, FL

Chandeliers - Mazzega, Craig Van Den Brulle, 1stdibs.com
Cabinet - Brown Davis, Keith Fritz Fine Furniture, Ferdinand, IN
Artwork above cabinet - Owners' Collection
Vase on cabinet - Nest, New York, NY
Drapery fabric - Carleton House, Jeffrey Michaels, Hollywood, FL
KITCHEN
Cabinetry and islands - Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami, FL
Fabricated by Hitek Cabinetry, Miami, FL, and Gil Development, Miami, FL
Island countertop - Caesarstone, Charlotte, NC
Cabinet countertop, backsplash and flooring - Opustone, Doral, FL
Counter stools - Artistic Frame, New York, NY

Leather - Jerry Pair & Assoc., Hollywood, FL
Horse planter on island - Plant the Future, Miami, FL
COURTYARD
Adirondack chairs - John Hutton, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Planters - Design Within Reach, Miami, FL
Decking - Opustone, Doral, FL
Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami, FL
Fabricated by Gil Development, Miami, FL
OUTDOOR LIVING AREA
Sofa, lounge chairs and cocktail table - Vondom, Miami, FL
Cart - Richard Schultz for Knoll, Design Within Reach, Miami, FL
Dining table and side chairs - Dedon, Clima Outdoor, Miami, FL

Grill - Wolf, Monark Appliances, Miami, FL
Quartzite wall - Opustone, Doral, FL
Fabricated by Gil Development, Miami, FL
Fan - Big Ass Fans, Lexington, KY
Chaise lounge - Richard Schultz for Knoll, Design Within Reach, Miami, FL
Patterned tile inset - Cle Tile, Sausalito, CA
THROUGHOUT
Draperies fabricated by iDesign Window Fashions, Miami, FL
Area rugs - Stark Carpet Corp., Hollywood, FL
Ceiling treatments - Custom designed by Brown Davis, Inc., Miami, FL
Fabricated by Giannetti's Studio, Brentwood, MD