



#### KITCHEN KLATCH

Hillary Scurtis and son Jonathan prep cookies at an island topped with white Statuario marble; a monstera-leaf-patterned shade adds just a hint of the tropics.



# refined style

This whimsical yet elegant Coconut Grove home showcases the laid-back lifestyle of a rambunctious family of four.

Working in interior design "is almost like being a therapist," laughs Hillary Littlejohn Scurtis, who loves to match interior spaces with her clients' multifaceted lifestyles. Her lively, eclectic spaces are each rooted in the belief that every home should reflect the homeowner's life. "I like a clean, uncluttered look, and I want my space (and the spaces I design for others) to enrich the lives of the people who use them."

Scurtis' own Coconut Grove abode — a contemporary, three-story home with undertones of Regency — fits her lifestyle and interests. She majored in business and art history, studied art in Paris, and lived in France and England. She and her husband, Constantine, travel frequently throughout Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. "Travel has hugely influenced me," she says. Mementos of these journeys include

STORY: GEORGE LEPOSKY PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBIN HILL



French and Italian drawings and paintings, as well as Portuguese pottery and hand-painted tiles.

Purchased in 2004, the house took six months to renovate; the couple used natural themes and materials to bring the outside in and make the most of the Florida surroundings. Most flooring is composed of giant 36-by-36 gray Bateig Azul limestone squares from Portugal that are cool underfoot. "Many people mistake them for concrete," notes Scurtis. The kitchen gleams with white Statuaria marble counters and window shades with a cheerful monstera-leaf pattern on white fabric.

**WALL ART** Wallpaper abounds. "I am fanatical about wallpaper; it is an often overlooked decorative element," says Scurtis. "It fills a void and creates visual interest. The past five years have seen a renaissance of great wallpaper — modern designs and reprints of vintage patterns. It's appropriate almost anywhere in a house."

In her living room, hand-painted, silk chinoiserie wallpaper depicts a tranquil pond scene and "is a giant piece of artwork," says Scurtis. It was acquired through the David Sutherland Showroom at the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) in Dania. "A Fromental artist in London designed it based on dimensions I provided," says Scurtis. "The colors (fuchsia, green and orange) are both whimsical and found in my garden."

A symmetrical grille-moderne pattern from Studio Printworks integrates undulating scrolls into disciplined grid lines in the dining room. "It creates an architectural element," declares Scurtis. Studio Printworks also supplied the lively white dots on cream wallpaper in the playroom of sons Jonathan, 5, and Kristian, 3. Antique chairs float across the powder room's black-and-white walls and ceiling in a playful pattern from Thibaut.

Scurtis wanted to create a formal but approachable living-room space. "Since there isn't a foyer or vestibule in the home, the space had to welcome and exude hospitality," she says. "It was important to me not to use too much furniture." As such, the

#### FAMILY FUN

Susan Littlejohn shares cookie time with grandson Jonathan and daughter Hillary.



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#### REGENCY GLAM

Hand-painted silk chinoiserie wallpaper is the backdrop for a pair of Sheridan sofas reupholstered in sand-colored linen; they're rumored to have once been in the White House.

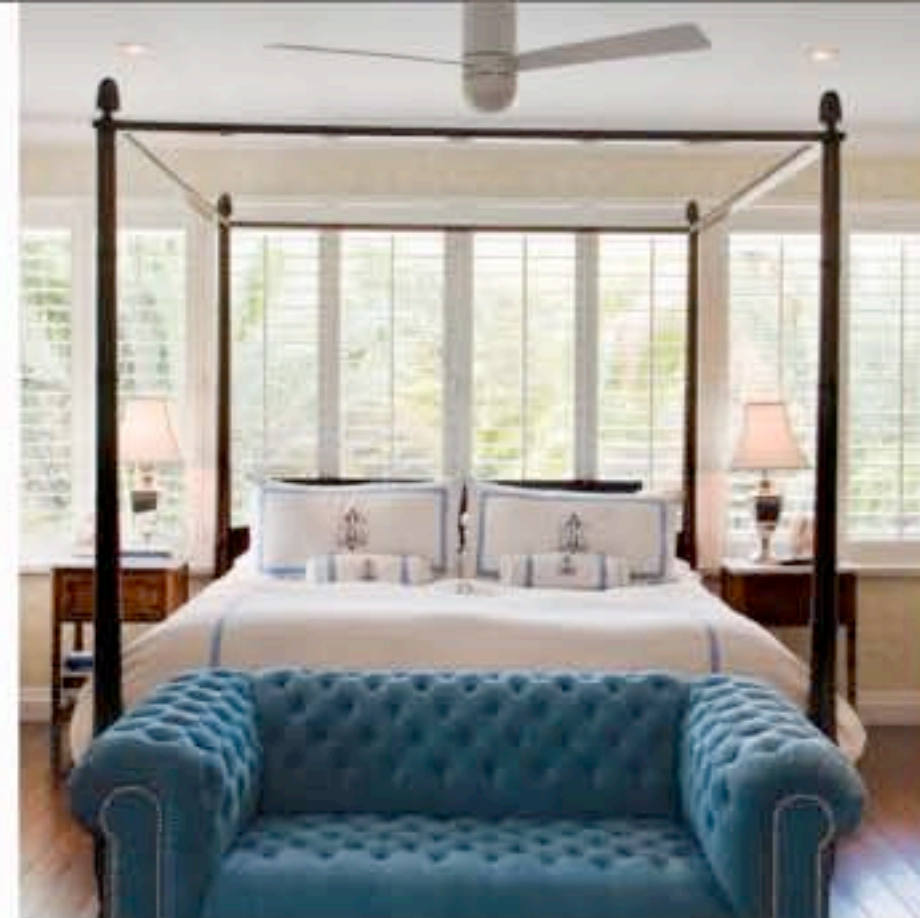


“Using rock crystal is like decorating with diamonds.”



**▲ COZY LIVING**  
Above: Her bath includes a soaking tub and generous shower with fixtures from Waterworks. Comfy chair upholstered in white pique. Right: An Italian console from Susane R. in Miami Design District sits beneath framed pink ibises on paper from Country French.

**SEASIDE MOTIF ▶**  
Brothers Kristian and Jonathan share a bedroom with a nautical nuance; Pottery Barn Kids beds are shaped like small boats.



**◀ MASTER ROMANCE**  
A David Sutherland bed adorned with Leontine Linens; the Chesterfield sofa reupholstered in blue suede with polished nickel nailheads is an heirloom.

furnishings are a harmonious blend of Regency exuberance, antiques from other periods and thrift-shop finds. The living-room ensemble includes a grouping of Sheridan sofas, French bergère chairs and an industrial-style Swedish coffee table with black metal legs. Scurtis acquired the sofas from Incurable Collector in West Palm Beach, where the proprietor told her a remarkable rumor regarding the find — the sofas once had a place in the 19th-century White House. “I reupholstered them in soft sand-colored linen with an ivory double welt,” she says. The other items came from Lars Bolander Ltd. in West Palm Beach.

The Dennis & Leen rock-crystal chandelier grabbed the designer immediately. “It was destined for the living room,” she recalls. “Rock crystal is like decorating with diamonds,” says Scurtis. “I love the texture and the reflective qualities.” A housewarming gift from her in-laws, the chandelier (from Jerry Pair at the DCOTA in Dania) will always have a treasured place of honor.

The dining room juxtaposes Scurtis’ parents’ French provincial inlaid-wood table; lyre-back chairs from Pierre Deux’s DCOTA showroom; and a 1950s French Riviera art-deco sideboard with a striated Madagascar-palissandre exterior and a sycamore interior, acquired from Susane R Lifestyle Boutique in the Miami Design District. This room’s rock-crystal chandelier came from a Palm Beach estate sale. “Both form and function are very important,” Scurtis says. “Function trumps form, but as a designer, I like things to be pleasing.”



**◀ TRANQUIL DESIGN**  
The pond scene (below) depicts wallpaper as art; in the dining room you’ll find a symmetrical grille-moderne pattern wallpaper.



**▲ VERDANT AMBIENCE**  
Cabana-style French doors open onto the pool; Cole and Son palm wallpaper brings the outside in; French bergère chairs from Corinthian Antiques frame the doors.