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GLASS & GLAMOUR IN KEY BISCAYNE

INTERIOR DESIGN Bea Pila, B. Pila Design Studio PHOTOGRAPHY John Gillan **TEXT Lauren Lampa-Banchs**

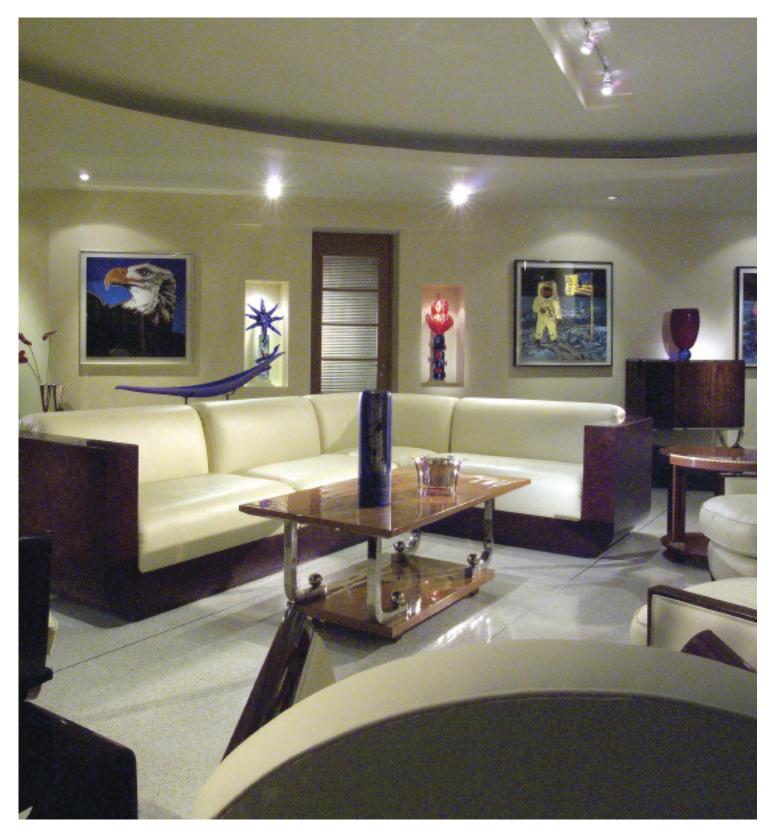
> After several warm Decembers attending Art Basel Miami Beach, art enthusiasts Mr. and Mrs. Katz decided to purchase a winter haven to escape the frigid weather of their primary residence in Maine, as well as to house their extensive art collection representing some of the most renowned glass blowers and painters. They settled on combining two condominium units in Key Biscayne into one, where they could enjoy the upscale, albeit quiet lifestyle and still be close to the Magic City's art and culture scene if needed.

> The building was new construction, so they immediately brought in interior designer Bea Pila of B. Pila Design Studio to work with the developer to adjust the wall configuration for a better flow in conjoining the two units, one of which was to be a guest suite. Pila also took advantage of this opportunity to create a more open floor plan.

> The resulting layout is perhaps most powerfully seen with the home's oversized Great Room. The private elevator walks into the main foyer and a large nautilus floor carving. From here, the eye is drawn up, where one is able to fully take in the gallery-quality artwork while also enjoying ocean and city views. The foyer opened up into a dining room, followed by two separate living spaces. Furniture placement created artificial walls,

"With this approach, we were able to layer without being overpowering and losing the impact of this grand-scale space," says Pila. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -





Complementing all the glass and water, floors of poured terrazzo and walls of Venetian plaster gave the space a smooth, polished finish. Ceiling height limitations prompted Pila to continue the nautical theme abstractly on the ceiling via slight drops, coves, and carved designs. Mirroring the ceiling lines above, Pila used metal expansion joints in the terrazzo flooring directly below. "It added architectural impact in a minimal way," she explains.

At the helm of every architectural detail in this vast, singular space was the couple's extensive artwork collection, which included a Chihuly chandelier; glass sculptures, bowls and vases; and an impressive accumulation of Warhol paintings. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -

"Incorporating fine art into a project really elevates the beauty and intrigue of the space," says Pila. "These particular pieces were so important that they necessitated their own design, rather than being added as an afterthought."

Pila worked with the Katzes to place the art first, then created coves, display features, lighting, and ultimately the furnishings, around the works. A prominent example is the orange and green Chihuly chandelier that provides a visual pop against the floor-to-ceiling city view background. Pila balanced the other side with a column to help separate the living space from the more casual lounge area. Instead of using a room divider or screen, Pila opted for an oversized console table that successfully defined each area without losing the openness of the room, as well as drew the eye through the room and straight to the Chihuly.





hand, were not as easy to place. The open layout and row of windows left minimal wall space. Pila combined the pieces to create one large-scale artwork. She maintains that hanging paintings floor-to-ceiling is not typical; however, ultimately had a bigger impact that if each was scattered throughout the space - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -.

Pila combined the pieces to create one large-scale artwork.



Because of the strong colors of the glass collection, the rest of the decor palette was left monochromatic. Art Deco furnishings were selected for their clean lines and included vintage selections and reproductions by Italian designer Columbostile. Sectional sofas carved out a more traditional seating area while a vintage coffee table surrounded by loose chairs created a second living area more akin to a lounge. Despite the Art Deco decor, Pila dismisses the style as midcentury, instead designating it "timeless contemporary".

"The Art Deco pieces added an element of glam to the artworks," she adds. The guest suite, on the other hand, forwent the glamour for a more casual feel. Keeping in mind that the primary guests would be grandchildren, Art Deco was traded for classic modern furnishings from Italy. A breakfast area and family room with a television took the place of the glossy entertainment area seen next door. However, this enclave was not spared any fine art, with large scale paintings and glass sculptures adding a touch of refinement. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -



The main kitchen provided a glimpse of warmth by mixing cabinetry materials of wood and metal. A frosted glass cabinet flanked by white lacquer installations brought back in the sheen element. The island cabinets featured cutouts to display the owner's colorful tableware. The metal joints in the floor transitioned into a uniform perpendicular pattern; however, the technique of mimicking the ceiling was seen though the cabinetry shape, as seen where the curved bar countertop extends from the main island. Together, the two pieces created the same shape as the lighting cove directly above. The stovetop also helped the eye to rove around the space, arcing outwards from the countertop.

This space was no exception to the opportunity to display several art pieces. As such, the adjoining breakfast area was left simple with a square glass table and white leather chairs that subtly combined angles with soft curves and an asymmetrical base. A corresponding glass and metal console layered glass with wall art.

- Continued on Next Page -



To transition from the public to private spaces, Pila created a serene passage way leading to the master bedroom. Carpet and fabric covered walls had a dual purpose; visually, adding softness against all the glass and like surfaces, and acoustically, helping to absorb any sound echoing in from the entertainment areas. A custom door brought in from Italy provided entrance, where a Warhol elephant painting and abstract glass sculpture welcomed the Katz's to their retreat. This room was also massively open and spacious, allowing for two seating areas and large-scale furniture. What appears to be nightstands flanking the bed are actually two full-size chests of drawers.

A Brueton coffee table of glass and stainless steel was offset with supple leather seating and adjacent swivel chairs with attached tables, harkening back to the great room's dual section layout of traditional and lounge. The ceiling pattern created a unique lighting cove to bring architectural interest to the large space. Another subtle, but thoughtful element was the window treatments, which retracted completely up into pockets so as not to take even an inch away from the dual city and water vistas. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -



"The tub overlooks perhaps the best view in the entire home,"

The master bathroom appears to be a glass sculpture in an of itself. Pila manipulated the walls with tile and Venetian plaster for a total glass effect. This is the only space in the home where color was used on the walls. The aqua tone picked up the hues of the ocean view to reflect back additional vibrancy into the space. The shower, vanity, tub and lighting fixtures all curved to direct the point of focus to the ocean, and the. Katzs' favorite feature, the tub.

"The tub overlooks perhaps the best view in the entire home," notes Pila. "Which was important because Mrs. Katz specified that one of her favorite daily rituals was a relaxing bubble bath."

The vanity of stainless steel and frosted glass was complemented by custom mirrors with sandblasted edges.

"Everything was smooth, polished and had a sheen effect to it; what better way to honor my clients' love of glass?"

- Continued on Next Page -



One of the Katz's artistic inspirations was prominent art collector Martin Margulies, who also happened to be the building owner of their Key Biscayne property. The Margulies terrace was transformed into a sculpture garden, a space the Katz's envisioned for their own home. A trellis added dimension to these works and framed the 360° views.

- END -

SOURCES

Great Room Antique coffee tables from Valerio Antiques of Coral Gables, FL Art Deco reproduction furnishings by Colombostile of Italy Lighting Fixtures by Barovier & Toso Master Bedroom Custom Bed by Colombostile Coffee Table by Brueton Lounge Furnishings by Columbostile Window treatments by Kasas Interiors with Jeffrey Michaels fabrics Master Bath Fixtures by Poggenpohl Kitchen Fixtures and Cabinetry by Poggenpohl of Germany Guest Suite Furnishings by Luminaire





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Upon entering the condominium, one is greeted with a magnificent open space covered in a specially ordered Greek marble, in which the eyes are automatically drawn to the custom double doors that serve as the division between the private quarters and the public areas. The custom nine foot doors are framed with vertical panels that accentuate the soaring ceiling heights, as well as begin the design language of high contrasts that is carried throughout the entire apartment. Immediately adjacent is the endearing ocean view that serves as the perfect back drop to the sumptuous, yet inviting, living and family room. Attention to detail is the key in the space. The dropped ceiling is designed to house European brand Delta warm lighting in combination with LED accents for a glamorous atmosphere. The outpour of natural light helps to properly illuminate the Holly Hunt lounge chairs, oversized Baltus sofa and the Artefacto sculptural accent chair that surround the complex coffee table. An important design factor for the clients was the concealment of television screens in all the rooms, which was treated with the same superiority as the overall design. The solution was an integrated high end motorized system that concealed the recessed television with a brilliant work of art. Acoustics and other technologies that enhanced entertainment experience were also embedded into wall and ceiling surfaces . -

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -



Across the hall poses the exquisite dining area for eight with a suspended chandelier that serves as a glamorous focal point. With over 200 Swarovski crystals, the chandelier sparkles with a sense of weightlessness and reciprocates the square shape of the table. The dining table was custom designed using Macassar Ebony with a diamond cut and Polyurethane coat to reflect the light fixture and simulate a water-like quality. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -

Continuing along the rim of the casted natural light, the office is composed of just a reading chair and desk. This simple approach is meant to remove any distractions from the directed views towards the Sunny Isles horizon, which is known for abundant sea turtle and dolphin sightings. In the corner sits a functional and sculptural adaptation of a biblioteque chair, which contemporarily houses the client's vast collection of books. The artwork was incorporated from the client's last trip to South Africa and is mounted against a hearty frame to enhance the eclectic and crafted quality of the painting. - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -





As the sun goes down into the Floridian distance, the master bathroom comes to light with a provoking SENSE of sensuality, sophistication and charm. The view was tied into the space through the use of rich woods, crystal speckled floors, chrome accents and glass partitions. Organicshapes such as the Victoria & Albert tub, ceramic sinks for two, Dordrecht fixtures and pebbled shower floor connect the clients with nature and help accentuate the purity and cleanliness of an oasis. Although the bathroom glimmers under the tall candle-lit accessories, the design was not only meant to be appealing but also functional. Mirrors set against the wooden accent wall hide the smart storage medicine cabinet within the contemporary design to provide the client with everything they would need.

- CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -



The guest bedroom is tucked behind a soaring nine foot, solid oak wood rift cut door. With the slight turn of the Philipe Starck over scaled door handle, one enters a room simple in arrangement but not lacking décor. The soffit lights reflect upon the satin finish of the Maya Romanoff veneer wall covering to provide a warm wash throughout the room and illuminate the plush bed. With unobstructed views of the sparkling city, it is irresistible to relax and marvel at the view.



The master bedroom offers a delight sense of coziness wrapped in a defiance of gravity. Both the floating bed and cove-lit dropped ceiling adapt the same sense of weightlessness expressed in the dining area. These qualities engage a sense of tranquility, revoir and alleviation, which is transcended into the luxurious materials, soothing tones and hand-painted wall covering. As seen in the living room, the motorized technology lavishly reveals and hides the television screen accordingly with a custom work of art.

SOURCES

Living Room

Sofa - Baltus Furniture, Design District Area Rug- Carpet Boutique, Design District Showroom Lounge Chairs - Holly Hunt, Design District <u>Dining Room</u> Chairs - Abitare "Minotti" Design District

Chairs - Abitare "Minotti", Design District Chandelier - Artefacto, Coral Gables Showroom Table - Rolu Woodcraft, Miami Office

Desk & Chair - Artefacto, Coral Gables General

Plumbing fixtures - Designers Plumbing, DCOTA, Dania Beach Floor Marble - Marble of the World, Fort Lauderdale Wallpaper - The Wallpaper Company, Brickell Door Handles - IronMonger, Chicago





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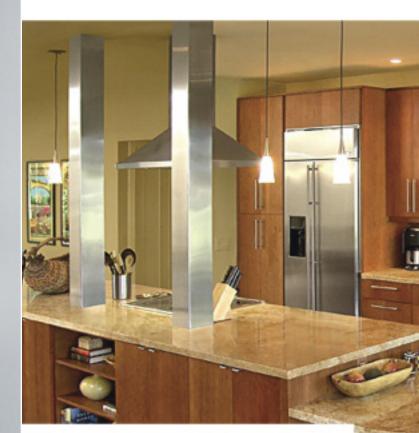
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Many consider Frank Lloyd Wright's principle movement of organic architecture combined with Arts and Crafts as an American jumping

point for the aesthetic of Mid-Century Modern. Like many of Wright's designs, Mid-Century architecture was frequently employed in residential structures with the goal of bringing modernism into America's post-war suburbs. This style emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor plans, with the intention of opening up interior spaces and bringing the outdoors in. Many Mid-century houses utilized then-groundbreaking post and beam architectural design that eliminated bulky support walls in favor of walls seemingly made of glass. Function was as important as form in Mid-Century designs, with an emphasis placed specifically on targeting the needs of the average American family.

As far as furniture, mid-century furniture has become so popular and attractive, many designers now imitate the clean lines and subtle curves of '50s design in compositions updated for the 21st century. What's over 50 years now is quite contemporary looking, given the clean, curved lines of this type of furniture. Like many other art forms, purists want the real thing rather than a replica when it comes to vintage design. Authentic '50s furniture pieces, lamps, clocks, artwork and other accessories get attention from those creating a retro lifestyle with mid-century flair. Mid-century furniture is often made of gorgeous, durable, real wood. Of course, glass and chrome were popular at that time as well. Vibrant colors also dominated that period of time.

Mid-century modern home furnishing items are offered at a number of furniture stores in the Fort Lauderdale area, such as Timeless Furniture and Design on Federal Highway just south of Oakland Park boulevard. Their eclectic collection of home furnishings includes vintage pieces, sculptures, chrome, lamps, bronze, lucite, danish, carved wood, dining tables, buffets, desks and much more. As you look through their inventory, you are bound to see something that hits your

eye. In fact, often a store such as Timeless would get in a piece of authentic 50s furniture whose reproduction counterpart might sell for quite a lot more at a contemporary furniture store. You never know what treasures you might find at Timeless and other shops that offer mid-century furniture.



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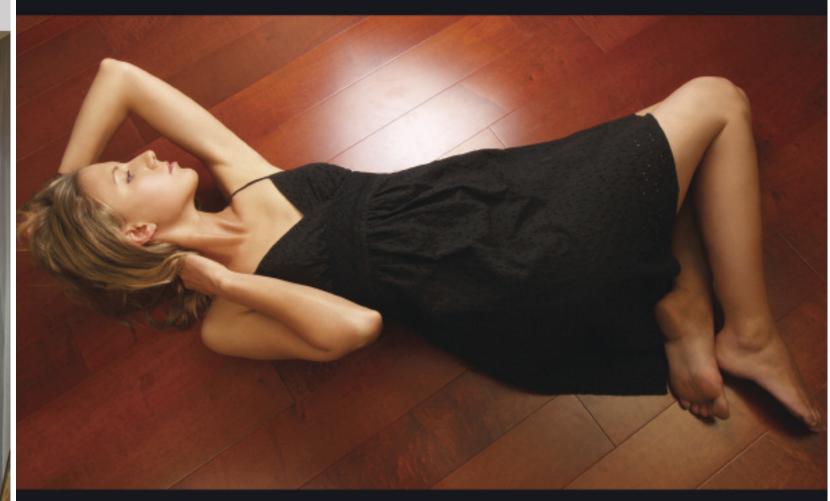
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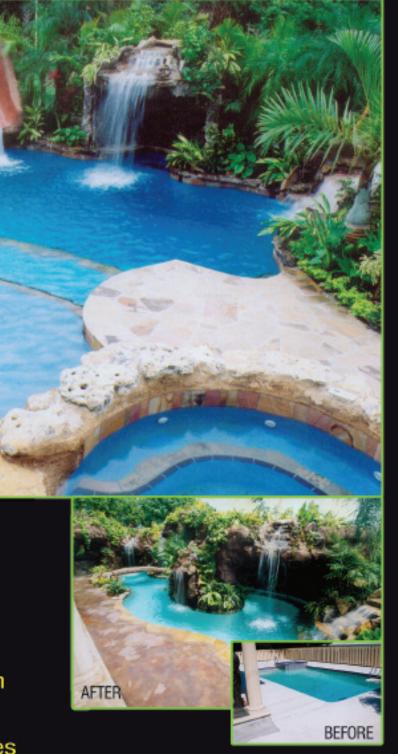
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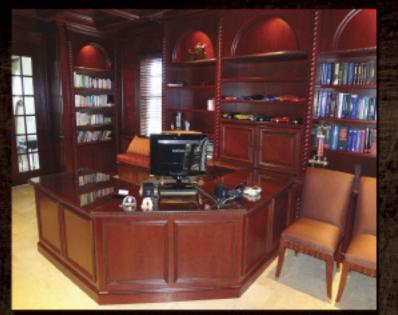
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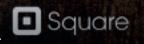


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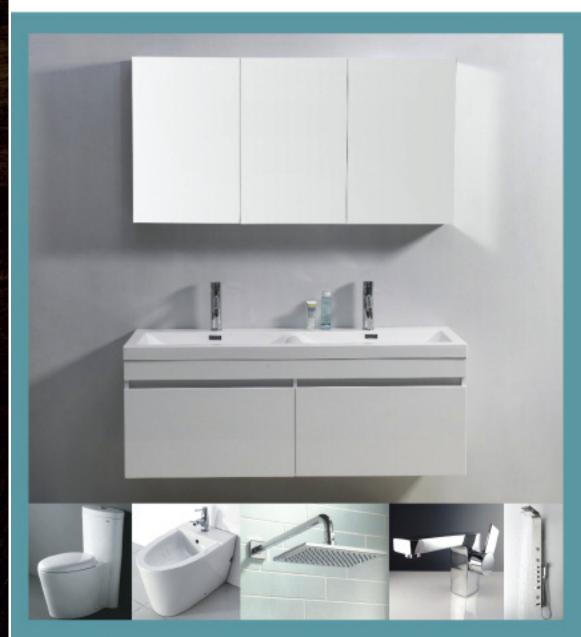
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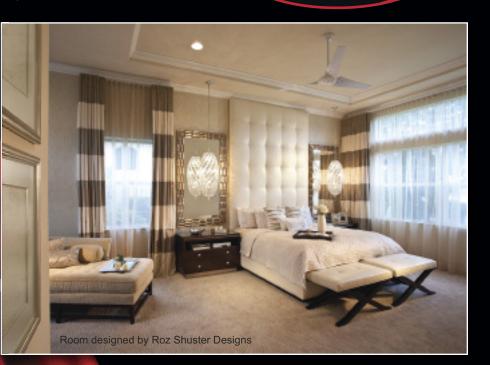


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