

A SPECTACULAR CONDO OVERLOOKING BISCAYNE BAY

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PHOTOGRAPHY Barry Grossman

Pablo Picasso once said “the purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.” In this art-filled, artfully designed home by Pepe Calderin Design, one can imagine that daily life must be remarkably picturesque. The homeowner’s private art collection played a big part in the design process with bright paintings, sculptures, and equally inspired furnishings filling each space. Originally a three-bedroom unit, it was transformed into a more spacious two-bedroom home, with spaces that are architecturally thoughtful and allow for striking scenic views of Biscayne Bay.

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Minimal and clean, the window treatments are motorized and made of sheer weave, a perforated plastic that filters sunlight. When open, they're hidden behind a soffit, giving the illusion of no window treatments at all. Cove lighting adds ambience and visual interest to otherwise simple ceilings.

The bar serves as the home's hub. Wrapped around the kitchen, it was molded to conform to the curvilinear space with a frosted glass top that visually connects it to the dining area. Lining the glass up perfectly and ensuring its unflinching support atop the stainless steel base was no simple task, but the simplicity of materials and play on illu-

sion add elegance and modernity. The bar is considered the ideal spot to sit with a cocktail and enjoy the assortment of art all around, including a Rob Lorensen metal sculpture, the bright green Untitled and a painting above the bar cabinet by Mario Velez entitled Things That Kill. The round dining table features a view of Botero's El Milagro San Hilarion hanging above the custom built white lacquer buffet table, and a Picasso just to the right. Refined, but unpretentious, the furnishings play off of the artwork's eclecticism. Ceiling soffits with strategic LED lighting highlight key areas and can be dimmed to adapt to a variety of entertainment scenarios.

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Overlooking the Port of Miami, luxurious Fisher Island, and Miami Beach's clear blue ocean water, the multipurpose den is starkly contemporary with a custom built-in bookcase adding architecture and structure to the furnished space. Masculine furnishings mix with the sumptuous texture of the rug to create balance. The color palette is decidedly cool; influenced by the industrial skyline and refreshing waters, the room utilizes monochromatic grays and blacks, metals, and the occasional pop of red to keep the eye moving towards the windows.

"It was important that these rooms be adaptable," explains Pepe Calderin, Principle Designer of the Miami and New York based firm. "In a two-bedroom home, each space needs to be designed to accommodate different purposes. The den, for example, is both a library and the ideal movie spot." The lighting fits both needs. During the day, the room is flooded with natural light, and at night, wall sconces, table lamps, and recessed lights built into the bookcase—instead of the ceiling—provide enough ambient light to set the mood. These alternative methods meant the ceiling could maintain its existing height.

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The contemporary master bedroom was designed to be comfortable, but still feel attached to the rest of the unit's highly modern, artistic aesthetic. The custom designed bed was upholstered in red leather and contrasts against the custom white leather headboard. Stainless steel inlays separate the panels and add some reflectivity and masculinity. A secondary relaxation area was created by setting up a plush, modern sofa at the end of the room. The room's combination of neutral and bright fabrics is grounded by a brown area rug. Anchoring the furniture, the rug also ties into the room's accessory selections. Calacatta Gold marble flooring runs throughout the entire unit, but in the master bedroom, in particular, it helps to showcase the juxtaposition between the dark and light features of the space.

Illusion continues to serve an important role in the master and powder bathrooms. Mirrored ceilings help create more volume, and the polished marble flooring and tub deck in the master bathroom add continuity and refinement. "They're everywhere", says Calderin of the mirrors in the master bathroom. "But with the masculine themes running through the rest of the unit, we wanted to have that same drama here. In the other spaces, we got away with it because of all of the natural light. Here we had to create that same effect and allow for the light to bounce off of as many reflective surfaces as possible." That very drama is emphasized in the Powder Room. The walls are wrapped in gray glass mosaic and a wall of metal niches provides an area for the clients to showcase yet another of their impressive collections. The freestanding metal pedestal sink is a sculpture within itself, and serves as a conversation piece for guests, one of the many focal points of the home.

An extensive art collection, carefully detailed architectural elements, and eclectic furnishings and accessories all fill this home by the bay. The homeowners were ecstatic with the outcome, and when art and design merge together so perfectly, who wouldn't be? If Picasso was indeed right about art's purpose, then this space itself is art, and the homeowner's lives and souls truly spectacular.



SOURCES

- Living Room/Cover photo
- Blue chair- B&B Italia
- Bench- B&B Italia
- Red chair- B&B Italia
- Sofas- Flexform
- Coffee Table- Luminaire
- Dining Room
- Dining Table & Chairs- Luminaire
- Buffet- Custom
- Bar
- Bar- Custom
- Barstools- Knoll
- Den
- Side Table- Knoll
- Red Chair- Knoll
- Coffee Table- Knoll
- Sofa- Luminaire
- Chairs- Luminaire
- Rug- Carpet Source
- Bookcase- Custom
- Bedroom
- Bed- Custom
- Sofa- Luminaire
- Ottomans- Luminaire
- Bathroom
- Stool- Luminaire
- Vanity- Custom
- Pedestal Sink- Phillippe Starck
- Toilet- Duravit



A Warm, Contemporary Tropical Penthouse

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PHOTOGRAPHY Brantley Photography

The Webb Residence is a penthouse condo in Pinnacle in Sunny Isles Beach, Miami. Two separate units were merged to create 5,500 Sq Ft of living space. The Oklahoma couple was seeking a design that expressed "Florida and the tropics."

There were endless challenges in merging two units in an existing condo development, which involved restraints on space and elevator capacities. Low ceiling heights demanded lots of light and attention to the play of light in the spaces. Soffits were necessary to add lighting. All the moldings and casing were mahogany with a walnut stain. Art was pivotal to bringing the design together.

The greatest challenge was to join the two individual residences by marrying flooring materials and creating unity. The ceiling also was raised to create an open feeling. Lighting was essential because it was very dimly lit with minimal recessed lights. Art was custom manufactured that had to be disassembled in order to fit up the freight elevator. The metallic weave metal sculpture in the entry was commissioned by Moz Designs called Six Ribbon's. The end result was nothing short of spectacular, achieving a warm, contemporary look with a tropical accent!

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Lachance joined two small kitchens to make one large kitchen. It was particularly challenging from an architectural standpoint due to fixed areas for plumbing. We had to work with those constraints to create one kitchen with work space and a view that the clients would be happy with. Keeping their desires in mind, we built the kitchen for practicality and capitalized on the expansive views of the city. The kitchen features six barstools to allow guests to enjoy cooking and conversation.

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The design process was already underway in one apartment while the client had the opportunity to buy the second apartment. In this space, the clients wanted to create a comfortable, casual environment for their guests. A Missoni style custom area rug tied together the bold colors in the fabrics. Adding to the casual ambiance was a bistro table constructed of oak with two highly polished wooden chairs with soft seating.

In the foreground is a large modular sofa with color-coordinated pillows to complement the bistro chair seating. Hanging over the sofa hangs a hand picked slice of an old tree trunk from Indonesia, further adding to the tropical theme. Adjacent to the window is a custom-made bar with rattan stools. A tropical look was achieved by facing the bar with coconut shell and topping it off with a green marble. The custom made sectional combines a raffia base and the comfort of chenille fabric cushions. - continued on next page -

The client's furnishings were integrated into the new design through re-upholstery and re-use. Custom lighting with an aged hand-forged bronze finish and faux honey alabaster further add character to the dining room. And again, an open, airy feel is the result of a large floor to ceiling window that features sheer brown

drapes. The dining table is a fine example of a functional bronze sculpture in verde and has plenty of room for guests, with six contemporary styled leather chairs. The vibrant mustard colors keep the dining room cheerful and open.

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The family room exudes comfort with its inviting combination of chenille and leather sectional. Across from the seating is a flat screen TV with custom cheery wood wall hung credenza. The art is an abstract that resembles the sun and ocean. Soft lighting highlights the walls giving a glow to the room. Near the window is a beautiful blown glass floor sculpture and on the cocktail table is art glass in shades of orange and yellow to coordinate with the oranges and yellows in the room. - continued on next page -



Crown molding helps frame the bedroom and gives it an earthy look.

In the secondary master bedroom, the bed is upholstered in fabric along with the head board. Melon and cream-colored accent pillows perfectly coordinate with the area rug and help fill the room with a warm color, which lends to the room's cozy and tranquil ambiance. To complement the bedding's color scheme are soft dark orange-colored lampshades. Crown molding helps frame the bedroom and gives it an earthy look. The ceiling fan's style blends in well with the rest of the decor. This is also the space where the bedroom and bathroom are separated by a glass wall to create an open atmosphere. In the foreground, there is a freestanding tub to accommodate long, relaxing baths. The dark stained louvre doors further add to the earthiness but clean-line look.



Sheer drapes were selected to allow sunlight in as well as providing a magnificent view of the water.

In the main master bathroom, the vanity was designed to include the warmth of wood with contemporary vessel sinks making an up to date contemporary look. The countertop is made of green marble, which perpetuates the natural look.

In the main master suite, mirrored walls behind the bed were used to visually expand the small room. Sheer drapes were selected to allow sunlight in as well as providing a magnificent view of the water. The contemporary style rug in dark orange is perfectly coordinated with a punch of colors. The bed and headboard are upholstered in a wheat color chenille giving a comfortable and inviting look.

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