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HOME BUILDER / DAVID WILSON, WILSON CONSTRUCTION,
AND GARY SHEAR, SHEAR CONSTRUCTION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / ORLANDO COMAS, ORLANDO COMAS, ASLA



ECLECTIC OUTCOME

GIVEN CREATIVE FREEDOM, BARCLAY BUTERA PURSUES A WORLDLY VISION FOR AN IDYLIC WATERFRONT PROPERTY IN MIAMI BEACH.

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER SERGENT / PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



In his client's Miami Beach home, interior designer Barclay Butera used two agate-and-iron chandeliers by Fuse Lighting from Thomas Lavin to crown the dining and great room area, which greets visitors as they step down from the entry hall. Chairs by Hickory Chair surround a wood-inlay table by Therien from Kneeder-Fauchère, and underfoot is a custom rug from Kravet.

It's rare when a homeowner lets a designer completely indulge his imagination. But, after years of working with interior designer Barclay Butera and forming a unique symbiotic trust, the owner had no question about who would lead the redesign of his latest house in Miami Beach—a waterfront compound built in 1936. "The homeowner and I worked together closely to create this one-of-a-kind property, and it is a privilege to have a client that allows that level of creative freedom," says Butera. "The end result is a magnificent, sophisticated and very unexpected Miami residence. And while the basic structure is Mediterranean, we opted for a Moorish-Moroccan feeling inside."

Butera, who has decorated six other residences for the homeowner, worked on the project with Ketchum, Idaho-based builder David Wilson, who built three of those houses. Wilson tasked Miami builder Gary Shear to assemble a local team, which included architect Antonio E. Rodriguez, to overhaul the down-at-the-heels villa and the dilapidated caretaker's cottage. A gut renovation added two new wings onto the main house, which now features a master suite and a complex that includes a family room, dining terrace and gym. Furthermore, a detached six-car garage and guesthouse replaced an aging tennis court, while the caretaker's cottage was renovated and expanded. "We added a lot of square footage, but everything was at a reasonable scale, and we stayed conscious of not overbuilding," says Rodriguez of the Intracoastal property. "The owner wanted to really preserve the green areas to create a heavily landscaped, park-like setting."

As the renovations and additions took shape, Butera chose handmade tile and distinctive lighting to set the Moorish-Moroccan tone. A saffron-and-terra-cotta backsplash inspired the kitchen design, while arabesque-shaped turquoise-and-umber floor tiles define the master suite. Yet, Butera opted for all-white walls throughout the home so the owner's artwork could take center stage. "With this property, I wanted to create a softer canvas to have the perfect backdrop for my client's vast art collection," Butera says.



Saturated colors fill the great room, including a custom Kravet rug and Baker chairs upholstered with Jane Churchill's Crispin in Tomato fabric. The sofa and coffee table are Holly Hunt, and the X benches are by Chaddock; the marbled emerald lamps are by Currey & Company.

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Butera designed a custom plaster hood surround on wood corbels for the kitchen's centerpiece. The double-oven range is by Wolf; the Hickory Chair barstools wear Jane Churchill's Odessa in Red fabric, and the trio of pendant lights are by Visual Comfort & Co.



While the homeowner worked independently to source artwork, Butera chose saturated colors for clean-lined furnishings, which sit on intricately patterned Oriental rugs. "Here, we took eclecticism to a new level by using pillows, carpets, lighting and art to create the experience of living in an exotic location," he says. The illumination, meanwhile, ranges from antique brass-accented globes to alabaster pinwheels on black-metal frames. "The lighting played a tremendous role in defining the mood of this home," says Butera, adding that he sought to mix metals and materials in each space. "I have never been a fan of the matching fixtures, so I wanted to be sure to layer the finishes, materials and styles to play up the well-curated life of this home." The melding of various genres, he explains, makes the space feel exactly how it was intended to be, like the residence of a well-traveled homeowner brimming with personal treasures.

Adding to that look are the steel-framed, hurricane-grade windows and doors throughout the complex, an important and wise inclusion that Butera and the builders encouraged their client to make. "If you didn't take those details into consideration, it wouldn't have that old-world, authentic feeling," says Shear, who compares the home's aesthetic to the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach. Together, Wilson and Butera selected all interior hardware, plumbing fixtures, and the beam-and-wood-ceiling finishes; along with Butera's design selections, Wilson says, "the quality of the craftsmanship really shines through."

Butera's first selection for the kitchen was the Moliere 2 custom backsplash tile by Polanco from Mission Tile West. The Perla Venata countertops are from Marble of the World, and the cabinet hardware is Flute by Rocky Mountain Hardware.



Builder David Wilson designed the glass-enclosed wine room in the den, which includes a tasting bar with stools by Hickory Chair. A Fuse Lighting chandelier hangs over a Holly Hunt coffee table and the Butera-designed Manhattan sectional, which adds a pop of turquoise to the space's palette. The Hickory Chair armchairs wear Shawnee Weave Blanket Stripe in Rattan by Ralph Lauren, and the sideboard is Baker.

Rodriguez was equally sensitive with the architecture and didn't want the new wings to look like monolithic add-ons. "He liked the human scale of the house, rather than doing everything so massive," says the architect. So, Rodriguez connected the master suite to the original house with a glass-enclosed passageway, which crosses a reflecting pool designed by landscape architect Orlando Comas. On the other side of the house, the dining loggia separates the new family room from the gym—another striking injection of open space and sunlight.

Comas designed the hardscape and landscaping to intertwine with the architecture. The front walk crosses over a pool in the entry courtyard, for example, toward a wall of glass doors that looks straight through to the swimming pool in the rear yard. During parties, the master suite breezeway becomes a bridge over another pool for guests to cross straight into the backyard. The continuum of water from front to back, Comas explains, "is to give a cooling effect, both visually and psychologically, since Miami is hot all year-round." Greenery, meanwhile, hugs the walls and extends from the house to further soften the structural edges and shade it from the hot Floridian sun. "The homeowner had the vision of being in a tropical paradise, but with a touch of formality," says Comas, noting a mixture of exotic plantings with linear walkways and terraces.

"Exotic" might be the perfect term for a home that conjures Old Florida on the outside, yet invokes a modern Morocco indoors. "There was much thought put into giving our client something that would not look like a typical Miami retreat," Butera says. "Working with a client that is knowledgeable about culture, art and design allows you to create a breathtaking and dramatic environment with ease that you otherwise could not." ■

In the distance, a covered dining loggia with a pizza oven connects the family room addition with a gym, and steps down to a pool designed by landscape architect Orlando Comas and built by Freddy Rodriguez of National Pool Design. The sleek outdoor furnishings are Brown Jordan, and all of the home's hurricane-resistant windows and doors are by Hope's Windows.



Hacienda floor tiles from Mission Tile West guided the master suite design. The King Sorraia bed is by Holly Hunt with custom bedding by Butera. The draperies are Tudor in aqua by Cowtan & Tout fabricated through Lazar Interiors, and the chairs and accent table are Baker.



The Natalya chandelier by Visual Comfort & Co.—whose larger version hangs in the bedroom—crowns the Waterworks tub in the master bath. The Kara mirror by Arteriors and Mother scone by Hudson Furniture hang on facing vanity walls of Monrovia tile from Mission Tile West.



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