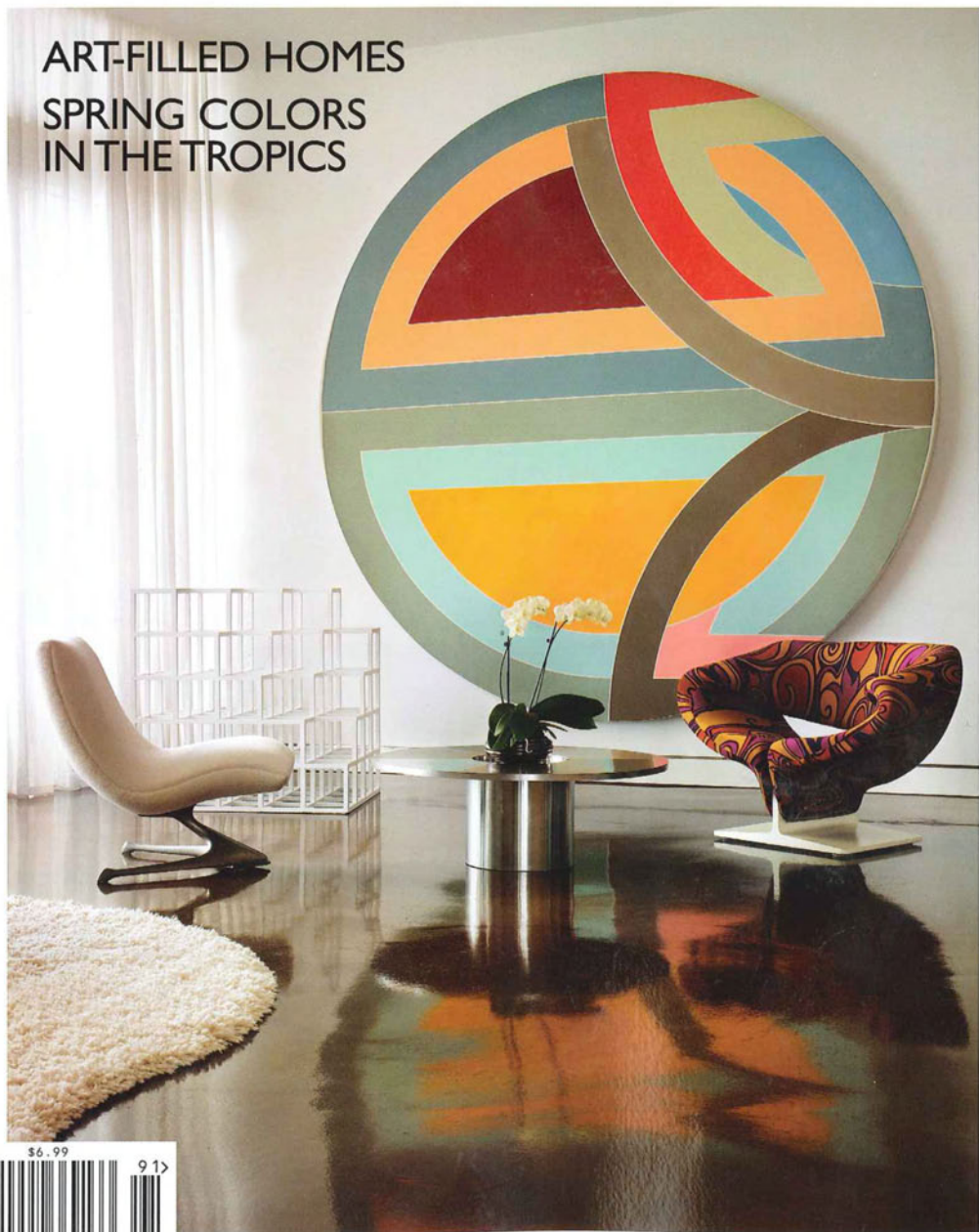


FLORIDA DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN & FURNISHINGS

VOLUME 19#1

ART-FILLED HOMES
SPRING COLORS
IN THE TROPICS



\$6.99

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THE ART OF HOME

Design Enthusiast Owners Collaborate With Designer Judi Male In Creating A Perfect Environment To Showcase A Stellar Collection Of Mid-Century Art And Furnishings

ABOVE: "As the art changes, and pieces come and go, all are shown to their best advantage," designer Judi Male says of the home's design theme.

RIGHT: In the living room, Frank Stella's "Sirjerli—Variation 1" provides the backdrop for an arrangement that includes a 1960s Pierre Paulin chair (with original Jack Lenor Larsen paisley fabric) and a 1970s cocktail table by Maria Pergay, Sol LeWitt's "egg crate" sculpture stands in the corner.

DESIGN Judi R. Male, Male Cahlin Design Partners, Miami, FL
 ARCHITECTURE Raymond John Fowler, Principal, Raymond John Fowler Architects, Inc., Miami, FL
 TEXT De Schofield
 PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL



THE DISCERNING OWNERS OF THIS

Miami penthouse had furnished each of their previous homes in a style befitting its architectural heritage, from English Tudor to Art Deco. Intrigued by the prospect of starting with a clean slate, the couple embraced this particular home's rather contemporary surroundings and took yet another entirely different design path.

After maintaining a townhouse as their vacation retreat in the same Aventura, Fla., development, the couple purchased this spacious residence atop a luxury high-rise on the Intracoastal Waterway as their full-time home. The owners called upon contractor Greg Milopoulos to lead construction efforts of this 7,000-square-foot apartment with an additional 7,000 square feet of terrace space and, upon a friend's referral,



ABOVE: Miami artist Bhakti Baxter's mixed-media work made of foam, plaster and paint, entitled "An Intelligible Sphere," adds an element of surprise to the dining room.



Male custom designed the living room's shag area rug to fit the clean lines of Vladimir Kagan's 'Cloud' sofa in Great Plains chenille. Artistic elements include Morris Louis' signature painting, 'Delta Pi,' Philip LaVerne's cast-bronze cocktail table and Richard Artschwager's 'Exclamation Point.'



Robert Motherwell's "Open #103" injects a jolt of blue into the dining room, while "August 17th," by Susan Rothenberg echoes the tones on Kagan's vintage chairs that surround a carved table designed by Mira Nakashima-Yamall.

enlisted designer Judi Male for help with the interior scheme. "We'd attended a dinner party at the home of some friends who had commissioned Judi for their interiors," the wife says. "We really liked the feel of their decor, the way everything worked so well together with some great, unexpected elements."

Male's charge included assembling a team that included architect Raymond Fowler and lighting designer Greg Friedheim. In addition, the

owners immersed themselves in research, reading everything they could find about mid-century modern designers while simultaneously acquiring vintage pieces that not only met their inscrutable design requirements but also satisfied their lifestyle needs. As the owners' passion progressed from furnishings to artwork, the couple attended countless auctions and art fairs, including Art Basel and Design Miami, and before long had acquired works by luminaries



such as Robert Motherwell and abstract expressionist Frank Stella. While their singular intention was to create a blank canvas for the collection, their foremost objective was that the home present an inviting and comfortable ambiance.

To that end, the decor manages to poise streamlined furnishings in a strikingly warm, engaging plan. An overall neutral palette, including white walls and polished concrete floors stained in a rich, dark brown, allows the art and furniture to stand out. "When the owners were purchasing the art, the design was a work in progress," Male says. "We weren't sure what the art would be, so it was challenging to plan the furniture arrangements so that each space worked in and of itself yet still meshed cohesively as a whole."

In the living room, a pair of focal point paintings ground two conversation groupings. The smaller area

ABOVE: Clear acrylic bar stools by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz pull up to the bar, which features millwork in Japanese ash wood and acrylic doors in ocean and sand tones. Miami artist Michael Vasquez's life-sized LEGO sculpture, "A Father That's Always Around," watches over the setting.

The stairway, custom designed by the owners and Male, displays David Smith's oil-on-Masonite above Claes Oldenburg's bronze sculpture, 'The Screw Arch.'



"I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT LESS REALLY IS MORE OR ELSE THE SIMPLICITY IS DESTROYED," THE HUSBAND SAYS.



displays Frank Stella's kaleidoscopic painting against a carefully composed arrangement that includes an original Pierre Paulin chair from the 1960s and a Vladimir Kagan "Unicorn" chair from the same era. The main setting is defined by a shag area rug that echoes the fluid shape of Kagan's sofa from the late 1950s. A chair by Garouset & Bonetti and two circa 1970 armchairs by French designer Jacques Charpentier provide additional seating.

Two large paintings dominate the dining room, providing a shock of bright color to the setting. Here, eight vintage Vladimir Kagan chairs with original fabric from the mid-seventies surround a hand-carved claro walnut table designed by Mira Nakashima-Yarnall, daughter of renowned architect and furniture designer George Nakashima.

The centerpiece of the home is the new stairway, a collaborative design between the owners, Male and railing manufacturer P&P Artec that features millwork of Japanese ash wood paired with stainless-steel railings. "It's very natural and organic in feel," Male says. "There are no overlapping treads, so the staircase flows like a waterfall." Recessed baseboards underscore the clean lines while a porthole accent adds whimsy.

LEFT: In the family room, a leather lounge chair and ottoman from COR sit under a flower-like sculpture by Baxter, titled "Inflorescence." Kenneth Noland's painting, "Soft Touch," displays above vintage pieces including Murano art glass by Massimiliano Schiavon and a carved cocktail table from Nakashima-Yarnall.

In the master bedroom's sitting area, Frank Stella's "Flin Flon" painting provides the backdrop for a Vladimir Kagan vintage chaise reupholstered in fabric from Rogers & Goffigon.



"THIS ISN'T A MUSEUM OR A GALLERY," THE WIFE SAYS. "IT'S OUR HOME, SO WE CAREFULLY CHOSE PIECES THAT WORKED TO SUIT OUR LIFESTYLE."



Wood tones and tactile accents lend a relaxed elegance to the family room. Here, a custom-designed area rug with a stylized floral pattern defines an arrangement consisting of DellaRobbia's "Gordon" sofa clad in Clant's mocha-toned chenille, an espresso-leather lounge chair and ottoman, and a carved, burlwood cocktail table.

A wall of custom maple-wood panels lends definition and texture to the master suite, where thick-yarned carpeting and iridescent taffeta draperies combine to compose a distinctly non-gallery-like atmosphere. The nearby spa-like master bath relaxes with views of the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. "This space is all about providing a respite from the world," Male says.

"The home speaks volumes about the sophistication and style of the couple who inhabit it," Male says. "The owners were definitely the keystone of our design team. Their keen design eye, endless knowledge and fine taste proved essential to our success."

ABOVE: Fresh, clean-lined and glamorous define the wife's master bath, clad in white Thassos marble with custom millwork and cabinetry. The vanity is adorned with an authentic Venetian mirror from the owners' collection, illuminated by wall sconces from Radiance Lighting.