

FLORIDA DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN & FURNISHINGS

VOL. 8 NO. 2



\$5.95US \$5.95CAN



0 70992 36913 3

MIAMI LIGHTS

High Above The City, A Spacious Penthouse Echoes The Beauty Of A Grand Facade

INTERIOR DESIGN Ted Fine with Robert Perlberg and Dawn Causa, Fine Decorators, Inc., Hallandale, FL

DEVELOPER Ugo Colombo, CMC Group, Miami, FL TEXT Roberta Klein

PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL





The media room, separated from adjoining rooms by mahogany dividers, serves as a secondary, less-formal living room. Custom cabinetry conceals audio/visual components and incorporates display space.



Like a quintessential Manhattan skyscraper, the 51-story Santa Maria boldly punctuates the Miami skyline, affording residents panoramic views of Biscayne Bay and the cityscape. It was the grand scale and architectural beauty of this modern high-rise that inspired Fine Decorators' sophisticated design of a spacious penthouse within.

Ascribing to a "less is more" philosophy, project designer Robert Perlberg took an understated approach for two reasons. "The building is architecturally very clean," he says, "and when you walk into the public spaces, you

are immediately aware that the architecture is sculptural enough to require only minimal furnishings."

The minimal look of the building's public spaces became the defining theme for the penthouse's interior design. According to principal Ted Fine, the elegant simplicity of the residence — through the use of streamlined furnishings, well-placed lighting and architectural details — expresses his philosophy of being on the cutting edge.

Quarter-cut sapele cabinetry, wood-framed furnishings and burnished-wood walls counterbalance the off-white walls in the main living areas while establishing a



Primarily architectural in form, furnishings in the living room establish an understated look. A palette of brown, gold, tan, pewter and sand captures the spirit of the 1930s.

sense of continuity. Saturnia marble flooring flows throughout the main living areas and sweeping terraces, further linking the rooms together.

Shaping the design concept required reconfiguring the floor plan — an undertaking that involved Fine, Perlberg and Dawn Causa. In addition to enlarging the private elevator lobby, the design team relocated the elevator doors to create an appropriately stately entry and a grand foyer that leads to the living room. What had originally been designated as the dining room became the media room, and vice versa. As a result, the living, media and music

rooms combine into a spacious, elongated Great Room, with the dining room adjoining the living room.

While this new configuration pulled the dining room away from the kitchen, there was a sound reason for doing so, Perlberg says. “We did this because we believed the space was too abundant for its use,” he explains. “We made a sacrifice by taking the dining room away from the kitchen since the dining room is used infrequently — only for formal occasions.”

With a revised floor plan in place, the designers turned their attention to the color scheme — a palette of brown,



ABOVE: Throughout the home, wood accents are used as an integral design element. In the living room, a leather-and-velvet bench framed in mahogany complements Ultrasuede chairs with gleaming wood legs.

gold, tan, pewter and sand that captures the spirit of the 1930s and Art Deco period. They also opted to use natural materials in the living room, such as cotton chenille to cover the 9-foot sofas and silk for the draperies.

An unusual cocktail table with a nickel base reinforces the '30s feel. The legs are positioned midway on each side, resulting in a soft, floating effect. When the light hits the cocktail table in such a way, shadows cast an interesting geometric pattern on the sisal area rug beneath it.

In the adjacent dining room, the extensive use of wood adds richness and depth to the Art Deco-inspired ambiance. A paneled wall, devoid of ornamentation, becomes the room's dramatic focal point. In its purest form, the wood is a piece of art unto itself.

Wood-framed chairs with oval backs complement the quarter-cut sapele buffet. Capped with a marble top, the buffet is supported by slender steel legs. Above it, a trio of wooden shelves affords display space.

The media room evolved as a secondary, less-formal living room. Although the color palette shifts to pewter and gray, the sleek look of the media room echoes the living room. Here, beautiful, open-grid wood dividers

visually separate the media room from the music room. Spanning 24 feet, the custom cabinetry with polished-steel rods holds audio/visual components, while curved sections at both ends incorporate display shelves.

Warm-wood tones carry over to the music room, where twin maple chairs provide elegant seating with corporate-style flair. Against the backdrop of nighttime Miami, the ebony-black grand piano gleams in the reflection of the saturnia marble flooring.

With the music room located adjacent to the breakfast room, another open-grid divider creates a visual separation. This divider, however, doubles as a display area for an array of handsome collectibles. Covering the main wall is a remarkable, untitled oil on canvas by artist Franco that underscores the home's understated mood.

FACING: A mahogany feature wall — the dining room's focal point — provides a rich backdrop for formal dining. The oval shape of the wood-framed chairs recall Art Deco styling. Shelving suspended above a "floating" buffet provides display space for decorative objects.





ABOVE: Floor-to-ceiling windows in the music room capture an expansive view of the dazzling Miami skyline. The saturnia marble flooring, which runs throughout the main living areas, was intentionally left uncovered to emphasize the continuity from room to room.

Maple-and-stainless-steel chairs with leather seats surround a brushed-steel-and-glass table.

"The apartment maintains the desired balance and consistency we sought, even though every room has its own personality and level of sophistication," Perlberg says. "As you walk from room to room, you definitely feel the consistency."

The designers maintain this consistency in the capacious master bedroom, where a semicircular glass wall overlooks an unencumbered wraparound terrace, affording a spectacular view. Not only is the bed strategically

positioned to take in the panorama, but also a clear view of the television. Window treatments conform to the curvilinear windows, thus giving the appearance of architectural columns.

A neutral palette establishes a feeling of quiet contemplation. Panels of bleached anigre wood accentuate sandy-gray walls, which complement the Ultrasuede upholstered wall behind the bed. Beige carpeting ties in the comfortable sitting area.

Throughout the residence, colors, materials and proper proportioning sustain a soothing synchrony.



A stunning, untitled oil on canvas by artist Franco creates exciting visual interest in the breakfast room. Maple-and-stainless-steel chairs with leather seats and backs surround an understated glass-and-brushed-steel table.

SOURCES

Media Room

Sofa and chaise - Judith Norman Collection, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Fabric on body, seat and back cushions - Directional, High Point, NC
Fabric on front lumbar cushions - Donghia Showrooms, Inc., DCOTA, Dania, FL
Chairs - Judith Norman Collection, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Fabric - Directional, High Point, NC
Cocktail tables - Judith Norman Collection, DCOTA, Dania, FL
End tables - Custom designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabricated by Dovetail Designs, Hallandale, FL
Table lamps - HRS, Houston, TX
Custom cabinetry and dividers - Designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabricated by Euro International Management, Hallandale, FL
Area rug - Unique Carpets, Mark Rosenfeld Associates, Inc., Boca Raton, FL

Living Room

Sofas - Designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabric - Directional, High Point, NC
Fabricated by Steve Grafton's Workshop, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Throw pillows - Henry Calvin Fabrics, Donghia Showrooms, Inc., DCOTA, Dania, FL
Chairs - HBF, Hickory, NC
Fabric - Henry Calvin Fabrics, Donghia Showrooms, Inc., DCOTA, Dania, FL
Cocktail table - Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Bench - HBF, Hickory, NC
Fabric - Lee Jofa/Mark Biller & Associates, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Occasional and end tables - HBF, Hickory, NC
Console - Custom designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabricated by Dovetail Designs, Hallandale, FL

Dining Room

Table base - Judith Norman Collection, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Tabletop - Global Glass, Miami, FL
Chairs - Judith Norman Collection, DCOTA, Dania, FL
Light fixtures - Tan Go, Bart Heikes & Associates, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Buffet - Custom designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabricated by Euro International Management, Hallandale, FL
Buffet top - Gallo Marble, Hallandale, FL
Paneled walls - Custom designed by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
Fabricated by Euro International Management, Hallandale, FL

Soft, muted colors in the master bedroom establish an ambiance of quiet contemplation. Window treatments conform to a bank of curvilinear windows, giving the illusion of architectural columns.





Music Room

Piano - Victor Piano, Miami, FL
 Chairs - HBF, Hickory, NC
 Bolster fabric - Henry Calvin Fabrics,
 Donghia Showrooms, Inc., DCOTA,
 Dania, FL
 Table - Judith Norman Collection,
 DCOTA, Dania, FL
 Lamp - HRS, Houston, TX

Breakfast Room

Table - Judith Norman Collection,
 DCOTA, Dania, FL
 Chairs - Loewenstein,
 Bierman/Draheim Partnership, North
 Miami, FL
 Light fixture - George Kovacs,
 Glendale, NY

Divider - Custom designed by Fine
 Decorators, Hallandale, FL
 Fabricated by Euro International
 Management, Hallandale, FL

Master Bedroom

Wall panels and bedside chest -
 Custom designed by Fine Decorators,
 Hallandale, FL

Fabricated by Dovetail Designs,
 Hallandale, FL

Upholstered wall - Custom designed
 by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
 Fabricated by Designer Blinds and
 Fabrics, Hialeah, FL

Fabric - Arabel Fabrics, Miami, FL
 Headboard and bed coverings -
 Custom designed by Fine Decorators,
 Hallandale, FL

Headboard and bed covering fabric -
 Mayar Silk, F&M Sales, Aventura, FL
 Bolster fabric - Arabel Fabrics,
 Miami, FL

Throw pillow fabric - Jack Lenor
 Larsen, Jerry Pair & Associates,
 DCOTA, Dania, FL

Lumbar pillow fabric - HBF, Hickory, NC,
 and Arabel Fabrics, Miami, FL

Throw fabric - Jack Lenor Larsen,
 Jerry Pair & Associates, DCOTA,
 Dania, FL

Throw fringe - Robert Allen, Beacon
 Hill Showrooms, DCOTA, Dania, FL
 Fabricated by Designer Blinds and
 Fabrics, Hialeah, FL

Lounge chair and ottoman - Jolo
 Enterprises, Inc., DCOTA, Dania, FL
 Chaise - Custom designed by Fine
 Decorators, Hallandale, FL

Fabric - Arabel Fabrics, Miami, FL
 Fabricated by Braemar, Dania, FL

Throughout

Artwork - Caesarea Gallery, Boca
 Raton, FL

Window treatments - Custom designed
 by Fine Decorators, Hallandale, FL
 Fabric - Fabricut, Tulsa, OK
 Fabricated by Designer Blinds and
 Fabrics, Hialeah, FL

Plants and florals - Design
 Landscapes, Miami, FL

Flooring - Martile, North Miami, FL
 Installation - Fine Decorators
 Construction Co., Hallandale, FL