

FLORIDA DESIGN'S

MIAMI

HOME & DECOR



Outdoor Living
Tropical Destinations

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1

\$5.99 ISSUE 72-17

7 2>



DISPLAY UNTIL 09.12.17



A TROPICAL STATE OF MIND

THIS SUMPTUOUS MIAMI BEACH RESIDENCE WITH SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT VISTAS SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATES TROPICAL MODERN STYLE INTO ITS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES

ARCHITECTURE BY RALPH CHOEFF, CHOEFF LEVY FISCHMAN, MIAMI, FL
DEVELOPMENT AND DECOR BY LAURENT HARARI, EVA ONE, MIAMI BEACH, FL
BUILDER FRANK MACKLE, MACKLE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, SOUTH MIAMI, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY MAURICIO DEL VALLE, MAURICIO DEL VALLE DESIGN, MIAMI BEACH, FL
TEXT BY CHARLOTTE SAFAVI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK SURLOFF, NORTH MIAMI, FL

This striking home with lush landscaping features Brazilian Ipe wood detailing that adds organic warmth to its clean-lined modern silhouette. Glass panels on the entry door hint at the spectacular water views that await guests inside.



When architect Ralph Choeff designed this spectacular 10,000-square-foot waterfront residence in a Tropical Modern style for developer Laurent Harari, he was quite well versed on the subject. Choeff and his team have designed countless homes in the signature style that he helped create. "Tropical Modern architecture is all about blurring the lines between what's outside and what's inside," he says. The home, situated on Allison Island in Miami Beach, Fla., incorporates elements like Ipe wood and stone, and unfinished natural concrete along with numerous pocketed sliding glass doors that let the outside in. "It is completely connected to the outside and vice versa," Choeff says. "When the doors are open, you can be inside the house yet completely connected to the exterior."



From the home's tranquil courtyard entry, the architect brings the natural world in with warm Brazilian Ipe wood details on its façade, and leading up to the front door, cantilevered stepping stones that appear to float on water. "We bring the water into play right away," says Choeff of what he calls the "reflecting pond," a water feature that expands into a small pool at the front door. "We wanted to give the entry a Zen effect," he says. Even before entering the home, water views are visible through the front door's glass side panels.

On the spacious main floor with 11-foot-high ceilings, walls are covered in a gallery white hue to showcase the owner's fine art and to enhance the scenery outdoors. "I was involved in this project from its inception — material selections, flooring, finishes and its design from A-Z," says Harari, who hired the Miami-based, Italian design firm of La Dolce Vita to help with furnishing the home.



“Our main direction in the interior design was to go extremely organic, warm and functional,” he says. The palette is neutral, and inspired by nature incorporating warm beiges, tans, creams and brown tones. In the main living spaces, the dining area long, custom-designed table is surrounded by supple leather chairs and topped with a large slab of wood that was reclaimed from Lake Como in Italy. “The piece has incredible color and texture,” the designer says.

ABOVE: In the dining area, with lush garden views, a linen-and-metal chandelier designed by Delta Light suspends over a salvaged-wood dining table. Nearby, in the living area, Roche Bobois’ leather sofa and armchairs surround a custom, marble-topped cocktail table with a forged-steel base designed by La Dolce Vita.

“ONCE YOU STEP INSIDE THE HOME, THE ENTIRE REAR OF THE HOUSE, WITH ITS GLASS WINDOWS AND SLIDING GLASS DOORS, OPENS OUT ONTO THE BAY,” ARCHITECT RALPH CHOEFF SAYS.

Just steps into the living area, views of the bay can be enjoyed from a sumptuous seating area created with a pair of leather sofas from Roche Bobois covered in a buttery tan leather. An abstract painting by artist Fabien Rocca, commissioned especially for the space, adds bright color to an otherwise neutral palette. When the house is open on the bay side, ceramic tile flooring from Cavastone in a limestone finish flows seamlessly outdoors on the same elevation — an intended architectural feat. “From the beginning we worked with the elevation,” Harari says. “When you open the sliding glass door, you don’t have to step up or down to go outside — you just step right out.”

The family room’s comfortable flannel sectional is custom designed in a warm neutral hue, and provides the perfect spot for lounging or watching TV. A soaring, open-air atrium with a “living wall,”

BELOW: The family room’s sectional, in a warm neutral hue, borders a custom cocktail table of lacquered wood near built-in Italian cabinetry from La Dolce Vita. Outside, cantilevered pavers traverse a section of the patio.





The soaring atrium with a massive living wall was the brainchild of designer Laurent Harari, who had seen one similar on a trip to Argentina. Landscape designer Mauricio del Valle developed the wall and Eco Green Landscape installed it. A custom cocktail table and chairs of lacquered wood are positioned to admire its beauty.




of greenery is at the core of the home. "The double-height, 400-square-foot atrium allows the homeowners to take advantage of the views, whether downstairs in the kitchen, or upstairs in the master suite," Choeff says. Harari worked with landscape designer Mauricio del Valle to design the living wall that took months of careful planning to come together. "The plants we ended up choosing are extremely unique and beautiful ... it is truly the beating heart of the home," Harari says.



In the spacious master bedroom suite, a bed and its plush headboard clad in a neutral tone fabric appear to float into the room, while custom-built media cabinetry is made to cache a TV. A span of wide-plank oak flooring warms the space.

Upstairs, the luxurious 2,500-square-foot master suite echoes the main floor's sumptuous feel. A plush bed and leather chaise with its matching ottoman are perfect for relaxing and viewing the breathtaking bay through walls of wide windows. An expanse of wide-plank oak flooring leads outdoors to a large private terrace. "When the sliding doors open, the 12-foot-wide deck feels like an extension of the room," the designer says.

A photograph of a modern tropical home. In the foreground, a dining pavilion with a white roof and light-colored walls sits on a raised concrete platform. Inside the pavilion, there is a wooden dining table with chairs and a built-in summer kitchen with a grill. To the right, a swimming pool is bordered by a low wall of grey stones. In the background, a two-story house with large glass windows and a balcony is visible. The house has a white facade and horizontal wood slat accents. The scene is set against a backdrop of lush green trees and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A palm tree is visible on the far left.

THE POOL AND PATIO AREA IS A TROPICAL OASIS IN A ZEN-LIKE SETTING. "THE BACKYARD HAS A TROPICAL FEEL, NOT LIKE AN EXUBERANT JUNGLE, BUT AN ELEGANT LANDSCAPED LOOK," DEVELOPER LAURENT HARARI SAYS.

In keeping with the Tropical Modern style, the rear exterior of the home provides indoor-outdoor connectivity and flow. "What is unique about this home is that we wanted to keep its design elements 'thin,'" says Choeff of its architectural profile. "To do this, we gave it post-tension structure, which is mostly used in high-rise buildings. This helps to give the house a very thin appearance in the balcony and roof cantilevers, creating free-floating spaces with no need for beams to hold them up," he says.

The pool and patio area is ideal for casual outdoor entertaining amid a tropical landscape of lush greenery. A dining pavilion is outfitted with a summer kitchen, and a teak dining table and linen-clad chairs from La Dolce Vita. Poolside, cushioned chaise lounges are made for relaxing in the sun. "Tropical Modern style is perfect for the subtropical and tropical climate because it takes advantage of good year-round weather ... especially in Miami, with its tremendous water vistas," Choeff says.



SOURCES

LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM

Sofas and armchairs - Roche Bobois, Bologna, Italy
 Cocktail table, dining table and dining chairs - La Dolce Vita, Miami, FL
 Artwork - Owner's Collection
 Chandelier and recessed lighting - Delta Light, Farrey's, North Miami, FL
 Flooring - Cavastone, Boca Raton, FL
 Fabricated by National Tile & Stone, Miami, FL

FAMILY ROOM

Sectional, cabinetry, cocktail table and sofa table - La Dolce Vita, Miami, FL

Flooring - Cavastone, Boca Raton, FL

Fabricated by National Tile & Stone, Miami, FL

ATRIUM

Chairs and cocktail table - La Dolce Vita, Miami, FL
 Living wall - Custom designed by Eva One, Miami Beach, FL, and Mauricio del Valle, Miami Beach, FL
 Fabricated by Eco Green Landscape, Miami, FL
 Flooring - Cavastone, Boca Raton, FL
 Fabricated by National Tile & Stone, Miami, FL

MASTER BEDROOM SUITE

Bed, headboard, occasional tables, chaise and cabinetry - La Dolce Vita, Miami, FL
 Flooring - Mimo Flooring Company, Miami, FL

PATIO/POOL AREA

Pool - Custom designed by Aquatic Consultants, Inc., Miami, FL
 Fabricated by Tuttle's Pool Company, Inc., Miami, FL
 Lounge chairs, dining table and chairs - La Dolce Vita, Miami, FL
 Balcony and railing - Custom designed by Choeff Levy Fischman, Miami, FL
 Decking - National Tile & Stone, Miami, FL

THROUGHOUT

Recessed lighting - Delta Light, Farrey's, North Miami, FL
 Doors and windows - WinDoor, Inc., Miami, FL
 Landscape installation - Greensource Maintenance, Miami, FL **M**