

Bold & beautiful

UNENCUMBERED BY CONVENTIONAL DESIGN
IDEAS, BARBARA BECKER REVELS IN HER
COSMICALLY COOL BLAST FROM THE PAST.

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Designer, model, actress, athlete and mother are descriptors that rest as easily on Barbara Becker's shoulders as do her casually chic clothing designs. At any given moment during any given day, she will likely be handling duties as diverse as negotiating deals for her new design lines to playing backgammon with her children to filming a Pilates video.

In fact, the backdrop for her life in Miami, a home tucked inconspicuously into its lush island setting, is the epicenter of so much vibrant activity that the interiors demanded an amplified personality to stand up to all the excitement. "When the first strip of wallpaper went up in the dining room, my friends were screaming, 'I can't take it,'" she says, laughing. "Then I put the pink shag carpet on the floor and



In the dining room, Flavor Paper's "Flower of Love" wallpaper, in Peep Show pink, is a psychedelic backdrop for the Saarinen table and chairs, the 1940s Barovier & Toso lamps and the Murano chandelier with its pretty-in-pink leaves. Flowers throughout, designed by Barbara Correa, 786-515-5962.



A Claudia Kilsch artwork over the fireplace and the black Art Delano chairs are contemporary counterpoints to the tribal deities on the mantle and the carved African stools that dot the living room. The orange Moroccan rug is from Calypso Home, Bal Harbour Shops.

Opposite page, top: A wall strung with a Swarovski crystal curtain is a moving work of art when sunlight streams into the foyer in the afternoon. When the prisms start to catch the light, the Beckers call it "Happy Hour." A colorful garment atop one of the carved, wooden stools adds flavor to the living room.



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— BARBARA BECKER

for a minute, I couldn't take it, either!" But as each element fell into place, Becker knew she'd created a home that was uniquely personable and fun, one that satisfied her desire to surprise.

"I think as I'm growing older, I'm decorating younger," says Becker, once married to tennis great Boris Becker. "I don't approach decorating my home any differently than I approach dressing: If it's possible to dress a certain way, it is certainly possible to adapt that to a room."

During the extensive renovation, architect Oscar Glottman and antiques dealer Gustavo Olivieri were the other members of Becker's mod squad. Glottman was the architect of record on the project and a large percentage of the furnishings were purchased through his showroom. "I love blending the old and the new," says Becker. "Oscar's aesthetic is very manly and streamlined, while Gustavo's is romantic and voluptuous. I brought both these styles together into something that suits me very well."

Though the advent of most design schemes centers upon a wall color or the perfect carpet, each of Becker's rooms began with the light fixtures. "I work around light in every scenario," she explains. "It's

because I'm in love with light, which is one reason I adore living in Miami."

Her attention to detail in lighting is a crowning achievement in each space. In the dining room, a leafy, womblike chandelier made of hand-blown Murano glass in a violet-pink goes from pertly bright to wistful when the lights go from full on to dim. In the family room, which is swathed in green and silver wallpaper, BigMod Sputnik chrome chandeliers are glamorously groovy.

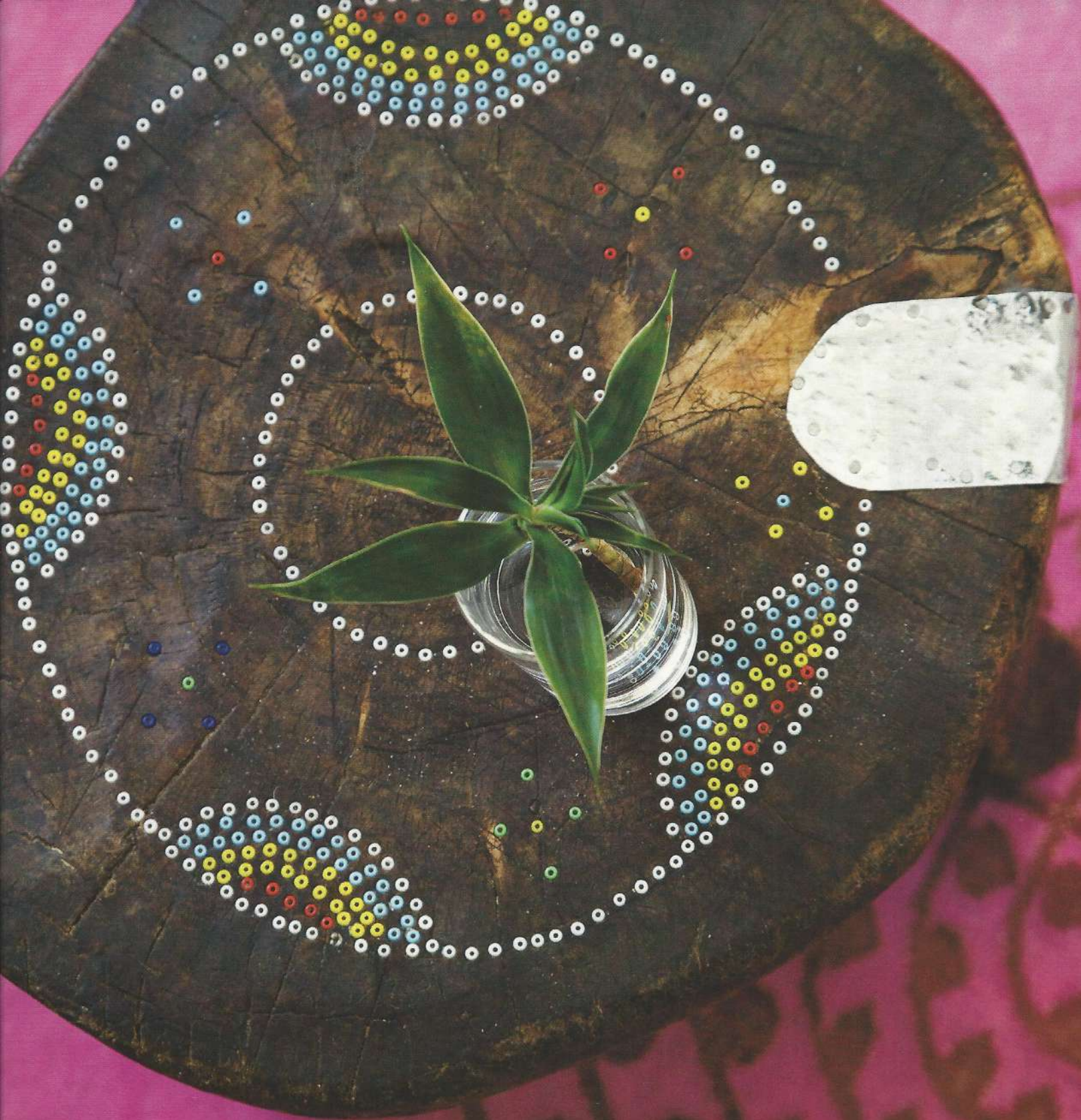
What saves the interiors from being nostalgically typecast is the mix of styles in each space. Neutral shag carpet, an antique African bed for a coffee table, and an Eero Aarnio Bubble chair are among the combined antiques and modern furnishings in the family room, which, like the other rooms, is an homage to a modern woman who is pretty comfortable with her own bold style.

"The house is like me: It's not what people expect it to be from the outside," she says. "It has this Colonial feel on the outside, and when you come inside, it's almost 'Clockwork Orange'! My motto has always been to be different from what people would imagine I am!"



In the family room, funky Flavor Paper wallpaper wraps the room in a cheery silvered green. The Eero Aarnio Bubble Chair and Sputnik chandeliers are playful elements in the space. Opposite page, left: In the kitchen, an earthy pairing of table and benches by e15 is mod-ified by the groovy wall sculpture, which Oscar Glottman designed and had Spazia make. Metalized leather Love pillow from Calypso Home, Bal Harbour Shops. Right: Graffitied walls, painted by Miami Beach artist Jona, in the powder room make the entire room a colorful work of art.





This page: Stool with bead inlay from Kenya, \$200 at Jalan Jalan, Miami Design District. Madeline Weinrib cotton Duhry rug, \$575 at ABC Carpet & Home, Delray Beach. Opposite page: A Haitian folk painting hangs above floral table linens from India, \$35 each at ABC Carpet & Home, and a wool hand embroidered, hand dyed blanket from Kashmir, \$520 at Odegard, Miami Design District. Nomad stool made of recycled tires, \$385 at Base Annex, Lincoln Road. Cloisane Suzani jar with lid, \$225 at Monica James, Miami Design District. Atelier di Ceramica porcelain dish, \$130 at Odegard, Miami Design District. Vintage Jonathan Adler vase. Uzbekistani Suzani chair, \$1,895 and vintage Sari from India, \$325 both at ABC Carpet & Home. Green-dyed cowhide rug from Brazil, \$480 at EDGE 46 Gallery and Design, Miami Design District.