

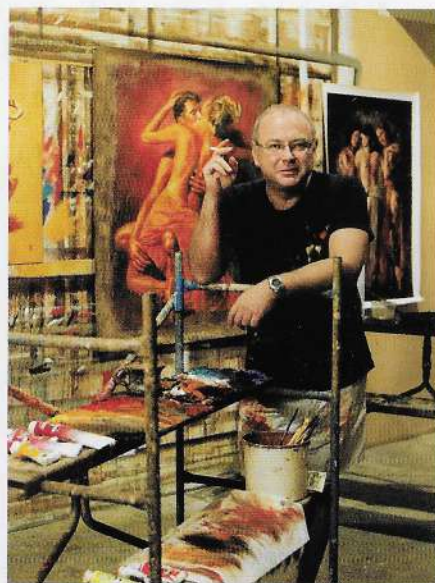
CRAFTING AN ECLECTIC MIX

Renowned Artist Tomasz Rut Fashions
A Home And Studio That Exudes
Classic Charm With South Pacific Flair

DESIGN Tomasz and Anu Rut, Tomasz Rut, Inc., Hollywood, FL

TEXT Saxon Henry

PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL



The foyer is a classicist's dream, as artist and owner Tomasz Rut's paintings intermingle with personable antiques — hand selected and masterly finished by Tomasz. "I have a natural affinity for classic art," says the artist, shown above in his studio.



Props in Tomasz's studio include musical instruments and carnival masks collected over the years. The painter has been sculpting of late, but he never strays from putting a brush to canvas for long. The curved stairway leads to storage space and lends an element of whimsy.





"I was surprised and pleased that the living room worked so well," Tomasz says.

"It was such an exciting process bringing the mix of styles together."

THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ACCLAIMED artist Tomasz Rut has designed a home to showcase his own works, he cannot remember a time when he wasn't steeped in the creation of art. "I was drawing in my mother's studio before I could speak," he says. "By the time I was 18, I was painting."

With a thriving career that has placed his potent works in an array of collectors' homes, Tomasz felt it was time to design a residence in which he could live surrounded by his art. Along with his wife, Anu, Tomasz found the perfect house located on



the Intracoastal Waterway in Hollywood, Fla. "I am eclectic by nature," says Tomasz, who designed every element of the home with Anu. "The shell of the house gave us the idea to mix a variety of styles, all of which I admire," he says. "So the biggest challenge for me was to limit myself." Before long, he was giving his artistic talent free reign, which resulted in an exquisite haven that

exudes classic Mediterranean charm peppered with 1970s Modernism and timeless Asian flair.

In this residence, the artist brought his studio to his home for the first time ever. "I'm a nine-to-five artist, so I never work at night," Tomasz says, "and I don't allow daylight into my studio because it's distracting." Though he's been trying his hand at sculpting as of late, painting is still his first love.

Tomasz, who has a master's degree in art conservation, brought texture into the living room with woven bamboo and carved wood furniture, the antique area rug's muted floral motif, and the cowhide of the Le Corbusier chaise. The artist's eclectic vision melds into a mix of Asian and South Pacific influences.





"It's difficult for me to work on both at the same time," he says, "and I always seem to be drawn back to painting because it gives me instant gratification."

Tomasz's powerful compositions drench the senses upon entrance to the ample foyer covered in marble flooring and continue to envelop the home's smartly arranged, expansive rooms — the result of a total gutting of the interiors, which had previously been a maze of small spaces. Tomasz and Anu left no detail unstudied, down to the brickwork patterns on the columns and walls throughout the house. They added personality to the rooms with Asian-inspired influences that include an ornamental screen that surrounds the opening to the living room — an antique piece that once resided in the palace of an Indonesian sultan. Anu carefully selected the

ABOVE: Cooking is one of Tomasz's favorite hobbies, and he and his wife love to entertain. The generous size of the kitchen makes it a breeze to welcome large and small groups to enjoy his Asian specialties.

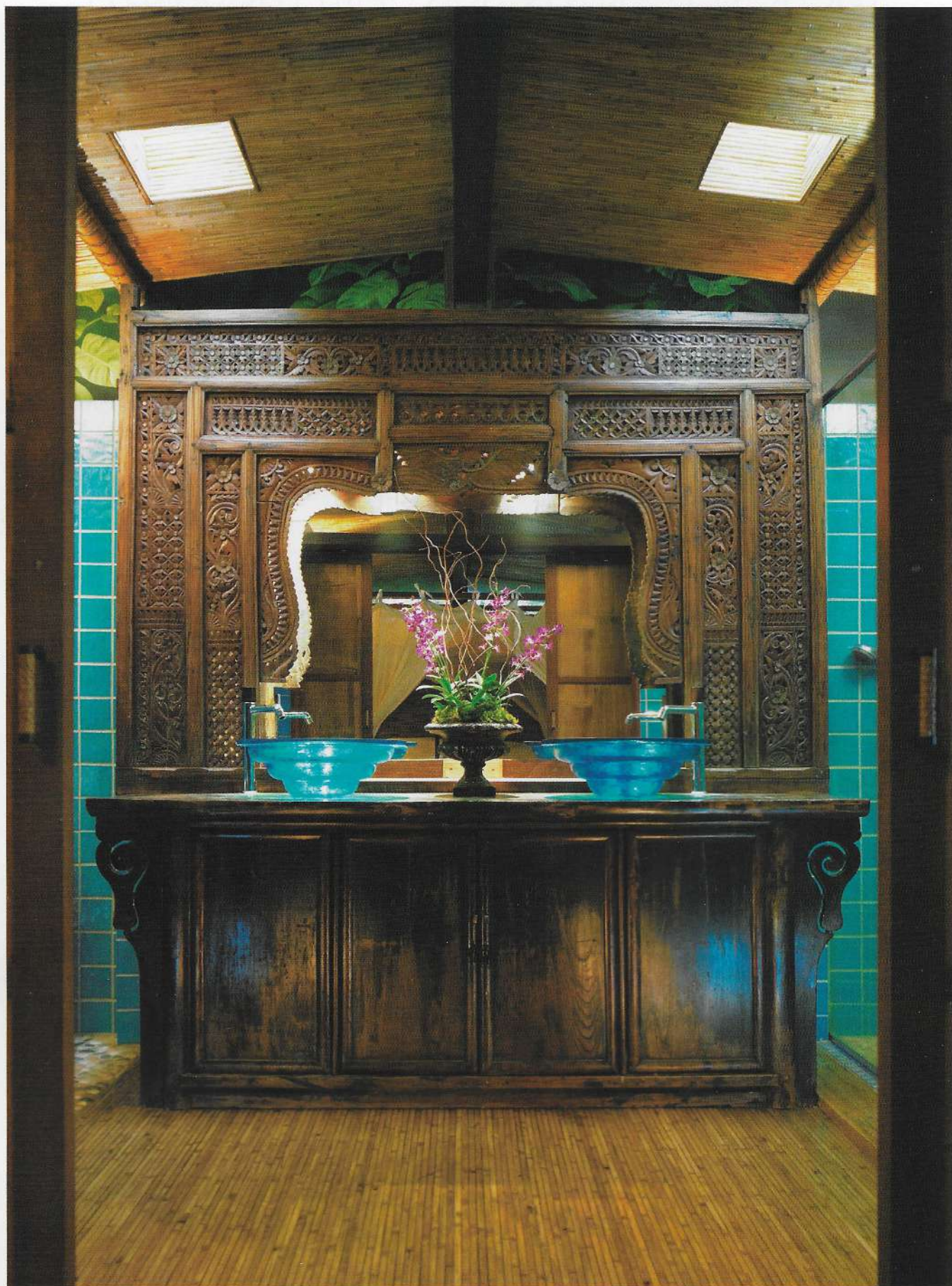
RIGHT: The dining room is the most whimsical space in the home, thanks to Tomasz's colorful "Rainforest" scene that commands one wall. Wood detailing lends a clean contemporary feel, while Louis J. Solomon chairs covered in silk bring a touch of formality into the room.



"THE HOME IS A REFLECTION OF MY PERSONALITY,"
TOMASZ SAYS. "I SIMPLY CANNOT BE BORED;
I MUST ALWAYS BE CREATIVE IN WHATEVER I DO."



"I'M A ROMANTIC," TOMASZ SAYS, "AND I THINK THAT



COMES THROUGH IN THE DESIGN OF THE HOME."



fabrics: some in rich tones that embolden each space, others chicly pristine.

Inside the living room, modern elements, a classic Le Corbusier chaise among them, intermingle with intricately carved Asian antiques. In the nearby dining room, a geometric table is paired with curved antique chairs in an area that is saturated with burgundy. A whimsical painting by Tomasz infuses the space with bold tropical tones. "This painting of rainforest creatures is about my love for nature," he says.

The Ruts' roomy kitchen was designed to satisfy one of the Tomasz's other great passions: cooking. The room's open expanse is perfect for

entertaining guests. Though the artist has never traveled to Asia, Tomasz has developed a particular fondness for the rich flavors that infuse the region's cuisine — an affinity that shows through in the design of the rest of the home.

ABOVE: A bed from Angsana Imports adds a romantic feel to the master bedroom, where a bamboo ceiling and clay-colored walls make the room seem born to serve South Pacific majesty.

FACING: In the master bath, pert aqua tile and luminescent sinks from Farrey's contrast the warmth of the antique carved altar, and the custom-designed bamboo ceiling and flooring.

Traveling from the Orient to the South Pacific, the master bedroom elicits concurrent feelings of romance and soulfulness. The statuesque canopy bed and the master bath's fretted altar, which is inset with a mirror and cradles a pair of luminous glass sinks, are fit for royalty. "I put the bamboo in the ceiling and floor of the master bath because I wanted to feel like I was living on a South Pacific island," Tomasz says. A band of windows at the roofline of both spaces lend an architectural element and let the light from the outdoors flow inside.

Outside, the tropics flourish in an alfresco retreat boasting flowing curtains, outdoor beds and lush landscaping. An avid gardener, Tomasz planted most of the greenery surrounding the house himself. "Putting my hands in the dirt is such a rewarding thing for me," he says. Whether gardening, entertaining or simply enjoying the picturesque water views, the Ruts love being in the outdoor spaces that surround their home.

"I had a vision for what I wanted to achieve," Tomasz says. "It has resulted in a wonderful place to contemplate life — an oasis in which I devote myself to my work and to my life."



ABOVE: A charming terrace bar is one of the home's many enclaves for outside entertaining. "I prefer intimate gatherings," Tomasz says. This is obvious from the varied cozy outdoor rooms that are sprinkled throughout the gardens.

RIGHT: This outdoor dining loggia invites lounging and relaxation. Across the pool, nestled under its own tiled roof, rests one of two Balinese beds. "I love to sit on the dock sipping my morning coffee on a beautiful sunny day," Tomasz says.

"OPEN SPACE AND THE GLORIES
OF NATURE GIVE ME THE
RELEASE I NEED BEFORE AND AFTER
I WORK ON MY PAINTINGS,"
THE ARTIST SAYS.

