



## fast forward.

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IT MIGHT BE NATURAL TO ASSUME THAT THE TASK OF TRANSFORMING A MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL HOUSE INTO THE HIP MIAMI MODERN HOME ENVISIONED BY A YOUNG COUPLE WOULD REST AT THE MORE CHALLENGING END OF THE SPECTRUM, ESPECIALLY IF THE PROJECT HAD TO BE FINALIZED IN JUST SIX MONTHS. And though some aspirations are more easily realized than others, for designer Ivonne Ronderos, such absolutes would not be entertained.

"The couple was moving to Miami from Mexico within a six-month time frame, and we were asked to create their dream home by the time they arrived," proclaims Ronderos. "They brought us images they'd pulled from magazines to articulate their style. An airy modernity, ample light from unmasked windows and a clear relationship to the natural surroundings were obvious themes." The couple's wish list included interiors that would handle three rambunctious sons under 10 years of age while exuding sophistication; a home that would make large sit-down dinners a pleasure; and lush surroundings that would complement the updated residence.

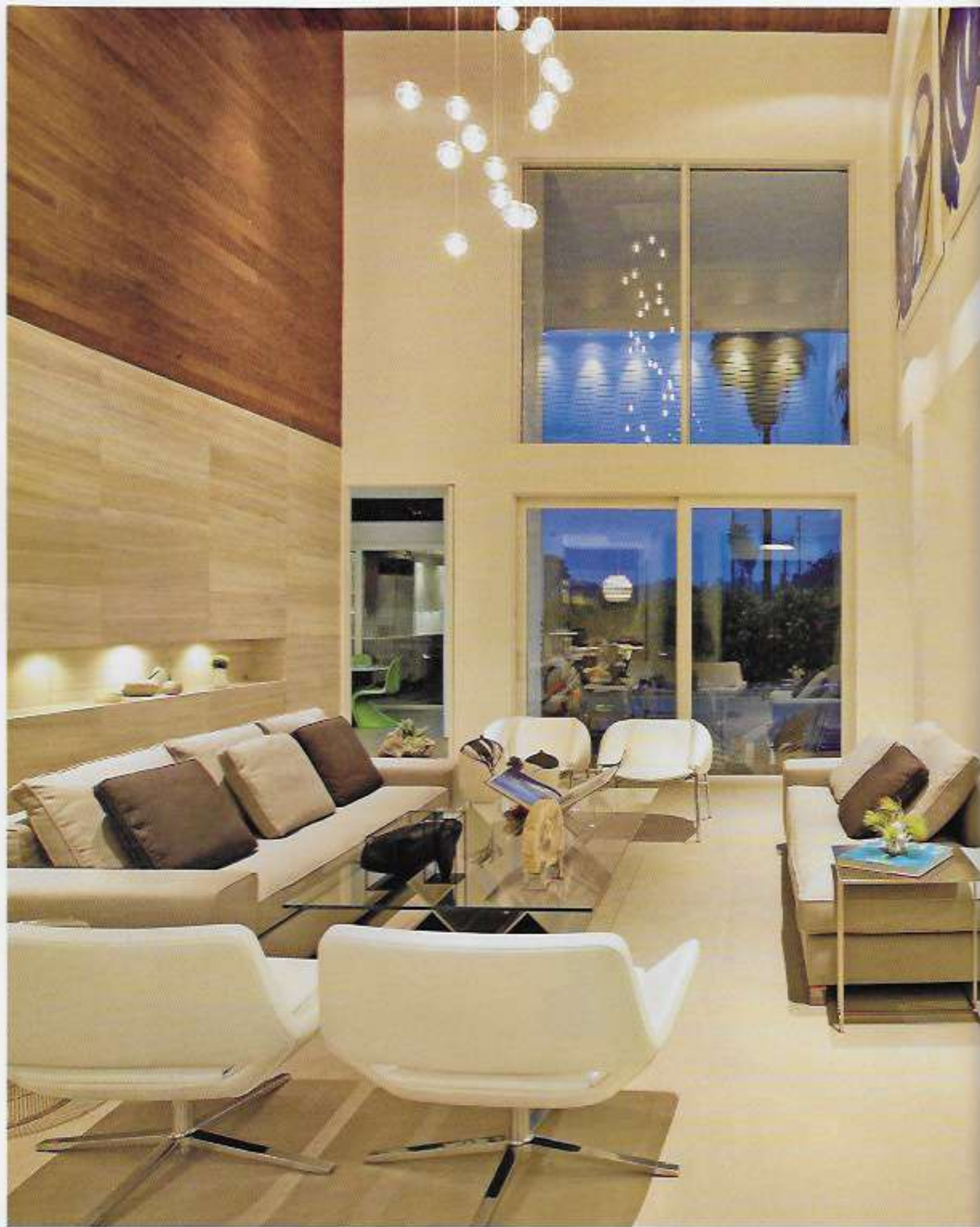
**INTERIOR DESIGN** Karina Donadel and Ivonne Ronderos,  
DROR Interiors, Inc.

**HOME BUILDER** Joey Newman and Michael Newman,  
Newman Brothers Construction and Development

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** Alex Rodriguez, Collaborative  
Independent, Inc., Paloma Toppa and Yair Maroschamer, Plant the Future, Inc.

**BEDROOMS** 4 **BATHROOMS** 5 **SQUARE FEET** 4,500







#### STEPPING STONE

The treads of this once boxed-in stairwell feature turned woodwork and decorative newel posts manufactured by Bella Stairs. The cantilevered stairs hemmed in glass are contemporary counterpoints to the sculptures, the wooden one an antique from Tibet and the stone oval used in grain mills in India.





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 269

Taking spaces filled with traditional architectural elements and dark hues, including deep-toned wood flooring in many of the rooms, and making them amiable to modernism wasn't an easy task, but Karina Donadel, the lead designer on the project, adopted the same resolve as Rondelos and forged onward under the unforgiving deadline.

First on her list was the melding of the former living and dining rooms into one space, creating the illuminated, open feel the homeowners craved. Throughout the rest of the house, ample built-in cabinetry is minimalist in design while being mega-functional—the wall unit in the master bedroom, for instance, serves as a dresser, desk, storage unit

#### CHAIN REACTION

The living room's Minotti sofas and Knoll tables are angular complements to the curvaceous B&B Italia chairs. A Terzani chandelier in the dining room beyond droops organically over the Minotti table and Ligne Roset chairs.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 271

and entertainment center. The kitchen was given a heavy dose of updating with reflective, lacquered materials on the cabinetry that would pull natural light into the space—even the lavastone cantilevered countertop forming half the island takes on a sheen while maintaining its organic texture.

The number of professionals it took to accomplish the home's madcap transformation was staggering. Home builders Joey Newman and Michael Newman had two full teams working around the clock to ensure the project would be completed by the owners' arrival. "I look back and I still don't know how we did it," declares Joey. "We had a day crew and a night crew in place for the duration of the renovation." Michael adds, "It felt rather like going through a hurricane!"







#### FROST BITE

The open weave of the Inmod barstools and Rio pendant lights, designed by Patricia Urquiola, are airy elements in the light-filled kitchen. Frosted and lacquered cabinet fronts by Mia Cucina attract even more light while the pert hue of the shapely Pantone chairs add whimsy.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 277

Paloma Teppa and Yair Marcoschamer were tapped by the design team to introduce interior floral and plant elements, and to implement the landscaping. "We brought a bit of the tropics indoors without affecting the clean modern feel of the home," Marcoschamer says of their strategy for the interiors. They worked with landscape designer Alex Rodriguez to envision the exterior gardens. "Instead of small gestures, we chose broad strokes with our plantings," Rodriguez explains, noting his nod toward the modernist-inspired design scheme and the couple's desire for a low-maintenance, verdant landscape.

#### YELLOW FEVER

A Foscarini light fixture from AllModern in Boston hangs above an Addison House table in the home office. The Puliform chairs make smart workday partners in the room with its chic cabinets by Greenworks Cabinetry infusing the space with sunny blocks of brightness.





#### NARROW MARGIN

In the family room, the Swan Italy sofa from Arnavanti is a roomy place to lounge. The Niels Bendtsen coffee table from AllModern gleams atop the sumptuous rug from Designers Guild. The Double Bubble terrarium by Plant the Future brings the outdoors in.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 274

According to Donadel, this same level of specificity was calculated at every turn. "These clients really understand the positive impact thoughtful, functional design has on day-to-day living," the designer says. "They also have exceptional organizational skills, which made for a successful collaboration on all fronts."

Every detail was in place before the new homeowners crossed the threshold—the mindful result, says the wife, is a wonderful manifestation of modern elegance. And she isn't shy about admitting how thrilled they are with the outcome. "I opened the door and started to cry!" she says. "There wasn't one thing I disapproved of; I call that a dream!" **L**



**LAMBERT LINENS**

The Jesse bed from Arravanti, wrapped in luxurious ThreadCount bedding, anchors the master bedroom; its softness is echoed by the silvery tones in the Lilypads Creations rug. The alternating wall panels behind the bed form a soft but commanding accent.