

PROFILES IN DESIGN

IN HIS G

A penchant for design has been in Gorges' blood since his

BY SAXON HENRY

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Constantin Gorges is one of those fortunate people whose career path showed itself early in life with vivid clarity.

"I was about 10," he says, "and I was standing in a lovely hotel room in Paris with my mother when I said, 'If they had more levels here and this were all different, it would look so much better.' My mother, who was a top stylist in Germany, looked at me and said, 'You know, son, you're absolutely right!'"

Design seems to be hard-wired into Gorges' genetics, so he felt no hesitation in leaving boarding school in Germany at 19 to attend two of New York City's most prestigious architecture and interior design universities, the Parsons School of Design and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

"I immediately loved New York," he says. "My years there formed a great chapter in my life."

Leaving FIT with a bachelor of fine arts degree in interior design in 1990, he joined the esteemed firm of Parish-Hadley Associates.

"Since I didn't know anyone in New York, I spent hours in the library studying magazines to see which firms interested me," he says. "I gravitated toward the work of the late Gary Hager, so I applied to Parish-Hadley and they hired me right out of school."

Later he worked with Noel Jeffrey and Peter Marino, participating in projects for such notable clientele as Giorgio Armani (a boutique on Madison Avenue) and fashion designer Valentino (his Manhattan pied-a-terre).

In 1997, he opened his firm,

York Times for his space in the American Museum of Natural History, the Vernon Hotel, and for the second-floor designed for the White House.

After 19 years of winters, Gorges left West Palm Beach but found himself drawn to Miami.

"One client in a hip, young couple moved from New York to Miami from New York, opened my eyes to what has to offer," he says. "I moved to South Beach in 2000, and ongoing projects in Miami and Palm Beach are dispersed with Miami."

Currently he's working on interiors for a home office and a condominium in Gables.

Though New York and Florida are disparate, Gorges has found a design sensibility in Miami because each project presents a challenge from his clients' perspective: the existing or planned structure of each space.

He is also known for his knowledge of architecture, which he mixes with a sense of periods and style with aplomb.

"I believe that there is a less consensus about what is appropriate for a space, but has withstood the test of time without being trendy to any part of the world," he says.

"When I work on projects, I formulate a plan for their lives. I think they want to challenge themselves every day, that's fine, but it's



DAVID ADAME/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

HIS STAGE: Constantin Gorges stands next to a Plexiglas and glass sculpture by German artist Dolf Luther, a gift from Gorges' mother. Below, in this Fifth Avenue apartment, a Maison Bagués lacquer top coffee table in front of the sofa reflects light from the window. An Aubusson carpet stretches the length of the sitting room. Below

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York Times for his show-house space in the Abigail Adams Smith Museum, now the Mount Vernon Hotel, and then in 2001, for the second-floor landing he designed for the Kips Bay Show House.

After 19 years of New York winters, Gorges relocated to West Palm Beach in late 2003, but found himself repeatedly drawn to Miami.

"One client in particular — a hip, young couple that moved to Miami from New York City — opened my eyes to all that Miami has to offer," he says of his move to South Beach in early 2005. His ongoing projects in New York and Palm Beach are now interspersed with Miami projects.

Currently he's doing the interiors for a home on Indian Creek and a condominium in Coral Gables.

Though New York and Florida are disparate settings, Gorges has found that his urbane design sensibilities are in sync with Miami because he makes each project personal, drawing from his clients' lifestyles and the existing or planned architecture of each space.

He is also known for his broad knowledge of fine antiques, which he mixes with any number of periods and styles with aplomb.

"I believe that finding a timeless consensus between what is appropriate for today and what has withstood the test of time without being trendy translates to any part of the world," he says.

"When I work with my clients, I formulate a background for their lives. I tell them that if they want to change their surroundings every five years, that's fine, but they shouldn't

CONSTANTIN GORGES

Constantin Gorges Design and Decoration, 450 Alton Rd., Suite 3210, Miami Beach; 305-532-7330 or www.constantin-gorges.com

Born: Dusseldorf, Germany

Education: Parsons School of Design; bachelor of fine arts in interior design from the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Philosophy: For each project that I undertake, I develop a clear concept based on the client's lifestyle and sense of personal style, and architectural appropriateness. Consistency in design is not a product of a 'one liner' signature look with only slight variations on a theme, but results from using design concepts to meet and exceed each client's desires and needs.

Inspiration: I draw inspiration from nature's colorations and from other designers. Among my favorites are Mies van der Rohe and Jean-Charles Moreux.

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n the window. An
ing room. Below
bedroom.

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Moreux.



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DAVID ADAME/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD



CONSTANTIN GORGES DESIGN

in New York,
he placed a Joe
ght, this Garden
prints by Daniel



CONSTANTIN GORGES DESIGN

Below, in this Fifth Avenue apartment, a Maison Bagués lacquer top coffee table in front of the sofa reflects light from the window. An Aubusson carpet stretches the length of the sitting room. Below right, a cabinet of Gorges' own design graces his bedroom.

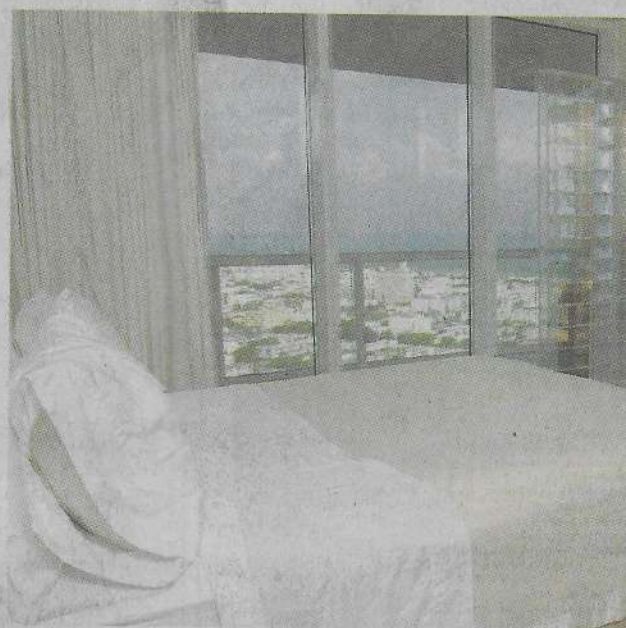


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DIFFERENT STYLES: In an East 61st Street high-rise in New York, Gorges designed a modern apartment in which he placed a Joe Andoe painting over a Christian Liagre bench. Right, this Garden Room in Coral Gables features 19th century Indian prints by Daniel and English Regency library chairs.

