

PLEASURE PRINCIPLE

A MINIMALIST VIEWPOINT AND AN EYE TO SATISFACTION UNDERPIN A SPIRITED COLLABORATION BETWEEN A MIAMI COUPLE, AN ARCHITECT AND AN INTERIOR DESIGNER

YUMI MIYANISHI &
CHRISTOPHER CRAVEN

"We design with material, light and form to express the personality of the client."



ARCHITECTURE BY CHRISTOPHER CRAVEN, CHRISTOPHER CRAVEN ARCHITECT AND DESIGN, MIAMI BEACH, FL
INTERIOR DESIGN BY YUMI MIYANISHI, SPACECAT, LLC, MIAMI BEACH, FL
BUILDER GREG MILOPOLOUS, BUILT BY OWNER, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
TEXT BY SAXON HENRY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROY CAMPBELL, MIAMI, FL

In the living area, one of the main considerations during the renovation was having a prime spot for the husband's Yamaha C7X "Silent" grand piano – mission accomplished. Nearby, comfortable seating from Holly Hunt shapes a social grouping atop Stark carpet's splash of blue. *The Elegant* by sculptor Ugo Rondinone's corners the space on one side, while a painting by Frank Bowling, entitled *Pathwaywadi*, enlivens the other side.

AS SEEN IN
MIAMI EDITION
FLORIDA DESIGN

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“Our starting point is always with the clients’ wishes, but we also create environments for them where we know we would be happy as well,” interior designer Yumi Miyanishi says. “Giving clients delight is the part we appreciate about our work daily.”

“ARCHITECTURE AND interiors are like clothing: What you’d wear in Manhattan is different from what you’d wear in South Beach,” architect Christopher Craven says, who with designer Yumi Miyanishi transformed this 3,000-square-foot Il Villaggio condominium into a haute main residence for a Miami couple. Taking into consideration the panoramic views of the ocean, the duo focused on light and airy design elements that would create interiors the clients could enjoy. “The owners are both outgoing and huge art lovers,” Miyanishi says. “They wanted a wonderful entertaining space, as well as a backdrop that would show off their art collection. But they also wanted intimate spots, places where they could be comfortable when it was just the two of them.”

Before making Miami home, the couple split their time between South Beach, Boston and New York. “We chose South Florida for the weather and casual lifestyle,” the husband says. “We chose Miami because we found it to be internationally and culturally robust; we chose South Beach for its proximity to the ocean, and for the eclectic mix of residents and visitors.”

RIGHT: In the dining area, an intriguing glass centerpiece branches out across a Liaigre dining table, where Fendi Casa’s “Blixen” dining chairs with hide belts and gunmetal gray buckles pull up to join the party. A dynamic composition of three-dimensional Kwa concrete tiles by Itai Bar-On from Ann Sacks covers a focal wall, while a whimsical painting, *The Macaron Hat* by artist Will Cotton, adds the perfect touch of flavor.

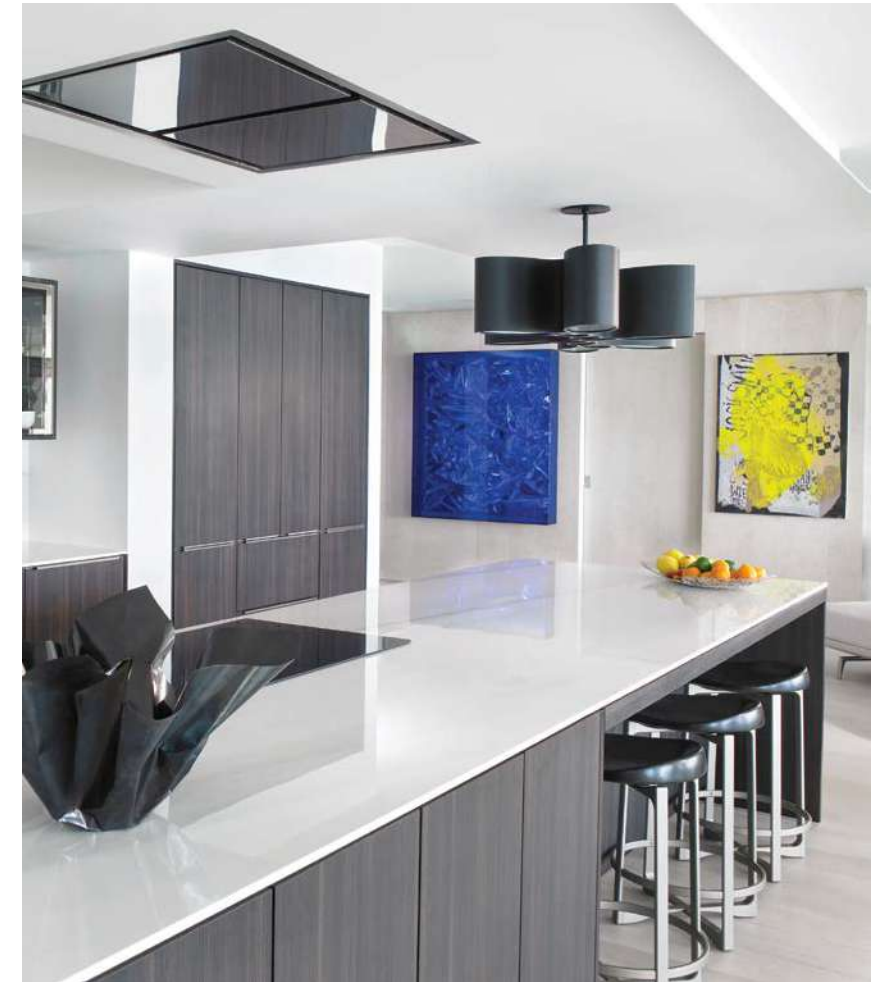


Drawing the eyes up and around the kitchen, Ted Abramczyk's sculptural chandelier for Ralph Pucci unites functionality with the aesthetics of a glowing sculptural object. SieMatic cabinetry topped in SapienStone shapes the culinary space, where artist Mel Bochner's *Chuckle* in bright blues and pinks brings a smile to one's face while seated at the island on Holly Hunt stools.



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GERMAN ARTIST ANSELM REYLE'S UNTITLED WORK IN VIBRANT BLUE AND AMERICAN ARTIST JOSH SMITH'S PIECE IN A KICKY YELLOW LINE THE WALL IN TRUE GALLERY STYLE.



Although they make it to the beach less now that they live in Miami full-time, being able to see the ocean drove all of the design decisions. "It is very important to be able to enjoy the panoramas throughout the day," the wife says. "Now, the ocean is a backdrop to all but one room ... it is the first thing you see when the doors open."

The couple tapped Craven and Miyanishi for their new home because they had seen several condos in the building designed by the team. "Since they are art collectors, the homeowners wanted a free-flowing plan," Craven says. "Beyond that, they were remarkably open to our ideas." This was a good starting point that included completely reshaping the interior architecture. "Space creation was a collaboration between Chris and the husband," Miyanishi says. "I finished with color and texture that expanded on the great foundation they created."

The design duo gives credit to the contractor, Built by Owner, and the homeowners credit Miami art advisor Spring McManus for curating the sophisticated collection that delivers upon the couple's contemporary vision. This went beyond architecture and furnishings to include a deeper contentment for the couple now calling the condo home. "Good design must be personalized and must address the environment and the ethos of the times," Craven says. "But more importantly, it must be a pleasure."



In the den, black and white photographs dominate, including *The World is Your Oyster* by Marc Lagrange above the Trussardi sofa by Luxury Living; and *Lilla, Turtle Cove, NY* by Michael Dweck above the desk. Phillip Jeffries' textural wall covering is a warm element, while Craven's design collaboration with Belt to handcraft a metal cocktail table that mechanically pops up to dining height is a cool one.

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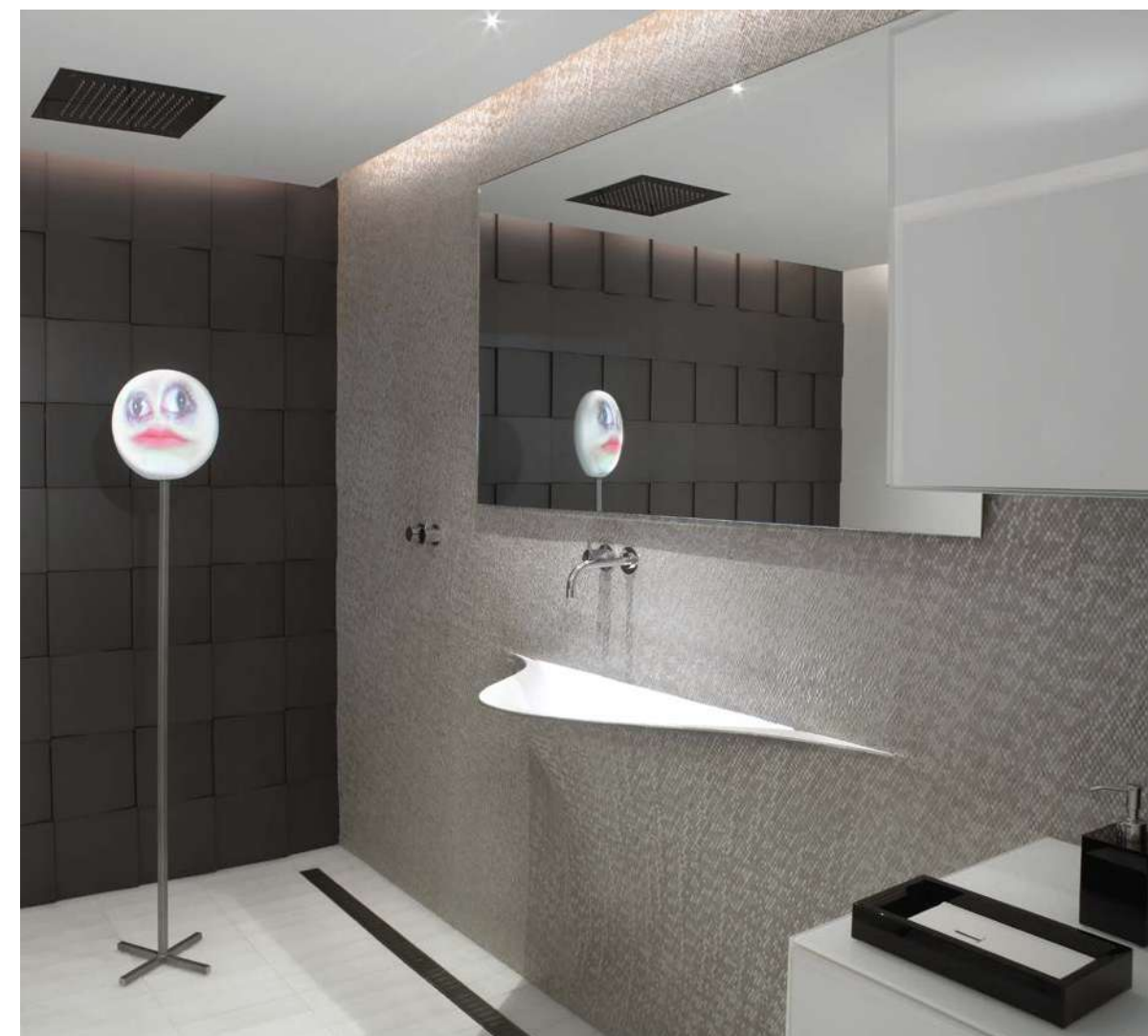
“We wanted to marry the interior design with our art, giving each piece pride of place so that they would complement and not compete with one another,” the homeowner says.

Mixing elements without making the backdrop too busy was also at the heart of the plan. “Variety is something we all need, particularly in a space where we spend so much time. But in the end, making a design coherent and ensuring the spaces flow is key,” the architect says.

“We created this home just for us,” the husband says. “We eliminated all the bedrooms except the master, creating something like a luxury suite in a five-star hotel. When our children or guests visit, we put them up at The Betsy, just across the street. This is incredibly convenient and provides privacy for them and for us.”

Stylistically, the contemporary spaces were a departure for the couple, as they had more traditional interiors in the Northeast. However, they knew they were in good hands in broadening their design sensibilities and gaining an enjoyable *mise en scène* for their lives. “I believe it is very important to add playfulness to a home,” Miyanishi says. “After all, life is boring without eye candy!”

About the new home they now have, the couple feels content, relaxed, and grateful. “We’re both happy people and we laugh a lot,” the wife says. “There’s a great deal of positive energy in the home — lots of joy. The art does that and so does the design. It’s cheerful, warm and sophisticated, which we like to think captures our personae.”



ABOVE: The powder room is seriously contemporary with its Antonio Lupi sink and Vola faucet. An intermingling of WOW’s architectural 3D Delta wall tiles and Ann Sacks shimmering mosaics sets the stage for American artist Tony Oursler’s *Little Smiley* floor sculpture from Lehmann Maupin Gallery.

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In the master bedroom, sculptor Paul Rousso's *Flirtation* from SmithDavidson Gallery aptly provides the artistic focal point above a Holly Hunt bed outfitted by Twill and Texture. Liaigre circular lamps provide the unexpected atop bedside chests from David Sutherland.



The master bath was designed to give the couple a spa-like experience at home. His-and-her Waterworks sinks set in the custom vanity by Mirrors & Closets are illuminated by linear sconces. Opustone's 3D wall covering creates a subtle sense of movement.



SOURCES

LIVING AREA

Sofa, lounge chairs, stools, side chair and cocktail table - Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Glass top of cocktail table fabricated by Lucid Glass Studio, Providence, RI
Throw - Missoni Home, Neiman Marcus, Miami, FL
Accent pillows - Osborne & Little, Twill and Texture, Miami, FL
Fabricated by Grafton Furniture, Miami, FL
Vases on cocktail table - Takashimaya, New York, NY
Sculpture on pedestal - Kukje Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Yellow artwork - Marc Selwyn Gallery, Beverly Hills, CA
Grand piano - Piano Music Center, Hallandale, FL

Area rug - Stark Carpet, Hollywood, FL

DINING AREA

Dining table - Liaigre, Miami, FL
Dining chairs - Fendi Casa by Luxury Living, Miami, FL
Centerpiece - Michael Aram, Glass Tray by Okra Martinique, Nisi B Home, Miami, FL
Artwork of woman - Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY
Artwork in hallway - Perrotin Gallery, Paris
Circular yellow wall art - Perrotin Gallery, New York, NY
Cabinetry - Mirrors & Closets of Florida, Hollywood, FL
Bowl on cabinetry - Ralph Pucci, Miami, FL
Wall treatment - Itai Bar-On, Ann Sacks, MDD, Miami, FL
Fabricated by S & T Marble And Granite, Miami, FL

KITCHEN

Cabinetry - SieMatic, Euro Kitchen and Bath, Laguna Beach, CA
SapientStone countertops - S & T Marble And Granite, Miami, FL
Black bowl - Gentner Design, Nisi B Home, Miami, FL
Counter stools - Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Light fixture - Ralph Pucci, Miami, FL
Cooktop and double ovens - Wolf, Sub-Zero Group, Madison, WI
Artwork on column - Artnet Auctions, New York, NY
Blue artwork - Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Yellow artwork - Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT
DEN
Sofa - Trussardi by Luxury Living, Miami, FL
Fabric - Orlean USA, Miami, FL

Accent pillow fabric - Casamance, Twill And Texture, Miami, FL
Cocktail table fabricated by Belt, Hollywood, FL
Occasional table - DLV Designs, Brooklyn, NY
Large photo - SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Small photo - Spinello Projects, Miami, FL
Desk - Mirrors & Closets of Florida, Hollywood, FL
Desk chair - Trussardi by Luxury Living, Miami, FL
Stool - Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Photo above desk - Staley-Wise Gallery, New York, NY
Wall covering - Phillip Jeffries, Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
Area rug - Holly Hunt, Miami, FL
POWDER ROOM
Sink - Antonio Lupi, Italy

Mirror - Mirrors & Closet of Florida, Hollywood, FL
Wall covering behind mirror - Ann Sacks, MDD, Miami, FL
Shower head - Waterworks, MDD, Miami, FL
Shower wall treatment - WOW USA, Inc., Lorton, VA
Floor sculpture - Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York, NY
MASTER BATH
Vanity and mirrors - Mirrors & Closet, Hollywood, FL
Sinks, faucets and wall sconces - Waterworks, MDD, Miami, FL
Stool - Jayson Home, Chicago, IL
Wall covering - Opustone, Miami, FL
Flooring fabricated by S & T Marble And Granite, Miami, FL
MASTER BEDROOM
Bed - Holly Hunt, Miami, FL

Wall covering, accent pillows and throw - Twill And Texture, Miami, FL
Accent pillows and throw fabricated by Grafton Furniture, Miami, FL
Bedside chests - David Sutherland, Miami, FL
Table lamps and bench - Liaigre, Miami, FL
Artwork - SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Window treatment fabricated by Shade Trends, Inc., Miami, FL
THROUGHOUT
Recessed lighting - Apure, Miami, FL
Flooring - Siberian Floors, Miami, FL
Fabricated by SFE Hardwood Flooring Specialists, Dania Beach, FL
Floral - Gil Sosa Design, Miami, FL
Art adviser - Spring McManus, Miami, FL