

MODERN LUXURY

BY THE PUBLISHERS OF MIAMI MAGAZINE

Interiors

South Florida

THE CUTTING EDGE

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MIAMI BEACH

WHITE & CHOCOLATE

Loyalty to a simple color scheme provides an elegant solution.

By Richard Pérez-Feria
 Photography by Emilio Collavino
 Interiors by Stylehaus Design Interiors



DOUBLING EFFECT
 In the living room, designer Tatiana Moreira doubled the length of the clients' existing Design Within Reach sofa, adding a coffee table from Florense and a pair of chairs from Anima Domus. Opposite page: The arrival view of the same room.



LIGHT & LIVELY
From left: Designer Tatiana Moreira in the home of two lawyer clients; the Florense kitchen and the quartz and Statuarietto marble countertops carry the modern white and chocolate theme. Opposite page: The breakfast area's Big Bang suspension lamp from Foscarini makes a big statement above the Eero Saarinen marble-topped table from Design Within Reach and its Eames molded plastic chairs.

On a recent trek to Bal Harbour Shops for a long overdue retail splurge, something extraordinary was tucked away in the corner of the mall's parking structure: a chocolate-brown Bentley Continental GT Speed convertible with a leather interior in milky white. Its luxe simplicity was stunning. That automobile may have been the most beautiful objet d'art I had ever seen. Dark brown and stark white? Yes, please.

Imagine my delight when I first laid eyes on Tatiana Moreira's latest interior project for her Brickell Avenue firm, Stylehaus Design—a dream-like four-bedroom, 5 1/2-bathroom waterfront townhouse at Aqua on tony Allison Island—and the delicious dark-brown and stark-white color palette dominated as far as the eye could see.

"I'm so happy you responded so well to the design," Moreira says. "By choosing brown and white as the palette, I tapped into an aesthetic I try to bring to all of my designs. It's something I call modern warmth. The use of wood is inherently warm, and it keeps you grounded. White is the perfect complement to the wood because we're in Miami, one of the planet's greatest beach cultures. The owners of the home—David and Michelle Hendler, both extraordinarily busy, young attorneys—even have a boat at the dock right outside. This home reflects their desire for a light, fresh sanctuary as a counterpoint to their stressful careers."

The finished product (which took approximately six months) has come a long ways from Moreira's initial reaction to the 3,810-square-foot home. "My first



thought when I walked in was that this space needed life. It was very boring and too basic," Moreira says. "But the trick is, of course, to really listen to your clients and, in this instance, I made certain that I delivered the best possible result given the parameters my clients said they wanted. For example, David is a huge sports fan and insisted on having four flat-screen television sets in the living room. *Four!* [laughs]. That was a first for me, but, you know, I think we pulled it off with style."

The home presented other design issues that weren't so easily dealt with. "The ceilings are very high in the house," Moreira says. "In the family room alone, there are triple-height ceilings, and the problem with impossibly high ceilings is that it almost doesn't matter how much furniture you put in the space; it will still look sparse and underdesigned. My solution throughout the house—particularly in the living room and family room—was to cut out portions of the ceilings for a very

dramatic effect. Believe me, the ceilings were the most difficult design challenge I had to overcome."

Throughout the home, Moreira tackled every room individually (to maximize the room's function) but still kept a close eye on the home's overall tone. The chocolate and white color scheme—with carefully curated accent pieces—carries the load. The master bedroom is Exhibit A. Note her decision to place two matching tan Eames lounge chairs and an ottoman atop a lush gray Le Shag area rug in the suddenly magical reading area. Or her calculated risk to install a custom-designed unit in canaletto wood and white high-gloss above the Botone Button headboard. The space oozes confidence and fealty to the home's theme.

What Moreira did to ensure that the brown and white wouldn't become monotonous was to utilize an inventive mix of lighting, both glowing indirect sources and visible but unconventional choices. Whether it was



TONY TONES
 In the master bedroom, the bed and headboard came from Florense, while the Eames lounge chair and ottoman are from Design Within Reach. Opposite page: In the foyer, the palisander wood wall panel and white lacquer unit are from Florense.

her liberal use of soffit lighting or her unexpectedly colorful chandeliers, Moreira was singularly focused on making lighting matter in this space. And so it does. The kitchen's surprising Big Bang suspension lamp from Foscarini and its Bear Lights in black by designer Tom Dixon create important moments in this vibrant space.

In the vast living room, Moreira made short work of the space by doubling the size of the owners' existing sofa, an inviting dark brown Camber from Design Within Reach that finds good company with a canaletto wood and white high-gloss coffee table from Florense. Two groovy beige Chica low swiveling chairs, sourced from Anima Domus, reside against the far window. The only contrasting color is the supersubtle blue of the ikat area rug from the Rug Company and the colors of the Missoni Home throw pillows and the plush Alessia chairs, also from Anima Domus.

The room is designed in a "come in, take off your shoes and stay a while" mindset. Natural light and lighting recessed within rectangular ceiling cutouts create softness for these two legal eagles. It's exactly where they want to be after an intense day of trying negotiations. ■

IN THE ROUND
The dining room showcases a table from the clients' past surrounded by leather Air chairs from Florense. The Caboche Grand chandelier is from Foscarini.

MOREIRA'S SOLUTION FOR THE HOME'S EXCEEDINGLY HIGH CEILINGS: "[I] CUT OUT PORTIONS ... FOR A VERY DRAMATIC EFFECT."



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Townhouse

LOCATION
Miami Beach

INTERIOR DESIGN
Stylehaus Design Interiors
(stylehausdesign.com)

RESOURCES
Anima Domus
Chica low swiveling chairs by Gyroform (animadomus.com)

Design Within Reach
Foyer bench, living room Camber sofa, Saarinen breakfast table and chairs (designwithinreach.com)

Florense
Foyer wood wall panel, living room coffee table, wall panel and unit, dining room console and Air chairs, kitchen high-gloss panels and cabinetry, master bedroom cabinetry (florense.com)

Foscarini
Dining room Caboche Grande chandelier, kitchen's Big Bang suspension lamp (foscarini.com)

The Rug Company
Living area ikat blue bamboo rug (therugcompany.com)

West Elm
Living room metal objects, (westelm.com)

Restoration Hardware
Hand-knotted foyer area rug (restorationhardware.com)