

Pattern Play

DESIGNER FATIMA SILVA TRANSFORMS A BLANK CONDO INTO A VIBRANT, ART-FILLED RETREAT.

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Right: Sotos Interior Workroom crafted the living area armchairs using a zigzag-striped Missoni fabric. Designer Fatima Silva arranged Taracea's Luna Yukas coffee table atop a circular floor covering from The Rug Company.

Previous page: The living area's sectional, by Sotos Interior Workroom, wears a Schumacher material; the pillows exhibit Missoni and Addison House textiles. Just beyond, walls painted Sherwin-Williams' Pure White are accented with Benjamin Moore's Atlantis Blue.



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erched 14 floors above ground, with generous views of a bright turquoise ocean, a Chicago couple's South Florida residence blends refinement and bold color with a beachy nonchalance. To shape its character, designer Fatima Silva drew on the spirit of jet-set sophistication and the romance of a luxe bohemian escape for inspiration.

The clients, Jill Mills and her husband, Charlie, desired a colorful vacation home that celebrates the art of Magic City living. The all-white unit they acquired at Faena Residences in Miami Beach proved a perfect blank canvas. "This is a really unique building," observes general contractor Mark Mutchnik. "The developer, Alan Faena, had a vision and executed it, creating an entire arts neighborhood. He gave the building wonderful features, like terrazzo floors and large balconies."

Silva approached the interiors with a similar artistic mindset, stepping outside her typical, quietly luxurious aesthetic to design with whimsical layers. "Jill has an eye for color and pattern," she notes. The starting point, for instance, proved to be an iconic zigzag fabric, used for armchairs and throw pillows, that is teeming with purples, pinks and vibrant orange—colors that run throughout the home—accented with Tiffany blue.

Key, though, was balancing this playful palette with clean-lined silhouettes that suit Charlie's taste. "He has a more low-key, contemporary style," the designer explains. Above all, a Magic City feel would need to permeate throughout, punctuated with statement pieces that reflect Jill's flair for the unexpected. "The interiors are creative and exuberant," Silva says, "because we wanted to capture the energy and spirit of Miami."

The look begins in the entryway, where Art Deco sconces speak to the area's architectural history, while a long scroll bench sounds a sculptural note. "Jill wanted the entry to be an experience," the designer emphasizes. To add color to the walls, Silva devised a turquoise border scheme that begins here and flows

into the great room. There, the bar—built by Mutchnik—serves as "a focal point, a jewelry piece," the designer describes. The bright blue credenza counters the coral hues of the dragon print on the nearby dining chairs, while the petrified-wood coffee table in the adjacent living area offers a soothing effect. "It's a reference to our coastal location," Silva explains.

Down the hallway, each bedroom boasts its own color palette. "There's a blue room, one that's coral and sunshine yellow, and another is a tropical jungle with a zebra chair," the designer reveals. But it's the primary bedroom that perhaps best embodies the energy of the home, right down to the headboard of bold velvet circular forms. "The bed, with the upholstered rounds mounted to the wall, is a statement piece," she points out.

Beyond furnishings and fabrics, a heavy dose of the home's drama comes from the couple's art collection, which includes pieces by Tigran Tsitoghdzian, Orit Fuchs and Norman Parkinson. "The artworks play a big role here and set the tone for visual impact," Silva says, recounting visits to Art Basel with the owners to select pieces that convey the vibrancy of Miami.

Where she pulled back on color and pattern, however, was the kitchen, leaving its pristine state untouched and adding only white leather stools. "The kitchen is a functional space, so we kept it simple," the designer says, noting the couple brings in fresh flowers when visiting. In fact, greenery was a key element the clients requested. "We used indoor trees to help anchor the rooms, putting them in baskets for a beach aesthetic," Silva shares.

Ultimately, the residence mirrors the chic, playful spirit of the couple as well as their second city. "This project was about adding vibrancy and refining spaces to make them inviting—and it's phenomenal," Mutchnik reflects. For Silva, the project proved a chance to expand her creative range while remaining in a casual yet sophisticated scope. "Working with color is inspiring," she says. "The challenge is ensuring the palette is cohesive and complementary." It's an obstacle she confidently overcame with a precise hand, an eye for harmony and the perfect dose of joy. ■

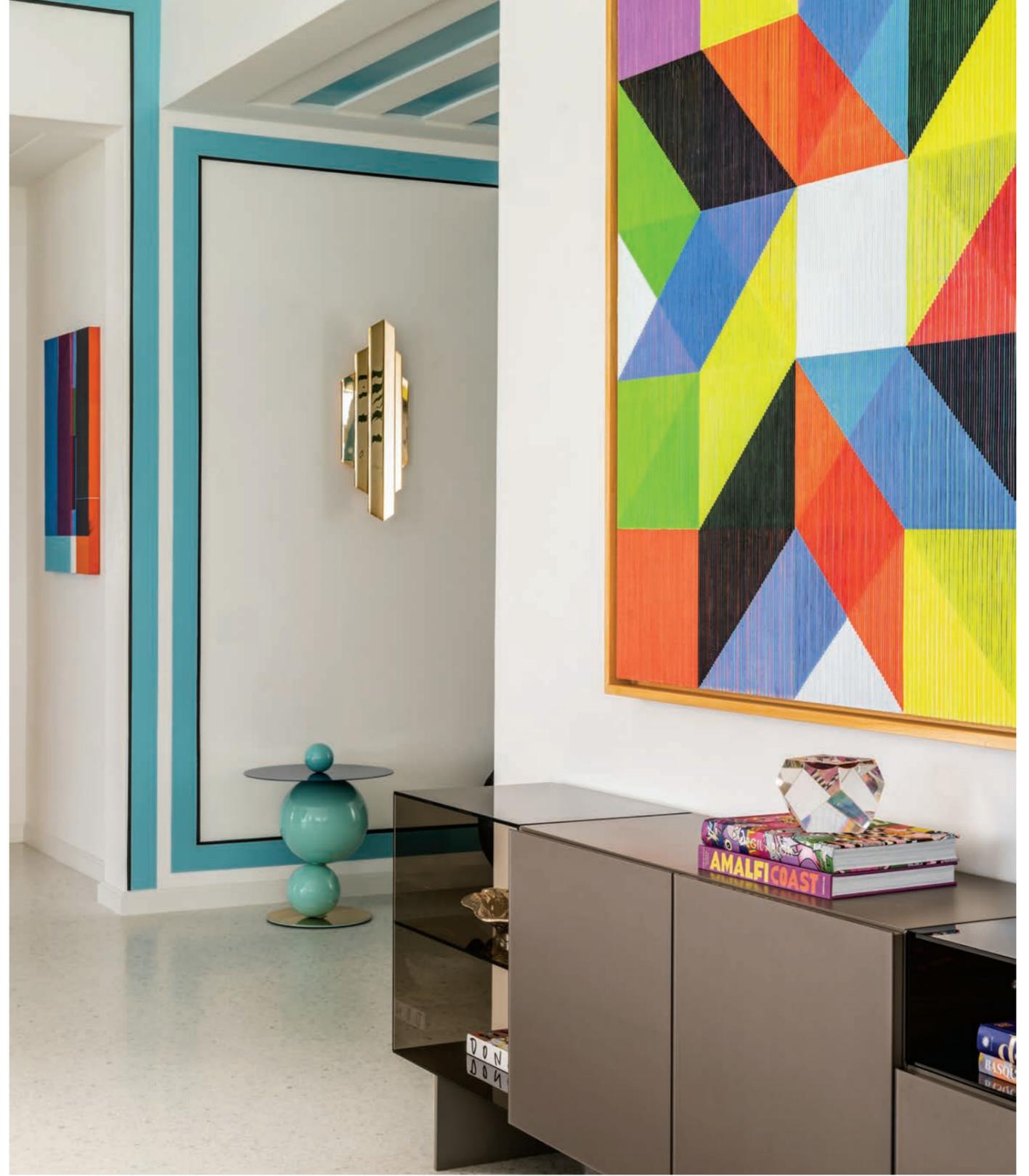
Holly Hunt and Pindler velvets cover Arteriors' Poppy swivel chairs in the dining area. The table's base, by The Flemming Group, is topped with stone from Da Vinci Marble. Mutchnik Construction Group fabricated the bar integrating brass posts and antiqued mirrors.

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-FATIMA SILVA



Silva left the all-white kitchen largely untouched, introducing Artefacto counter stools to offer seating at the island. The pristine setting, featuring quartz countertops, allows the stunning oceanfront view to take center stage.



Above: Studio Endo's geometric Deco sconce is positioned in the entry hall above Design Kraft's Bubble Gum side table. Facing the dining area, a vibrant painting by Antonio Marra hangs over a glass Lago sideboard.

Opposite: Missoni textiles dress the owners' velvet bed by Sotos Interior Workroom. A nightstand from Judith Norman and a ModShop bench gather on The Rug Company's Thistle Gold rug. The Jonathan Adler sconce pops against Holland & Sherry's Vetiver wallcovering.