

# MERGING CONTINENTS AND CULTURES

PARISIAN-BORN CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN STRIKES THE  
BALANCE BETWEEN EUROPEAN SOPHISTICATED  
AND TROPICAL LANGUOR IN MIAMI

DESIGN BY CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN, ATMOSPHERE CREATIONS, INC., MIAMI, FL  
TEXT BY MARINA BROWN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK ROSKAMS, MIAMI, FL



The tropical landscaping by Intuitive Design Group and teak lounge chairs from Sutherland set the mood for sultry nights beneath the stars. The counterpoint of antique French lanterns from Anne Morris adds a note of sophistication.





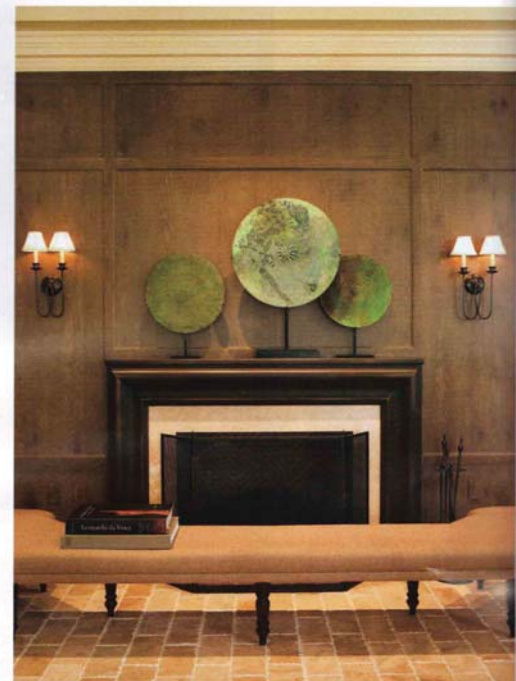
**ABOVE:** In this hallway vignette, a pair of sculptural horns, bamboo occasional tables and white limestone brick flooring all give an organic texture to balance the sinuous softness of the unique loveseat.

Having already rejected several large design firms, the owner of this Venetian Isles compound wanted the hands-on involvement Parisian-born designer Charlotte Dunagan offered, as well as her European sensibility. Dunagan had already worked in Paris and the Cote d'Azur before graduating from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. But when she was introduced to the owner to collaborate on what was to become a splendid 10,000-square-foot home and its 5,000-square-foot guesthouse, the mutual affinity was immediate.

And with little more than a shell to start with, the estate fashioned with clean lines and traditional warmth now glows with luxurious livability inside and out. A 17th-century gate announces the entry as the eye is led between the main house and the guesthouse through a wide walkway toward the sprawling pool. With its custom-designed Bahama shutters, teak furniture, gazebo-covered Jacuzzi, and



White and green linen slipcovers invite comfort in the formal living room, where an alabaster pitcher from Urban Art provides understated punctuation while the antique Chinese screen catches the eye with gold accents.



**ABOVE:** Set atop the unique molded mantel of sprayed metal over wood, a triptych of antique Asian drum tops blends easily in the traditional living room. Hidden doors in the bleached oak paneling lead to the kitchen and dining room.

lush tropical plantings, poolside feels like a gold-star resort. "The owner loves to entertain here — sometimes up to 200 guests at a time — but it only feels like 50," Dunagan says. Wanting friends to experience every comfort, the guesthouse has one large bedroom, kitchen, sitting room and balconies upstairs, while 1,000 square feet on the pool level has been devoted to the owner's gym. "He couldn't sell memberships," says the designer, admiring the top-of-the-line equipment.

For the interior of the main house, "I knew that beautiful aged pieces whether French, English, or in some cases, Asian, would not only make the home comfortable, but would hold and gain value," Dunagan says. And after several acquisition trips to New York with the owner, Dunagan headed to Europe for real finds. "I brought back a 40-foot container," she says. "Now 90 percent of the furnishings are antiques."





**RIGHT:** Antique French chairs surround an English mahogany table centered in the dining room by a glacier-stone sculpture by Master Hugo Zapata. Nearby, the rare alter table from the Khang Shi Dynasty looks perfectly in place below the 17th-century mirror.

**FAR RIGHT:** Grilling, stir-frying in a wok or barbecuing, the stainless-steel summer kitchen brings the inside out. Family and friends can sample culinary creations from the 4-inch marble dining table set beneath the glow from the 19th-century Italian chandelier.

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With intimate 11-foot ceilings, the formal living room and its more casual sister section face the waterway. "Inside we strove for sophistication without intimidation," the designer says. Flooring in white limestone brick flows throughout, giving a hint of the French countryside. Alabaster chandeliers, white marble lamps and a crushed bamboo table all give an organic texture to balance the white linen slip-covered softness of the sofas.

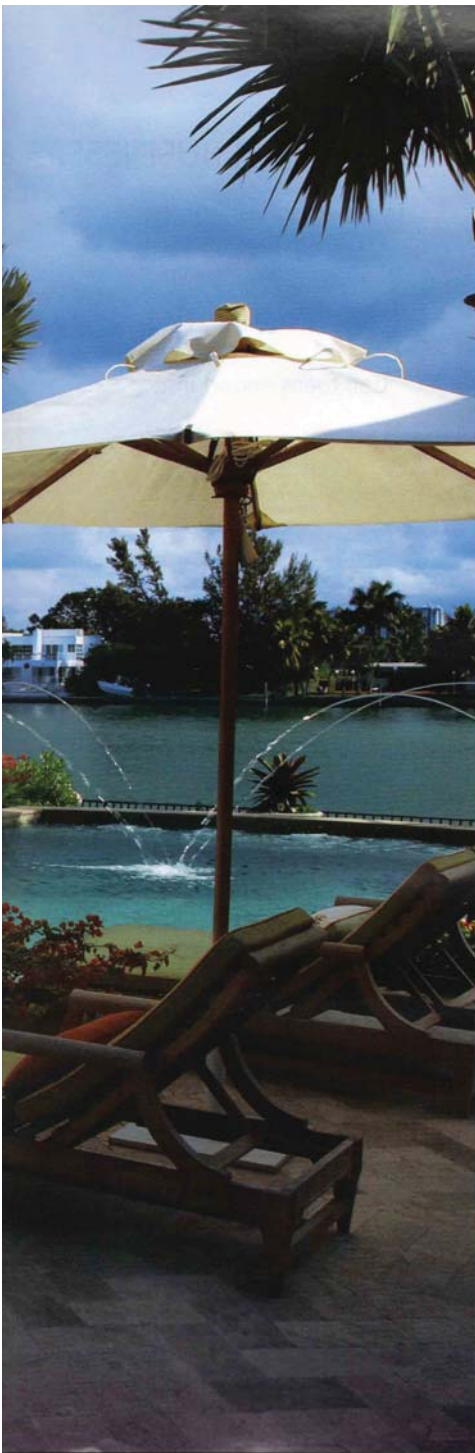
The formal dining room in tones of rust, khaki and brown can accommodate 16 sit-down guests — or throwing open its French doors on tropical evenings, let the party carry on outside around the uber-techno cooking appliances of the summer kitchen and the serene surround of the waterfront pool area.

With its absence of pattern, the neutral palette, and an accent on the natural textures of quality aged pieces, the balance of merging continents and cultures, time zones and climates has been gloriously achieved.





Repeating the patterned slate of the summer kitchen, the pool bottom shimmers in a moving mosaic. Perfect for little guests or a careful entry, the pool gently simulates a beachy slope.



ABOVE: Metal furnishings by JANUS et Cie are "reminiscent of the Bois de Boulogne," designer Charlotte Dunagan says. Taking three years to build, the home now wraps around the pool and its extensive outdoor living area.

#### SOURCES

##### PATIO AND POOL AREA

Trellis - Custom designed by Atmosphere Creations, Inc., Miami, FL and Intuitive Design Group, Palm City, FL  
Shutters - Custom designed by Atmosphere Creations, Inc., Miami, FL  
Trellis and shutters fabricated by Handcraft Woodworking, Inc., Boca Raton, FL  
Lounge chairs, armchairs, ottomans, occasional tables and umbrellas - David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Metal-framed dining table and chairs - Janus et Cie, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Pool tile - Waterworks, Miami, FL

##### HALLWAY VIGNETTE

Love seat, occasional tables, horn sculptures and artwork - Owner's Collection

##### LIVING ROOM

Sofas and chaises - Lee Industries, Janan Janan Miami, Inc., Miami, FL  
Bench, fireplace, mantel and wall paneling - Custom designed by Atmosphere Creations, Inc., Miami, FL  
Bench fabricated by Janan Janan Miami, Inc., Miami, FL  
Cocktail table - Janan Janan Miami, Inc., Miami, FL  
Sofa table - Antiquair K. Grusenmeyer, Belgium  
Occasional tables flanking sofa - Wilson Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Table lamps - Just Lamps and Shades, Miami, FL  
Draperies - MMM Custom Window Treatments, Boca Raton, FL  
Pitcher - Urban Art, Miami, FL  
Area rug - Carpet Source, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

##### DINING ROOM

Table - Antiquair K. Grusenmeyer, Belgium  
Host chairs - De Grande Antiques, Belgium  
Fabric - Coraggio Textiles, Bellevue, WA  
Side chairs - Tyler Galleries, Miami, FL  
Seat and back fabric - Rogers & Goffigon, Greenwich, CT  
Alter table - Axel Vervoordt, Belgium  
Table lamps - Wilson Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Mirror - Bruno Speybrouck Antiquair, Belgium  
Draperies - MMM Custom Window Treatments, Boca Raton, FL  
Centerpiece - Urban Art, Miami, FL  
Area rug - Carpet Source, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

##### SUMMER KITCHEN

Table - De Grande Antiques, Belgium  
Chairs - Janus et Cie, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Barstools and chandelier - Wilson Antiques, West Palm Beach, FL  
Sconces - Janan Janan Miami, Inc., Miami, FL  
Brick wall covering - Innovative Surfaces, Coral Gables, FL

##### THROUGHOUT

Builder, millwork, molding and doors - Handcraft Woodworking, Inc., Boca Raton, FL  
Light fixtures, lanterns, sconces and wall lamps - Carlos de la Puente Antiques, New York, NY  
Flooring - ABK Tile & Marble, Inc., Miami, FL  
Exterior architecture - Klein Design Group, Miami Beach, FL  
Landscape architecture - Intuitive Design Group, Palm City, FL