

OBJETS *d'affection* DE MIAMI

Miami design enters a new era as starchitects, international art lovers, and now the MAISON & OBJET AMERICAS decorative arts fair flock to South Florida.

by JEAN NAYAR photography by GARY JAMES



New Yorkers often like to refer to New York as the center of the universe. But if you were a top-caliber architect or designer anywhere in the world right now, you'd probably be more inclined to reserve that claim for Miami.

Thanks in part to the sophisticated international crowd that regularly attends Art Basel in Miami Beach, the demand for residences and hotels commensurate with their tastes have upped the ante on Miami's architecture scene. Savvy developers such as The Related Group, Swire Properties, and Terra Group, who understood the value of name-brand designers as marketing tools for their new developments, began enlisting top names to

create their buildings. Now, not only are there arguably more world-class architects designing luxury hotels, signature condominiums, high-profile cultural institutions, and even landmark garages here than anywhere else in the US, but flocks of wealthy North and Latin Americans, Europeans, Russians, and Chinese have been arriving in droves to partake of the first-class city Miami is becoming, partly as a result of their influence.

To sate this sophisticated crowd's appetite for high design, new waves of furniture, product, and fashion designers from all over the globe are setting up shop in the rarefied Miami Design District as well as in the edgier and more affordable Wynwood and Ironside



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Interior designers Ruby Ramirez and Alison Antrobus at Ocean House; the Ocean House library combines gilded accents and modern twists on traditional elements ("Design is about creating a narrative and a sense of theater," notes Ramirez); the Palazzo del Sol north lobby on Miami's exclusive Fisher Island and the penthouse at Ocean House are among the duo's current projects.

design duo ALISON ANTROBUS & RUBY RAMIREZ

With an impressive project list that includes Icon Brickell and Prime 112 in Miami, Alison Antrobus and Ruby Ramirez have consistently been tapped as a creative force for major product manufacturers and design projects since they began partnering in 2011. The two met while working at the helm of the Miami office of the internationally acclaimed property and design development firm Yoo, which works with design stars Philippe Starck, Jade Jagger, Kelly Hoppen, and Marcel Wanders on multifaceted urban development projects such as the new 65-acre Metropica in Sunrise, Florida, as well as others in Mumbai, Singapore, Moscow, and Buenos Aires. Though their training and experience are rooted in interior design—both are architects with award-winning residential, restaurant and hotel, retail, and private jet projects under their belts—each is applying her design skills to new realms. Antrobus is making a mark in the fashion world with her revolutionary patented handbag, called the Antrobus Bag, and Ramirez is fusing her love of artisanal craft and international travel in a jewelry collection she plans to launch later this year. "Design is about creating a narrative and a sense of theater," says Ramirez. "Theater for me is the emotion that carries you, that lingering impression and at times a sense of wonderment." Evidence of this idea will soon be seen in the common spaces of the Muse condominium, which they are currently working on in collaboration with building architect Carlos Ott, and the Palazzo del Sol on Fisher Island. *Antrobus + Ramirez, 7636 NE Fourth Ct., Ste. 112, Miami, 786-420-2996; antrobusramirez.com*



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ANTROBUS RAMIREZ (LOBBY, PENTHOUSE)

Charlotte Dunagan in the sitting area of a master bedroom of a residence she designed in Miami Beach. BELOW, FROM TOP: The family wanted to give their modern home an open feeling to take advantage of the views, while creating a cozy and relaxed place for their children; using a neutral palette, Dunagan in the living room mixed Anglo-Indian pieces and slipcovered upholstery made of outdoor fabrics for easy maintenance. Overall, the effect is one of clean-lined, warm, inviting spaces.



The modern living room is replete with sophisticated artwork and a free-standing sculpture (*God of Some Things*, 2011, by artist Huma Bhabha) against a paneled wall that hides a door to the kitchen.



DESIGN HUB

Not-to-be-missed showrooms and shops around Miami.

4141 DESIGN

Anyone interested in sitting back and relaxing in plush style should consider Maxalto's Solatium, the latest sofa by Antonio Citterio available at 4141 Design, the largest furniture showroom of exceptional European brands in the US. 4141 NE Second Ave., #115, Miami, 305-572-2900; 4141design.com

ARTEFACTO

For more than 35 years, Artefacto has been creating some of the most sought-after contemporary and classic interiors in the world. Born in Brazil, the Artefacto brand has exploded in America, with retail stores located in Coral Gables and Aventura, and shipping all around the globe from Miami. Stores have recently opened in the Caribbean and Mexico, with rollouts planned for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East in the next few years. 4440 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Ste. 1600, Coral Gables, 305-774-0004; artefacto.com

BOCA DO LOBO

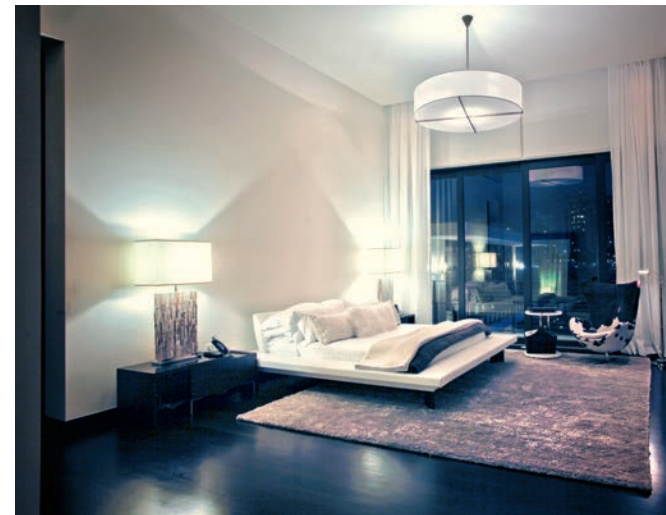
For over-the-top luxury furniture, lighting, rugs, and accents like the Black Diamond safe or the Symphony humidor, the newly opened Boca Do Lobo showroom in the Miami Design District is a must. 278 NW 37th St., Miami; bocadolobo.com

enclaves nearby, expanding the nexus of the design community north and south along Biscayne Boulevard. Solidifying Miami's ascendance in the global design firmament is the arrival of Maison & Objet Americas, the preeminent French decorative arts trade show, which launches in Miami Beach this month.

DESIGNING THE SKY

Over the past several years, a serious flock of international talent—starchitects, if you will—began shifting the aesthetic of Miami's new buildings. They include OMA, the firm of legendary Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas; New York- and Toronto-based Yabu Pushelberg; Pritzker Prize-winning London-based architect Zaha Hadid; knighted British architect Sir Norman Foster; French designer Philippe Starck; Swiss superstars Herzog & de Meuron; Italian master Piero Lissoni; and New York architect Richard Meier, to name but a few. All told, the architectural talent enriches the fabric of the city with what Coconut Grove-based architect Max Strang refers to as "the connective tissue" that links the new buildings with Miami's rich design legacy—and its environs.

The buildings designed by these global starchitects, as well as significant local firms such as Arquitectonica, Revuelta, and Max Strang Architecture, are a departure from the ubiquitous, safe white boxes seen a generation prior, and they have initiated a movement within the real estate community to take historical, social, or environmental context more deeply into account. Part of this movement is a vibrant sense of synergy with the surroundings: sculptural building shapes that meld with both lush landscapes and an urban context. Think Herzog & de Meuron's Pérez Art Museum



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN (BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM)

french import
CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN

Since moving from France to Miami almost 20 years ago, designer Charlotte Dunagan has been making her sophisticated mark on large-scale, high-end residences and boutique commercial projects throughout South Florida. Dunagan began to cultivate an eye for collectible art and furnishings under the tutelage of her parents—her mother was an interior designer, her father an antiques dealer—when she was growing up in Paris and traveling with them throughout Europe. She later began her formal arts education at the MGM School of Design in Nice, France, and completed it at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, where she graduated with honors before launching her own interior design business in Coral Gables. Since then, Dunagan has relied on her wide range of international resources to find undiscovered materials and one-of-a-kind pieces to create inherently unique interiors that reflect her clients' personality and individual style. "When I first meet [my clients], I pick up on all the small details that make them who they are—their clothing, their accessories, even the car they drive provides me with the style direction that is appropriate for their home. I'm a strong believer in building structures that are timeless and creating a very sophisticated background that we will love forever." *Charlotte Dunagan Design Group, 2100 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Ste. 920, Coral Gables, 305-438-0130; atmospherecreations.com*

RIGHT: Nisi Berryman at Niba Home, her home furnishings store in the Miami Design District. "For me, good design is as much about function as it is about flourish," says the former design editor for *Metropolitan Home*, who honed her curatorial approach working for Dacra Development and Tui Pranich, among others. BELOW: The Raleigh bed is from Nisi B. Berryman's newly launched furniture collection, shown with a turquoise Empire chandelier by Marjorie Skouras, ivory blown-glass decanters by Joe Cariati, bedding (including the cashmere blanket) by Threadcount, and rug by Jan Kath; *Elephant II*, a sculpture of toys and found objects created by Keith Clougherty (Berryman's son), serves as an eye-catching accent piece in the store.



Berryman's vision plays on the unexpected: Photographer Greg Lotus's rich and dark *Mask* is illuminated by the Cumulus chandelier from ABYU Lighting, NYC.



CAPPELLINI

Statement pieces abound in the Cappellini collection. Top picks include David Trubridge's Body Raft lounge and Tom Dixon's Bolide rocking chaise, both available through Poltrona Frau Group in the Miami Design District. 3800 NE Miami Ct., Miami, 305-576-3636; poltronaframiami.net

DEVON & DEVON

With a cult-like following among design lovers dedicated to personal well-being, Devon & Devon offers finely crafted European fixtures, fittings, and finishes for distinguished and timeless bathrooms. Farrey's, 3000 SW 28th Lane, Coconut Grove, 305-445-2244; farreys.com

INTERNUM

Known for its offerings of the most recognized Italian brands in the furniture business, Internum's showroom in the heart of the Miami Design District is making waves with its introduction of Baxter furnishings, including pieces by Paola Navone, Matteo Thun, and Draga Obradovic. 3841 NE Second Ave., #101, Miami, 305-576-1135; internum.com

Miami downtown or the firm's Lincoln Road parking garage in South Beach, as well as Danish wunderkind Bjarke Ingels's torquing Grove at Grand Bay towers in Coconut Grove.

A greater commitment to fine art and furniture and a livelier color palette also add more dimension to the holistic mix of ideas prevalent in top buildings, such as the SLS Lux hotel and condo designed by Yabu Pushelberg and slated for completion in Brickell in 2016. "We wanted to up the luxe quotient by creating a modernized version of old Havana with colors of Latin America—emerald greens, deep blues, and soft pinks—reviving them as a character study in a more sophisticated and exotic way," says designer Glenn Pushelberg of Yabu Pushelberg.

At SLS Lux, the public spaces will get a lift from significant paintings and sculptures by renowned contemporary artists like Fernando Botero and Matias Duville. "People are so art centric today that it's easier to bring in work by great artists that are recognized and appreciated," adds George Yabu.

Art is also playing a major role in the latest project by Alan Faena, the developer of the much-touted Faena project on the Beach. The building's developer has not only enlisted a team of top talent—including Foster + Partners and OMA—to design an exceptional condominium, but he is also helping infuse the surrounding neighborhood with a sense of community anchored in culture. "Alan Faena is known for having an art forum in mind in the neighborhoods he transforms," says Shohei Shigematsu, the lead architect from Koolhaas's firm OMA, which is working on part of the project. "Our project in the Faena District is a cultural center that represents a new typology that's emerging—it's not a museum, or gallery, or theater, or



design junkie NISI BERRYMAN

After opening her home furnishings store, Niba Home, in the Miami Design District a decade ago, self-professed "design junkie" Nisi Berryman has been consistently catching the attention of industry luminaries like Kelly Wearstler, Nate Berkus, Juan Montoya, and Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz, as well as celebrity clients like Shakira and Kate Spade. This month, she's sure to further broaden her reach when she aligns with Maison & Objet Americas to showcase the work of some of her favorite furniture designers—as well as pieces from her own newly launched Nisi B line of furnishings and accents. Known for her curatorial approach, Berryman (a former design editor for *Metropolitan Home* magazine) uses the skills she gleaned while working for renowned furniture designer Dakota Jackson in New York, Tui Pranich and Holly Hunt in Miami, and Dacra Development, the original developer of the Miami Design District, to seek out and market her store's standout furnishings and statement accessories for high-end interiors. "For me, good design is as much about function as it is about flourish," says Berryman. "I love that tension." A magnet for design-lovers who value the unexpected, she partners with prominent Miami manufacturers and notable and emerging names like Greg Lotus, Luis Pons, Seguso, and Jim Magni to create a collection of furnishings that offer a softer, modern alternative to the predominantly Euro contemporary look that prevails in the market. *Niba Home*, 39 NE 39th St., Miami, 305-573-1939; nibahome.com



Hernan Arriaga (RIGHT, at his Miami home) creates highly personalized interiors in Miami and around the globe, all infused with his trademark glamour. ABOVE: Entry foyer of the Triatec Building in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with a custom bookcase, side table, and chaises, all by HA Design. BELOW: This 1950s renovated home in Miami includes HA Design lamb stools and a custom-made coffee table, as well as an original bar by Gio Ponti, George Smith chairs, and Meridiani sofa.

J. BENTLEY

Worth a look for designers in search of to-the-trade-only light fixtures that double as sculpture is J. Bentley, exclusive US agent for Porta Romana, in Miami Ironside. *By appointment only, 786-464-0992*

LUXURY LIVING

Those who value the innovation and exquisite craftsmanship of brands such as Fendi, Bentley, and Trussardi can find extraordinary home furnishings and accents developed by these names at Luxury Living in the Miami Design District. *90 NE 39th St., Miami, 305-438-1660; luxurylivinggroup.com*

ROBICARA

Exotic finishes and interesting materials (cedar, macassar, and cast bronze) push RobiCar's modern furniture and objects to a transcendent level. See them at Maison & Objet Americas or in the company's Miami Ironside showroom. *7636 NE Fourth Ct., Miami, 305-375-7713; robicara.com*

UZCA

Those with a taste for the offbeat will find a treasure trove of unique accents and furniture at Uzca in Buena Vista. Of special note are lamps and curio boxes by Amsterdam-based Cravt Original. *4790 NE Second Ave., Miami, 305-571-8200; uzca.com*



performance space, but rather one that is flexible enough to accommodate diverse art forms in a shared cultural space.”

By externalizing the structure of the building, the architects devised column-free interiors, making the space exceptionally adaptable. They also integrated the scale and accessibility of the cultural component into the urban fabric to offer walkable options for activity that bring a sense of community to the area.

Sensitivity to site and history also drove Terra Group President David Martin's vision for The Residences at Park Grove in Coconut Grove. Shigematsu, who is leading OMA's design of this project, says, “When we met the developer [Martin], he gave us a presentation on the history of Coconut Grove as the birthplace of the first community in Miami and highlighted its lush nature and bohemian background. Since the site of the project is on the bay at a nexus where the city grid ends, it was important that the project not become like a fortress, as so many exclusive condos do, but rather relate to the environment with a new sense of porosity.” As such, the three towers that comprise the project rise in undulating formation to reflect the “poetic organic shapes of the archipelagos and keys of the surrounding area,” Shigematsu explains.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Less emphasized yet particularly important in this new generation of buildings is a focus on protecting the planet. Developers and designers are integrating features that take sustainability and human impact into account. For example, hotel visionary Barry Sternlicht aimed to reinvent the industry standard for socially responsible hospitality with his new 1 Hotel & Homes



project now open on Collins and 23rd Street. At the property, Sternlicht prioritized using eco-friendly materials and sustainable building ideas.

And in the more than 30 single-family homes he's currently working on in Miami, Max Strang is connecting the residences he's designing to the environment and the city's design legacy, utilizing local or eco-friendly materials like Florida keystone, oolite, ipe, and Resysta, a man-made wood-like surface made of sea salt, mineral oil, and rice husks; his homes also feature layouts that promote natural ventilation.

This coalescence of great buildings and big design thinkers in Miami also offers an opportunity to consider on a grander scale the city's overall sustainability in the future. “Miami is literally the most exciting city in the US right now, if not all of North and South America,” says Shigematsu. “It's the only place that's really enabling the two Americas to share their cultures; it's amazing to witness. And if we can begin to make more resilient architecture that responds to the changes in climate, Miami has the potential to become a model for other cities to learn from.” **OD**

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF HERNAN ARRIAGA (SMALL INTERIOR SHOTS)



Arriaga's own 1920s French Deco Miami home features this original 1960s Herman Miller La Chaise and a chandelier from Restoration Hardware. An albino cobra from Egypt is displayed atop a custom-made side table.

interior excellence
HERNAN ARRIAGA

Dividing his time between Miami, New York, the Caribbean, and Milan, interior designer Hernan Arriaga crafts distinct interiors for some of the most exacting names in the social scene, such as Kelly Rowland, J. Christopher Burch, and Lea and Roy Black. “Inspiration can come from anywhere!” exclaims Arriaga, who is currently at work with his partner, Fabio Lopes, on residential projects in various parts of the US and the Middle East, including the former Al Capone mansion in Miami Beach and Alexander Soros's townhouse in New York. “It is around us, everywhere we go, every minute, every day. You can find it in a flower garden or in a whimsical sky. We just have to stop and understand beauty and the immensity of the simplest things.” With that point of view, it's no wonder he's valued for the highly personalized homes he designs around the world, including a mostly black pied-à-terre in New York, a mostly white Delano-inspired house in Long Island, and a color-drenched condo in the tropics—all brimming with exquisite furnishings, fine art, and, often, elegant antiques. “There is nothing more exciting than incorporating an old, beautiful piece into a modern room,” he says. “Antiques bring in history that tells a story and becomes part of your family—they also allow you to mix genres and periods to create a magical space with an incredible touch of glamour.” *3401 N. Miami Ave., Ste. 223, Miami, 305-854-9730; hernanarriaga.com*