



# *summer/wind*

Designer: Charlotte Dunagan | Charlotte Dunagan Design Group

Architect: Ralph Choeff

Text: Andrea Halley-Wright





**“MODERN ALTHOUGH RELAXED AND TROPICAL”** is how this 6,200-square foot Rivo Alto waterfront home on one of the Venetian Islands is described. The Venetian Islands, one of a chain of artificial islands in Miami, were created in 1925 when the Venetian Causeway was constructed. To achieve organic unity, Charlotte Dunagan Design Group had to integrate the interiors with the exteriors to achieve a unique blend of classic warmth and cool modernism.

“Since the husband likes cool modern furnishings and his wife leans toward warmer elements, we worked with materials and finishes that would fuse both points of view,” Dunagan says. So with imagination and her characteristic attention to detail, a mix of warm but easy care fabrics and a host of textures and tactile materials were deployed with custom touches, softening the home’s unapologetically modern and sleek look.



As you enter through an open court, slabs of rock are surrounded by water in a reflecting pool. Approaching the house one has the feeling as if it's floating. Once inside, the open living and dining spaces flow effortlessly—one room to the next—in a continuum of luxurious space that combines contemporary aesthetics with a tranquil inviting atmosphere. An expanse of off-white limestone flooring in the living area leads to a custom cantilevered stairway.

The goal of the living room was to integrate both a sense of luxury and family friendliness. This is the place to relax and be mesmerized by an artistic custom built fireplace set inside a walnut paneled wall. Balancing the space is a hallway that plays host to the owner's art collection, and surrounded by a pair of grand custom wine cabinets designed by Dunagan.



While each room is unique the home is wonderfully unified. And so it is that the kitchen flows into the dining room which leads to a view of the sea.



The modern master bath has sliding glass doors to bring the ocean 'in'. These doors open wide onto a private terrace that offers spectacular views of Biscayne Bay, allowing the owners to begin and end each day with a tranquil yet dramatic view.



"I'm big on carrying materials from the inside to the outside, preventing the spaces from feeling chopped up," Dunagan says. The outside entertainment area tore down barriers between the inside and the out to create a Miami Beach vacation home that blends classic warmth with cool modernism.

Together, Choeff, architect and interior designer Dunagan, created exactly what the couple was looking for—a relaxed family retreat that thoroughly embraces an indoor-outdoor South Florida lifestyle. We refer to it as "Tropical Modern." ■

