

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

The dance of a dozen elegant oaks sets the stage for the timeless landscaping that developer Todd Michael Glaser designed for this 63-year-old classic manse. With actor Matt Damon, singer/songwriter Shakira, director/producer Michael Bay, fashion icon Calvin Klein and Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees as neighbors, the Miami home appears venerable and subdued.

TIMELESS IN MIAMI

Its 1947 Grandeur And Arching Oaks Stand
The Test Of Time — But Inside, There's
Nothing That's Not New

DESIGN Charlotte Dunagan, Atmosphere Creations Design Group, Miami, FL
ARCHITECTURE Ralph Choeff, Ralph Choeff Architect P.A., Miami, FL
DEVELOPMENT Todd Michael Glaser, Miami Beach, FL
TEXT Marina Brown
PHOTOGRAPHY Mark Surloff, Miami, FL



THE ARCHITECT CALLS IT A "PLANTATION," while the owner's representative thinks "New Orleans." And the designer sees hints of a New England Colonial. But whatever an onlooker sees, the serenity of place, the lattice of oaks and the magnificence of 18,000 square feet of columned grandeur can't fail to turn heads.

That's exactly what happened to the new owner of this home formerly owned by Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees. Drawn to the charm of its unique site on Miami's Biscayne Bay and the traditional look of a brick home, the already smitten, hopeful buyer literally knocked on the door and made an offer.

ABOVE: A foyer stairway makes the perfect entrance — a two-story space that is monochromatically spare, but filled with curvilinear drama. Nearby, the living room, right, is encircled by wood bridges and delicately turned balustrades.



AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

White linen draperies and Carotto's shaded chandelier give a simple elegance to the dining room. A lucky find of 16 leather chairs from Randall Tysinger that surround two Dessin Fournir tables from David Sutherland make for large and convivial sit-down affairs.



AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

FROM THE EXUBERANT BOTEROS
TO THE UNEXPECTED RED
OF THE HOME'S FRONT DOOR,
SPLASHES OF COLOR POP AGAINST
WHITE WALLS AND MILLWORK.



It wasn't immediate, but he did get his wish. "Not so easily," says Todd Michael Glaser, Miami developer extraordinaire, and the new owner's representative. "The home was really in disrepair and rather than a renovation, we decided on a redesign and rebuild." But, says Glaser, who also developed Carl Fisher's storied 1920s mansion on the same street, "I'd always loved these two particular houses."

Asked to join the team by Glaser, architect Ralph Choëff recalls, "It's hard to believe now, but we literally cut off the back two-thirds of the house and gutted the rest. For a time, it was like a Hollywood set — with just the front facade looking like a dwelling." Using I-beams and adhering to strict building codes, the home eventually expanded over 10,000 square feet and spread side wings that gracefully embrace the property.

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

“The exterior of this house was always special to the owner,” designer Charlotte Dunagan says. “Yet the original interior had some surprises all its own.”



ABOVE: Antique leather chairs in the wine room back to Bon Vivant's finely milled passageway. Its hidden doors provide a subtle transition to a bay-windowed game area so sunny it seems built in a bower of green.

ABOVE RIGHT: With one wall covered in art and another filled with French doors that offer a view of Biscayne Bay, the ambiance of the library is sheer invitation. The bar, billiard table, an automated theater screen and a bank of good books — who needs to leave?



“Yes, and we were designing as we built,” laughs designer Charlotte Dunagan, trained in Nice and the U.S., with a family lineage that includes designers and antiques experts. “It was wonderful working with the owner,” she says. “He was open to so much. His only specifications were traditional comfort — and a two-story library where men could gather to play pool, watch a movie or have a cigar.”

Retaining the original shape of the foyer and its gently twisting stairway, Dunagan covered the steps in dark walnut and coiled a delicate wrought-iron railing by Rigo's Ornamental Ironwork along the stairs and bridged landing above. Adding balance to



the checkered marble floor, a new, coffered dome was installed over the rotunda. From the central foyer, the home opens to a spacious living room, which itself is flanked by the dining room, kitchen and family room to one side, and a music room and the library with an adjacent wine room on the other.

"Because the owner has a vibrantly colored art collection, the interior walls and furnishings are purposefully subdued," Dunagan says. Slate-topped, black-painted cocktail tables by Lars Bolander are dramatic between Belgian linen-covered sofas. Here, 19th-century Chinese porcelain lamps sit on a sofa table facing the water, and a contemporary note of fabric-whimsy in the antique ottoman sets the stage for the owner's art. Lime-plastered walls and detailed millwork lend a sense of tranquility against bold top rails and black wrought iron chandeliers by Dessin Fournir.

ABOVE: Monica James fabric on the chairs and sofa, and a textured NIBA rug make for a casually comfortable family room. A Neoclassic ebonized mahogany occasional table from J. Peters keeps the traditional theme alive.



Painted and glass-fronted cabinetry expands the kitchen's feel, while Opustone marble tops the oak island. A repeated pendant theme includes antique globes and burnished muted spots.

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN



AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

ABOVE: Sweet dreams await in the master bedroom, where a custom-tufted bed styled like a wing-backed chair and two 1820s Biedermeier chests in burl walnut by Louis Philippe sit just beyond the luxury of NIBA's warm wool area rug.

Looking contemporary in the dining room, antique English leather chairs surround custom walnut tables designed with elegant marquetry center sunbursts. Fernando Botero's well-fed figures burst with color beside a Napoleonic ebonized bibliothèque from 1865.

Containing nearly 250 bottles of vintage wine in double coolers and dry stores, the wine room opens to a sunny space perfect for playing whist or savoring a languorous tasting. And the same Old World feeling, so right for assessing a good Burgundy or Bordeaux, reappears in the paneling and leather of the soaring library.

On a 54,000-square-foot lot fronting Biscayne Bay with acres of veranda and a curving exterior horseshoe stairway that gives a nod to an English manor, this home is a symphony of symmetry and architectural harmony.

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN



Cloaking the structural necessities tying old house to new, Dunagan created a coffered ceiling in the new family room and pillared supports at the pass-through. In acknowledgment of guests' propensity for kitchen partying, she scattered variations of seating from the table banquette to the counter's high stools, all with fabric from Monica James. And the custom-designed milk glass and pewter stove hood gives the kitchen's geometry an abstract bent.

The master bedroom's spectacular view of Miami's cityscape can be revealed in from the bed custom designed with a tufted wool-flannel headboard. Charcoal gray armchairs, an

armless settee, and a sparkling table in silver and mirror provide incentive for that last glass of wine in a room wrapped in subdued taupe grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries.

"It was like an orchestra — all of us working together, sensing each other's thoughts. It was delightful ... if hectic," says Dunagan, looking back over the feverish eight months it took to tear down and recreate the client's dream house.

And the homeowner? "He was ecstatic," the designer says. "To be in Miami and yet with the sense of another time — a kind of timelessness."

SOURCES

Stairway Foyer

Pedestal table - Interieurs, New York, NY
Stairway railing fabricated by Rigo's Wood Work, Inc., Miami, FL
Chandelier - Dessin Fournir, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Centerpiece vases - Owner's Collection
Flooring - Opustone Granite & Marble Distributors, Miami, FL

Living Room

Sofas - Verellen Home Collection, NIBA Home, Miami, FL
Accent pillows - Sandra Jordan, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Wing bergères and cocktail tables - Lars Bolander N.Y., New York, NY
Sofa table - Nest, Miami Beach, FL
Bench - Juxtaposition Home, Newport Coast, CA
Occasional table next to sofa - Randall Tysinger, EJ Victor, Morganton, NC
Chandeliers - Dessin Fournir, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Table lamps - Carlos de la Puente Antiques, New York, NY
Shades by Carotto Designs, Miami, FL
Vases - Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL
Bowl - Jalan Jalan, Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - Noveltex Fabric, MMM Custom Window Treatments, Inc., Boca Raton, FL

Dining Room

Dining table - Dessin Fournir, David Sutherland, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Dining chairs - Randall Tysinger Antiques, Thomasville, NC
Centerpiece - Owner's Collection
Wingback chairs - Regina Suarez Design & Mfg., Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Fabric - Kravet Fabrics, Showroom 6, Inc., Miami, FL
Bibliotheque - Amy Perlin Antiques, New York, NY
Chandelier - Carotto Designs, Just Lamps and Shades, Inc., Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - Noveltex Fabric, MMM Custom Window Treatments, Inc., Boca Raton, FL

Wine Room to Game Area

Wing chair - Randall Tysinger Antiques, Thomasville, NC
Wine racks/storage - Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
Game table - Lars Bolander N.Y., New York, NY
Chairs - Hickory Chair, Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Light fixture over table - Visual Comfort, Lighting Connection, Inc., Miami, FL

Library

Sofa, armchairs and ottoman - Regina Suarez Design & Mfg., Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Armchair and drapery fabrics - B. Berger, Showroom 6, Inc., Miami, FL

. . . continued on next page

Ottoman fabric - Abea Leather, Inc., New York, NY
Barrel chairs - Robert Massello Antiques, Miami, FL
Billiard table - Owner's Collection
Light fixture above billiard table - Nicholas Antiques and Accessories, New York, NY
Bookcases/shelving - Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
Floor lamp between armchairs - David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Window wall sconces - Palmer Hargrave, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Books - Books & Books, Miami Beach, FL
Family Room
Sofa and lounge chairs - Regina Suarez Design & Mfg., Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Pillow and sofa fabrics - Designtex, New York, NY
Lounge chair fabric - Great Plains, Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL
Butler's trolley by chairs - The Shop, New York, NY
Cocktail table - Bradley Hughes, Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Light fixture - Carotto Designs, Just Lamps and Shades, Inc., Miami, FL

Drapery fabric - Noveltex Fabric, MMM Custom Window Treatments, Inc., Boca Raton, FL
Kitchen
Cabinetry and hood - Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
Countertops and flooring - Opustone Granite & Marble Distributors, Miami, FL
Cabinet hardware - Top Knobs, Decorator's Plumbing, Miami, FL
Barstools and chairs - Regina Suarez Design & Mfg., Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Barstool fabric - Arabel Fabrics, Inc., Miami, FL
Chair fabric - Kravet Fabric, Showroom 6, Inc., Miami, FL
Table - Berman Rosetti, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Island lighting fixtures - Susane R Lifestyle Boutique, Miami, FL
Light fixture over table - Remains Lighting, New York, NY
Wall sconces - Sandy Chapman, Circa Lighting, Atlanta, GA
Master Bedroom
Bed and armless sofa - Regina Suarez Design & Mfg., Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Headboard fabric - Holland & Sherry, D&D Building, New York, NY
Sofa fabric - Arabel Fabrics, Miami, FL
Lamps - Tom Thomas, New York, NY

Cocktail table - Lewis Mittman, Nessen Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Accent pillow fabric - Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Armchairs - George Smith, Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
Bedside chests - Gerald Tomlin Antiques, Dallas, TX
Light fixture - Paul Marra Design, Los Angeles, CA
Wall covering - Phillip Jeffries, Ltd., Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - Noveltex, MMM Custom Window Treatments, Inc., Boca Raton, FL
Rear Exterior
Pool - Regency Pool + Spa of FL, Inc., Coral Gables, FL
Limestone deck fabricated by Miami Stone District, Inc., Miami, FL
Sconces/lanterns - Visual Comfort, Lighting Connection, Inc., Miami, FL
Planters by pool - Authentic Provence, Inc., West Palm Beach, FL
Throughout
Millwork, molding, windows and doors - Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
Area rugs - NIBA Rug Collections, Miami, FL
Wood flooring - Hardwood Design, Inc., Boca Raton, FL ♦