

DESIGN + DECOR

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

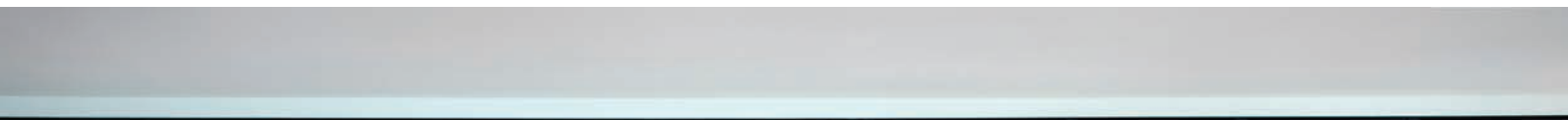


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DUNAGAN DIVERIO DESIGN GROUP









Clean lines and sophisticated finishes are hallmarks of most high-end kitchens today. Contrary to popular belief, countertops are not a repository for small appliances hawking their talents to blend, brew and brown. Kitchens with a large footprint can offer innumerable storage solutions to keep the clutter well hidden, but those in apartments often present an exceptional challenge. Charlotte Dunagan of Dunagan Diverio Design Group understands that understated elegance requires discipline.

There is nothing superfluous in the design of this beautiful Miami Beach penthouse. “We treated this space as if it were a yacht interior,” says Charlotte. Initially, a rather long and disconnected corridor led to a kitchen that felt small and disconnected from the rest of the apartment. Charlotte’s approach involved redesigning the space and extending the finishes on the kitchen cabinetry into the corridor, which created a natural flow and transition. “The wood of the cabinet wall wraps around into the corridor to integrate this volume as if it had always been there,” she explains. “The kitchen no longer reads like an afterthought.”

The appliance wall houses refrigeration and the entrance to a butler’s kitchen. Here, one can slip away to a fully functioning space, where all the small appliances that typically occupy precious counter space are stored and ready for use. Finished in a wood laminate with a heavy durable texture, the cabinets are from German manufacturer Leicht and were procured at Hausscape. The remaining cabinets are finished in a white matte lacquer with anti-fingerprint technology. Statuario marble is used on the cooking island and repeated on the ledge adjacent to the seating area.

The whole creates a timeless, elegant and welcoming atmosphere. The abundance of natural materials—such as the oak flooring, which prevails throughout the apartment—makes the space approachable and comfortable.

A commitment to materials is also evident in the team’s design of a master bath in a Ralph Choëff-designed home in Miami Beach, where the boundaries between interior and exterior are practically erased. Charlotte chose flooring that extends from the interior onto the balcony, changing only to an anti-slip texture. The sliding doors are fully retractable so the balcony becomes an integrated part of the bathroom footprint. All-natural materials of stone, wood and glass create an earthy calm. The floating tub and double vanity from Mia Cucina add graphic and bold contours, and the large mirror reflects the sunlight and water views. A woven wooden bench made from solid canaletta walnut by Porada adds a textural and sculptural finish.

Charlotte’s designs conjure up majestic tapestries in which the meticulous interplay of material, color and line converge to create a masterpiece. The design ethos at Dunagan Diverio can be summed up by the following: “We pride ourselves on creating timeless, elegant and sophisticated interiors that feel welcoming—spaces that are usable and approachable, and feel comfortable and never intimidating.”

Resources

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