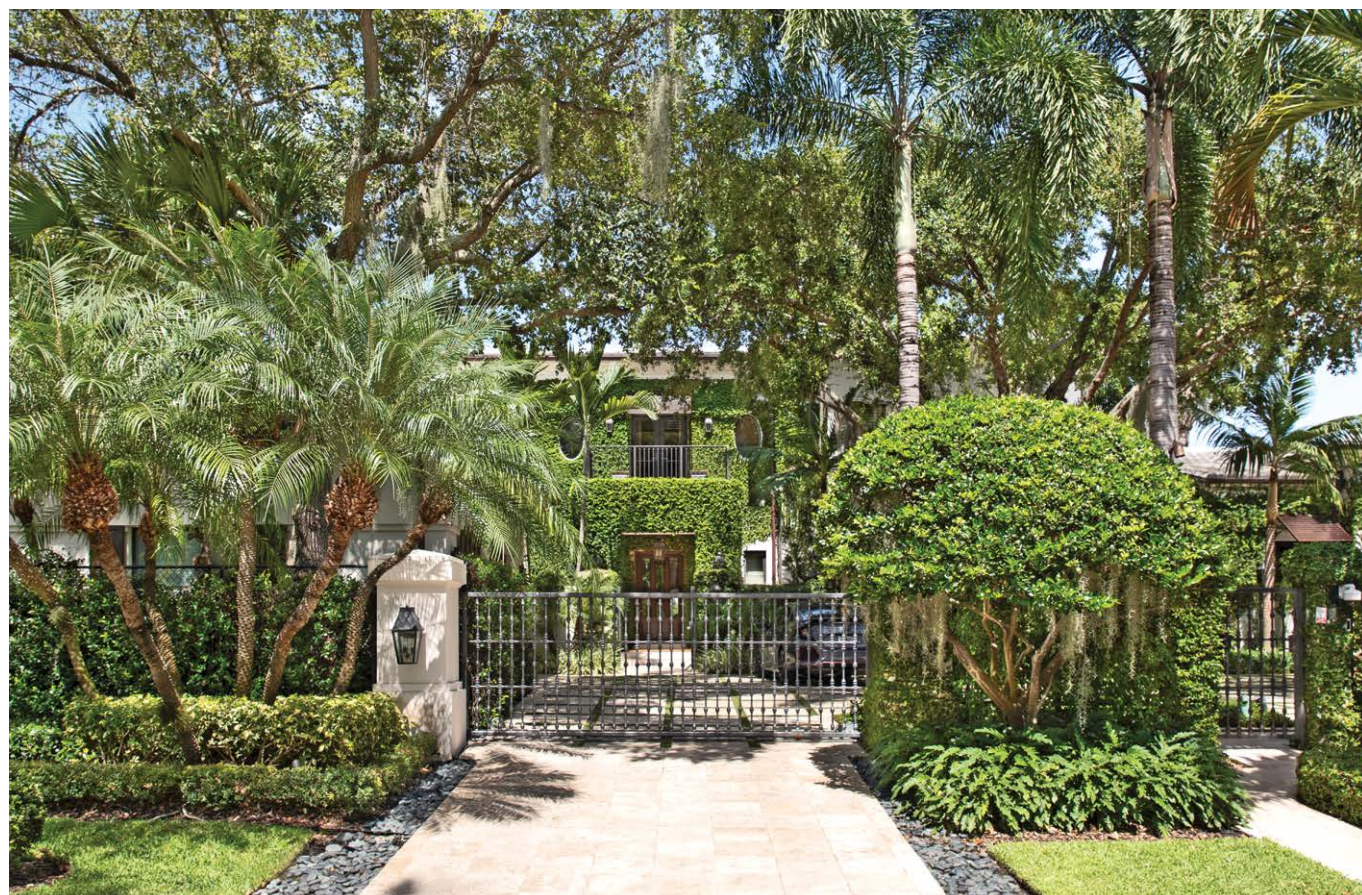


WORK IN PROGRESS

FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, A BON VIVANT COUPLE AND THEIR DESIGN TEAM HAVE REVAMPED THEIR WATERFRONT MIAMI BEACH ESTATE TO SUIT THEIR CHANGING NEEDS... BUT THE EVOLUTION IS FAR FROM OVER



The residence's original pool sits at the core of the property's central garden, which is laden with three-dimensional sculptures that rest between refurbished deck furniture.

INTERIOR DESIGN CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN & THOMAS DIVERIO,
DUNAGAN DIVERIO DESIGN GROUP, CORAL GABLES, FL
ARCHITECTURE THE WEBER STUDIO, KEY BISCAIYNE, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE INTUITIVE DESIGN GROUP, HOBE SOUND, FL
TEXT PAIGE BOWERS
PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL STOPPI, MIAMI, FL

ABOVE: Tucked behind majestic palms and stately oaks brought in from Central Florida, the ivy-covered residence is a hidden oasis of calm and a repository for the homeowners' favorite treasures.

LEFT: A warrior statue by Takeshi Haguri stands next to the doorway to the clients' wine degustation room, and, as designer Charlotte Dunagan puts it, "guards the wine cellar below." A series of 12 images embedded into a concealed paneled door provide visual interest. The pieces are examples of the homeowners' impressive art collection.





An enormous carved block of alabaster stands at the foot of the original stairwell, next to a canine sculpture. On the opposite side of the stairway, a commanding ash-on-linen portrait by Chinese artist Zhang Huan is accentuated by two carved wooden pieces, imbuing the space with an eclectic and collected look.

BELOW: The elevator alcove facing the stairway is one of the newer renovations and includes custom millwork with pocket doors. The additional wall space features artwork from the clients' collection. Dark wood walls and pale stone floors infuse the space with warm natural textures.



ARTISTS OFTEN WRESTLE WITH THE QUESTION of when a work is complete. Some homeowners are the same, but instead of a canvas or sculpture, their focus of attention is the space that surrounds them day in and out.

Eighteen years ago, just such type of clients enlisted designer Charlotte Dunagan for what was to be a straightforward renovation on their two-story waterfront residence in the Venetian Islands. Since then, the makeover has become a much more ambitious and longer-term project that has absorbed four surrounding properties. The result is a large residential estate that serves as a stylish-yet-guest-friendly retreat for the clients' formidable art collection and equally grand lives.

"What's nice about this property is that it has evolved with the clients' needs and lifestyle," says Tom Diverio, partner and design manager at Dunagan Diverio Design Group.

"They began as a family with small children, evolved into a family with teenagers, and now they're a couple of empty nesters"—and proud owners of a home that's the sum of a tasteful life well lived.

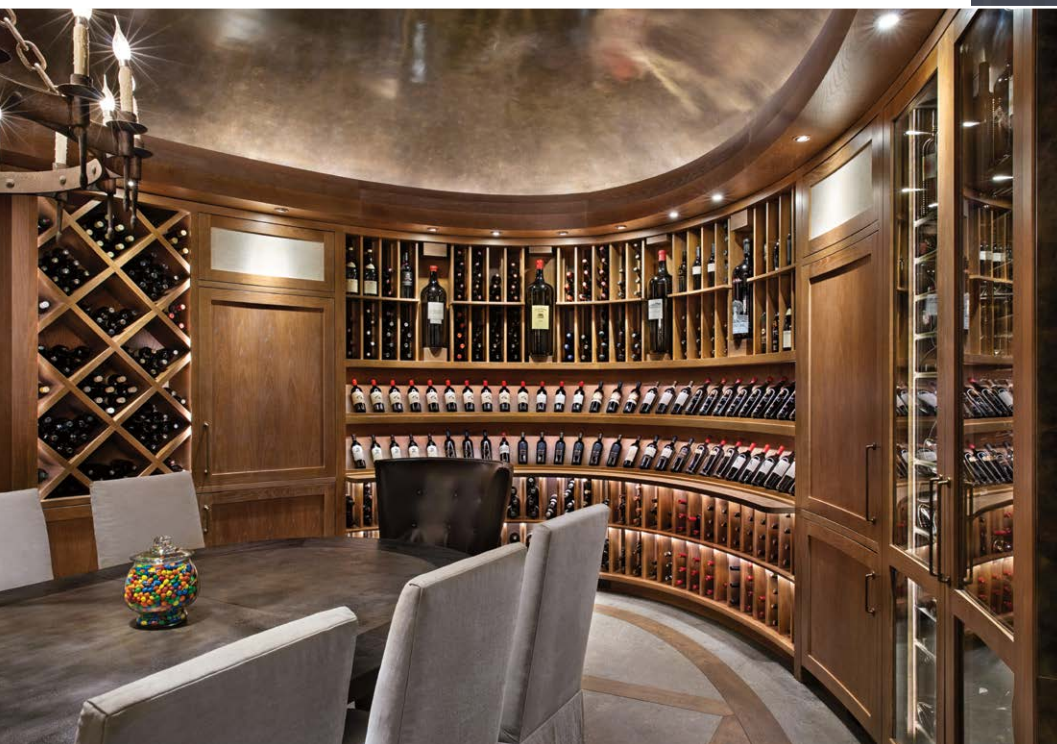
Understated to the oblivious passerby, the residence is anything but. "Once you're on property," says Dunagan, the firm's principal partner, "it's full of surprises." The first of these is the sheer scope of nearly two decades of work. Covered in ivy and nestled among majestic palms and lush vegetation, the 6,000-square-foot main residence includes four bedrooms, five bathrooms, two powder rooms, a generous chef's kitchen, a home office, a media room, and an infinity pool. A newer, nearly 4,000-square-foot guest house was added to the plot and is comprised of two bedroom suites, a wine cellar, media room, a full state-of-the-art gym, and a massage cabana. The clients also added a lap pool to the



ABOVE: The wine cellar, which provides the proper refrigeration for the clients' prized bottles, features the artwork *Blue Orb* by sculptor Anish Kapoor, which brightens up the room.

RIGHT: Warrior statues by Takeshi Haguri flank the entrance to the degustation room. An antique light fixture, painted bronze metal ceiling, and leather banquettes add richness and character to the space.

BELOW: Adjacent to the wine cellar is the degustation room, site of many tastings and wine-paired dinners.



property, as well as a large pavilion for entertaining. Despite the ongoing alterations, the exterior architecture has remained cohesive, making this ever-changing address appear timeless for nearly 20 years.

Another surprise is how Dunagan Diverio's chosen aesthetic has prevented what could be called a small private museum from looking sterile. Instead of cold environs, clean classic lines and natural hued interiors allow each artwork in the clients' collection to stand out. Said grouping includes paintings, sculptures, photography, and three-dimensional installations by talents from all around the world displayed throughout the residence and its vast gardens. As Dunagan puts it: "The collection sets the tone and priority for what's happening within the design."



Oak paneling gives the billiards room a traditional feel, while light diffusers in the molding add warmth to the space.



ABOVE: African masks hang in a long outdoor corridor that leads to the back of the property. "It's the perfect spot for them because it's a covered walkway and everyone has to walk through there to get to the pool," says Diverio.

OPPOSITE: A leafy and tranquil garden sits just outside the home office. "It's a really nice atmosphere out there," says Diverio. "The spigots on the fountain have this wonderful patina that makes it seem like they have been there for a while."

Art is not the clients' only interest on display, however. A trip to Napa Valley years ago cemented a lifelong passion for the vine and has yielded a superior collection of wine. That adoration has its own shrine in the form of a large wine cellar and degustation room that serves as a vault to fine vintages and a social spot for tastings and multicourse dinners.

In terms of ornamentation, the design team didn't dare fight the eccentric appeal of the art, but rather made the most of its presentation by way of texture and palette. As such, natural wood surfaces and neutral stone flooring provide the appropriate backdrop, while furniture selections nod to contemporary tastes.

The ongoing nature of the project has been a creative thrill for Dunagan and Diverio. While some parts require simple tweaks such as refreshing the existing pool furniture with new paint and citrus-tinted cushions, others are more involved, like installing custom pocketing sliding wood doors to accommodate new pieces in the art collection.

"It's like a never-ending assignment, but it never feels repetitive or exhausting, and it's always exciting to see how it will evolve," says Diverio. "This constant work-in-progress is nothing short of a gem."





ABOVE: The guest suite includes a cozy sitting area with warm leather antique chairs and eclectic side tables. The artwork above the sofa is made up of scenes etched onto reclaimed wood barn doors.

BELOW: The guest apartment connects the guest house to the main house; in order for its entry to not compete with the main entrance, it is surrounded by bougainvillea and iron gates.



As the property grew, the client added a lap pool near the guest house. It is conveniently located by the gym and massage cabana.

SOURCES

BACK EXTERIOR/POOL VIEW

Lounge seating – David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
 Umbrellas – Tuuci, Miami, FL
 Pool area custom construction by The Weber Studio, Key Biscayne, FL

ENTRY STAIRWAY

Iron railing custom designed by Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL, and fabricated by Handcraft Millwork, Deerfield Beach, FL
 Stairwell art – Brice Marden, *Han Shan Exit*
 Ash-on-linen portrait – Zhang Huan

WINE CELLAR

Cabinetry designed by Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL, and fabricated by Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
 Blue artwork – Anish Kapoor, *Blue Orb*

WINE ROOM

Cabinetry designed by Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL, and fabricated by Bon Vivant Custom Woodworking, Miami, FL
 Chairs – Artea Home, Miami, FL
 Chandelier – Carlos De La Puente Antiques, New York, NY
 Pedestal – Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL

WARRIOR STATUES

Warrior statues– Takeshi Haguri, *Otokogi Chivalry A. + Otokogi Chivalry Un Art* – Jackson, *Harvest Moon*
BILLIARDS ROOM AND THEATER
 Billiards table – Blatt Billiards, *blattbilliards.com*
 Pencil prints – Old Frame Store, Jupiter, FL
 Ceiling designed by Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL, and fabricated by Handcraft Millwork, Deerfield Beach, FL
 Sofa and cocktail table – Artea Home, Miami, FL
 Photographic artwork – Peter Delaney Photography, *peterdelaneyphotography.com*

GUEST SUITE

Leather club chairs – Owner's collection

COCKTAIL TABLE

Cocktail table – Monica James & Co., Miami, FL
 Artwork above sofa – Owner's collection
POOL AND SPA AREA
 Spa covering designed by The Weber Studio, Key Biscayne, FL
 Drapery fabric – Sunbrella, *sunbrella.com*
THROUGHOUT
 Landscape architecture – Michael Sapuseck, Intuitive Design Group, Hobe Sound, FL
 Cabinetry designed by Dunagan Diverio Design Group, Coral Gables, FL, and fabricated by Handcraft Millwork, Deerfield Beach, FL
 Wall paneling fabricated by Handcraft Millwork, Deerfield Beach, FL