

Natural yet stylish accessories make all the difference as monstera leaf arrangements generate eye-catching results in the living area, where a sleek, chrome floor lamp from Laure de Mazieres and the rectangular-shaped mirror edged in a soft, antique silver leaf add another dimension. The area rug possesses subdued natural tones with contrasting wool and silk fabrics that present an optical illusion of a striping pattern.



## SHADES OF RED

ONE INNOVATIVE DESIGNER DEMONSTRATES SUPREME CREATIVITY IN MIAMI'S EXCLUSIVE ICON BRICKELL

DESIGN BY ALEXANDRA DIEZ, ALEXANDRA DIEZ, INC., CORAL GABLES, FL  
TEXT BY REGINA KAYLIE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE ACCORDINO, MIAMI BEACH, FL



Elevating her creative forte to interior decorating nearly four years ago, Alexandra Diez, former showroom owner and furniture designer, seemed the obvious choice for the resurgence of this apartment in Miami's exclusive Icon Brickell. With a 2,080-square-foot vacation retreat slowly transcending into a primary residence, strategic planning, as well as precise fabric, color and style selections, were critical in achieving a successful makeover. Clean lines, continuity and comfort were the overall impression the owner desired. The golden-taupe marble limestone flooring and a soft, natural color



scheme were necessary ingredients in the designer's formula. "Having one specified era or style was not the intention," Diez says. Escaping tradition, she intentionally evaded customary focal points that are often overstated. "I wanted to promote harmony and symmetry in each room — the eyes should see the whole picture rather than gravitating towards one piece."

Brimming with openness and flavor, the living area surprises with a cautious amount of decor. "Overcrowding the space would contradict the pristine look we were striving to achieve," the designer says. With a color palette of tomato red, natural stone and tobacco bronze tones, Diez carries out the scheme flawlessly throughout. A stone-colored, wool and linen sofa sits in perfect complementary contrast to the custom-designed credenza lacquered in tomato red and edged in brown oak wood — a perpetual conversation piece. The opposite side of the room shows off a pair of "Aster X" chairs by Poltrona Frau while a tobacco-colored, embossed-leather cocktail table from Artefacto centers the space.

Natural tones flow gracefully into the sun-drenched dining area. Nothing shy of captivating, the dining table with its reconstructed glass tabletop accentuated in bronze tones is partnered with wood-framed chairs from Baltus that are lined with antique silver Dedar vinyl. Diez tempers the overall contemporary appearance with a Schonbek French Venetian-inspired crystal chandelier. With a clean and streamlined point of view, the designer integrated a bar that serves well for both entertainment and storage.

Tenacity is exemplified in the master bedroom, where a bed framed with a custom-designed, multi-functional, built-in storage unit demonstrates simplicity yet stands handsomely in a maple grain wood finish. "Craftsmanship needs to be precise to offer

**ABOVE:** With the intent to add color, a sliding, tomato red wood door with a mirrored-finish polish is a strikingly profound element. "Accessories add warmth," designer Alexandra Diez says in reference to quartz votives and bowls from NIBA Home and a Tribal Persian antique area rug.





"TEXTURE IS IMPORTANT FOR CREATING DEPTH," DIEZ SAYS IN REFERENCE TO A WALL IN THE LIVING AREA SHE REFACED WITH NATURAL FLAGSTONE. "I WANTED TO BEAUTIFY THIS IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT BY CREATING TEXTURE AND MOVEMENT WITH AN INTRIGUING AND UNIQUE STAGGERED PATTERN."

CLEAN LINES AND WARM COLORS ARE THE OVERALL MANTRA THAT PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE HOME, WHERE RETRACTABLE BLINDS OPEN TO BREATHTAKING PANORAMIC VIEWS. POSITIVE ENERGY RADIATES WITH CONTINUAL SUNLIGHT — REPRESENTING A VERITABLE IMPRESSION OF MIAMI.



**ABOVE:** Mixing eras and styles clearly exemplifies creativity at its best in the master bath, where twin Schonbek European-style crystal chandeliers partner with antique silver leaf-finished mirrors from Rex Art Framing to make a powerful statement.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Accessories are every bit as important in the master bedroom as Diez pulls the room together with vibrant accent pillows dressed in a beautiful Clarence House Swiss linen with a Japanese foil floral print. “Keeping the same story without confusion,” is what the designer had in mind when she incorporated a basic, straight-lined yet handsome office desk by Bon Vivant. Designed by French designer Philippe Starck, the tomato red chair with Lucite legs from Kartell adds to the drama.





quality,” Diez says. The back wall boasts beautiful, hand-stamped traditional European-style wall covering while the leather bed, a Holly Hunt design, supports a similar color scheme in a soft tobacco hue accented with shades of red.

Walls of fire ignite the master bath, where a breath of red and burnt orange mini-glass tiles from Sicis mix with shades of gold to exude a warm, shimmering ambiance. In the spirit of her “mix-and-match” philosophy, the designer selected a sleek, two-piece sink and vanity in oak wood that offers a hint of ‘70s influence. The beige limestone countertop is fashioned with specialty brushed-chrome fixtures designed by the iconic Philippe Starck — the innovator behind the Icon Brickell.

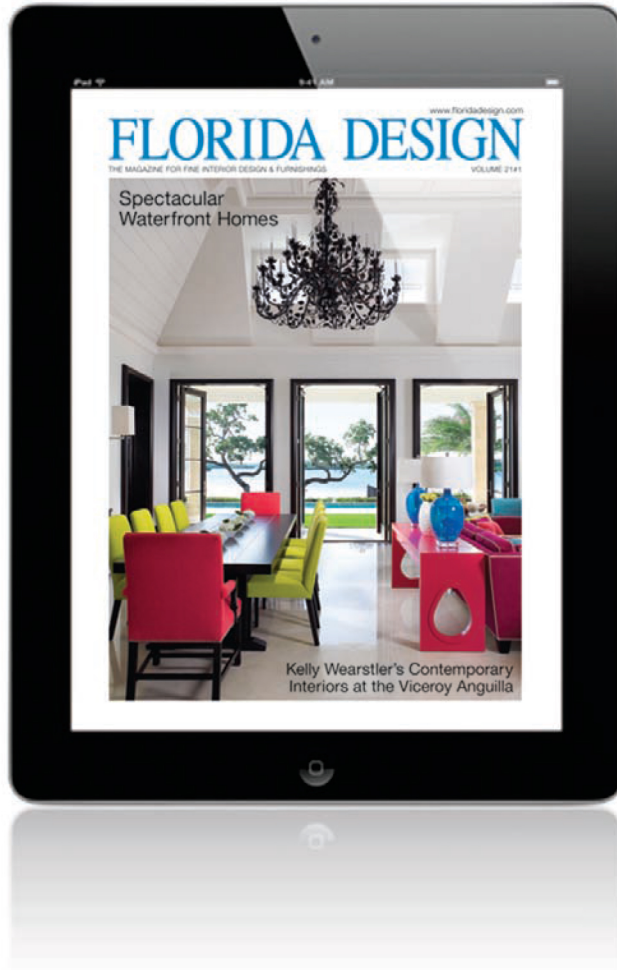
“Rules are not applicable when there is a statement to be made in design,” Diez says. And regardless of styles, eras, fabrics or colors, the allure of this home speaks volumes.



The southern exposure from the terrace boasts intoxicating and sprawling views of Biscayne Bay. Here, matte-finished, marble limestone flooring, hand-carved, one-of-a-kind teak stools from Uzca and the Roche Bobois stately bronze floor vase are all powerful pieces.



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## SHADES OF RED

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### SOURCES

#### LIVING AREA

Sofa - Vibieffe, Arravanti, Miami, FL  
Red armchairs - Poltrona Frau, Miami, FL  
Woven chair - JANUS et Cie, Miami, FL  
Console - Custom designed by Alexandra Diez, Inc., Coral Gables, FL  
Fabricated by Bon Vivant, Miami, FL  
Cocktail table - Artefacto, Coral Gables, FL  
Occasional table and vase - Oggetti, Miami, FL  
Red accent pillow fabric - Creations  
Metaphores, Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL  
Striped accent pillow fabric - Clarence House,  
Jerry Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Table lamp - Kravet, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Chandelier - Schonbek, Farrey's Lighting & Bath,  
Coconut Grove, FL  
Mirror - Rex Art Framing, Miami, FL  
Horn boxes and vases - NIBA Home, Miami, FL  
Floor lamp - Laure de Mazieres, Miami, FL  
Lantern on cocktail table - Ralph Lauren Home,  
Laure de Mazieres, Miami, FL  
Bronze bowl - Thomas Pheasant, Baker  
Furniture, Coral Gables, FL  
Area rug - Odegard, Inc., Miami, FL

#### DINING AREA

Dining table base, quartz votives and  
bowls - NIBA Home, Miami, FL  
Tabletop - Granite Transformations, Miami, FL  
Chairs - Baltus, Miami, FL  
Bar stools - Brueton, E.G. Cody, DCOTA,  
Dania Beach, FL  
Bar fabricated by Airam Stone Designs, Inc.,  
Miami, FL  
Wooden urns - Uzca, Miami, FL  
Area rug - Royal Oriental Rugs, Coral Gables, FL

#### MASTER BATH

Vanity and cabinetry - Custom designed by  
Alexandra Diez, Inc., Coral Gables, FL  
Fabricated by Bon Vivant, Miami, FL  
Sinks and faucets - Coral Gables Kitchen  
and Bath, Coral Gables, FL  
Glass mosaic wall treatment - Sisis, Casa Cielo  
Tile & Mosaic, Miami, FL  
Chandeliers - Schonbek, Farrey's Lighting & Bath,  
Coconut Grove, FL  
Mirrors - Rex Art Framing, Miami, FL  
Area rug - Royal Oriental Rugs, Coral Gables, FL

#### MASTER BEDROOM

Bed, wood cabinetry and desk - Custom designed  
by Alexandra Diez, Inc., Coral Gables, FL  
Headboard leather - Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL  
Wood cabinetry and desk fabricated by  
Bon Vivant, Miami, FL  
Bed covering - Sferra, ThreadCount, Miami, FL  
Accent pillow fabrics - Clarence House, Jerry  
Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Desk chair - Philippe Starck, Kartell, Miami, FL  
Table lamp - Laure de Mazieres, Miami, FL  
Chandelier - Schonbek, Farrey's Lighting & Bath,  
Coconut Grove, FL  
Wall covering - David Goldberg Design Corp.,  
Jerry Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

#### TERRACE

Bistro table and chairs - JANUS et Cie, Miami, FL  
Cushion fabric - Clarence House, Jerry Pair &  
Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Teak stools - Uzca, Miami, FL  
Bronze vase - Roche Bobois, Coral Gables, FL  
Hurricane lamps - Berber Trading Co., Miami, FL

#### THROUGHOUT

Marble flooring - Airam Stone Designs, Miami, FL  
Audio and video - A & I Solutions, Inc., Miami, FL  
Window treatments - Hunter Douglas, Ada  
Interiors, Miami, FL **M**



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