



The exterior of the home exemplifies Miami Modern (MiMo) architecture in the tradition of famed architect Morris Lapidus and others who pioneered modern architecture in South Beach. Clean lines and a generous use of glass are a precursor to what lies within in this open home.

TROPICAL MODERNISM

MIAMI MODERN ARCHITECTURE MEETS
MARINE-STYLE DESIGN IN A YACHT-INSPIRED
HABITAT WITH VIEWS OF BISCAYNE BAY

DESIGN AND INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE REINALDO BORGES,
BORGES & BORGES ASSOCIATES, MIAMI, FL, AND
MARK DIAZ, MAD DESIGN, MIAMI, FL
TEXT ROBIN HODES
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REFLECTIVE SURFACES FROM
HIGHLY POLISHED, DARK
GRAY STONE FLOORS, TO AN
IMPRESSIVE GLASS AND
STEEL STAIRWAY, CONVEY A
LUSTROUS LOOK TO THE
FOYER — AND A SENSE THAT
ONE HAS JUST BOARDED A
LUXURY CRUISE SHIP.



Understated in its decor, the dining room effectively joins stark black and white, its masculine overtones softened by an organically shaped light fixture that closes the gap from ceiling to tabletop.

Expanses of glass, rich wood finishes and spectacular water views are richly appointed elements one might find on a luxury yacht. For homeowner Hassan Jalali, they serve as inspiration for the design of his 4,700-square-foot, Palm Island home in Miami Beach, Fla. It's a vision he would soon realize when he appointed architect and designer Reinaldo Borges, whose diverse portfolio includes projects ranging from airports to museums and to resort hotels, to oversee the project. "Everything is inspired by nautical architecture which drove the look and feel of the home," Borges says. "Jalali followed that motif with the material and color palette he selected." With boating and water sports on Biscayne Bay, and the Port of Miami in its sights, marine-like influences abound in the home's fluid design.

A glass stairway in the foyer instantly sets the tone for transparency and light, which according to Borges, conveys the home's fresh and modern motif. A second floor walkway, also designed in glass, enhances the feeling of volume and openness. The entry walls, treated with a combination of solid rosewood and Venetian plaster in tones of black, gray and white, impart a glossy sheen that creates gentle movement reminiscent of glistening waters that are touched by the sun.

Stainless steel countertops, a Caesarstone island and utilitarian barstools by Beau Living in white leatherette, combine to create an ultramodern kitchen that is as stylish as it is functional.



In the living room, a nautical palette of dark navy cloth on the sectional, and crisp white fabric on the sofa and chair, all from Beau Living, blend seamlessly into the yacht-inspired decor of the home. Delicate overhead lighting in steel gently sheds light that captures the essence of a chic Manhattan apartment.



Interior walls richly appointed in rosewood lead to a state-of-the-art kitchen with an ultra-sleek expanse of floor-to-ceiling cabinetry in an aluminum finish. The space flows easily from the kitchen to the living area, where custom cabinetry of black lacquer, glass and macassar ebony is prominently showcased. Here, Jalali desired a cozier feel. "I preferred a modern feel to the interior and exterior of the home," he says, "but with warmer materials used inside."

Nearby in the dining room, stately furnishings by Armani combine a faux-crocodile table in white lacquer and a set of black-leatherette armless chairs. A unique window treatment in glistening polyester strands from Costa conveys the illusion of a shimmering waterfall that allows natural light in and offers privacy.

Unobstructed bay views provide a glorious backdrop to the spacious and airy recreation room, where a glossy antique billiard table enjoys center stage. "The room has a feeling of island living that is very connected to the water, but is also very eventful," Borges says.

Jalali, who hand-selected the interior materials, employs darker woods in the master suite, using African wenge wood to line the floors as well as the ceiling. "When you're in the master suite, you are fully contained," says the homeowner of the sleek, calming retreat. Simple bed linens in sandy-colored natural weaves provide a welcome contrast to deeper tones. With 20-foot glass windows offering breathtaking bay views, the master suite spans the width of the entire home.

Stately upholstered chairs offer abundant seating in the dining area, where a sculptural chandelier from Light Bulbs Unlimited casts a luminous glow over the space. Nearby, a bone-white, restored lacquer and stainless steel billiard table in the recreation room, right, provides hours of easy entertaining.







SOURCES

EXTERIOR

Stairway fabricated by Valencia Coverings, Miami, FL
Shutters - Miami Fabricators, Inc., Hialeah, FL
Lighting - Light Bulbs Unlimited, Boca Raton, FL

STAIRWAY/FOYER

Stairway fabricated by Valencia Coverings, Miami, FL
Wall coverings - Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

Drapery fabric - Costa Window Treatments, Miami, FL

DINING AREA

Dining table and chairs - Armani Exchange, Miami Beach, FL
Bar stool - Beau Living LLC, Miami, FL
Wall covering - Italian Creation Marble and Painting Corp., Miami, FL
Chandelier and pendants - Light Bulbs Unlimited, Boca Raton, FL
Tableware - Z Gallerie, Inc., South Miami, FL

Window treatment - Costa Window Treatments, Miami, FL

KITCHEN

Bar countertop fabricated by Bulthaup Corp., Miami, FL
Bar stools and pendants - Beau Living LLC, Miami, FL
Cabinetry and ceiling treatment - Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

LIVING AREA

Sofas, armchair, accent pillows, cocktail table, occasional table and vase - Beau Living LLC, Miami, FL



The home truly works as a joint effort with Borges orchestrating the architectural and Jalali, a general contractor, managing the interiors. “The house has to become part of the client’s distinctive personal taste,” Borges says. “Modernism tends to be cold and harsh — one of the things we do to warm it up is to use rich stones and wood surfaces.” Care was taken to ensure that the home was low key and relaxed, in proportion, and not overly voluminous — in keeping with island living.

Throughout the home, with a theme consistent with movement and flow amongst colors and textures throughout the residence, each space clearly has its own defined personality. “In every room of the home you get a slightly different feeling,” Jalali says. It’s like moving from one destination to the next ... the scenery is always changing.” The final result is an exceptionally pleasing home — a true collaborative effort between a homeowner and a designer in perfect sync.

LEFT AND BELOW: Horizontal slats of macassar ebony adorn the wall of Bon Vivant’s headboard and the TV console in the master suite. The low-sloping, bone leather bed from Beau Living, mirrors a grand suite in the cabin of an opulent cruise vessel. The master bath features beige Caesarstone countertops and a tub carved from limestone.



Wall covering, flowers and horse statue - Z Gallerie, Inc., Miami, FL

Cabinetry, accessories, shelving, mirror and lighting - Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

RECREATION ROOM

Billiard table - Owner’s collection

Pendants- Light Bulbs Unlimited, Boca Raton, FL

Glass doors - NanaWall® System, Mill Valley, CA

MASTER SUITE

Bed, bed coverings, pillows, bedside table and lamp - Beau Living LLC, Miami, FL

Headboard and TV console - Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

Closets - Amadi Closets, Miami, FL

MASTER BATH

Tub - Farrey’s Lighting and Bath, North Miami, FL

Countertop and mirror - Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

Window fabricated by La Finestra, Miami, FL

Recessed lighting and pendants - Light Bulbs Unlimited, Boca Raton, FL

THROUGHOUT

Landscape architecture - H2 Construction, LLC, Miami, FL

Millwork and ceiling fabricated by Bon Vivant Corp., Miami, FL

Recessed lighting - Light Bulbs Unlimited, Boca Raton, FL

Flooring - Valencia Coverings, Miami, FL **M**