

# FLORIDA DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN & FURNISHINGS

SUMMER 2007

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A cool blue-on-blue linen Donghia daybed and ottoman balance the vibrant tones of a Chagall-inspired ceiling mural in the family room.

# BOUQUET ON BISCAYNE BAY

A Coral Gables Haven Blends Color,  
Romance And Elegance

INTERIOR DESIGN Vincenzo Avanzato with Marie Siari,  
Avanzato Design Associates, Inc., Miami, FL

TEXT Juliette Guilbert

PHOTOGRAPHY Troy Campbell, Miami, FL







"We designed the beach to be used for relaxation and family gatherings — for children to play, to have picnics and lounge in the hammock," interior designer Vincenzo Avanzato says. The canopied beds create an exotic feel that "could be in Mexico or Thailand" as easily as Miami.



Vincenzo custom designed side chairs covered in Scalamandré to center an antique table in the dining room. "I felt that the room's perspective was linear, and the chairs' splayed legs add a wonderful contrast," he says. A collection of '30s art glass offers a touch of Art Deco.





"ART IS NOT A DESIGN THEME,"  
VINCENZO SAYS. "IT SHOULD SPEAK  
FOR ITSELF, NOT BE DECORATED AROUND."



FOR INTERIOR DESIGNER VINCENZO Avanzato, this house in Coral Gables was a labor of love, growing from his clients' zest for life, family and art. "It was a love relationship," Vincenzo says. "It wasn't something we did overnight — we slowly waded into the water and it flourished from there."

The owner of this 1950s-style John Volk original home wanted to turn its 13,000 square feet into a family retreat for him and his grown children. Vincenzo embarked upon

ABOVE: Art and artifice intersect in the foyer, where "Diva III," a Tom Corbin bronze sculpture, stands tall in the foreground above a trompe l'oeil rug that grounds an onyx-topped Neopolitan console, circa 1800, while "Blue Package," an oil on canvas by Claudio Bravo, resonates from the adjacent family room.



"I feel like a chameleon," the designer says. "I adapt the design to suit my clients' individual desires. It is personalized and evolves from conversations."



a youthful, contemporary design that offers ample space for both private relaxation and large-scale entertaining centered around a courtyard. Here, tropical breezes invite dining alfresco and palm-shaded beds covered with sheer curtains tempt lounging on the bayfront beach.

ABOVE: A luxe boudoir takes shape in a powder room, where a mid 19th-century Venetian chair dressed in a shimmering gold Pierre Frey pairs with a Parisian-style table and an ornate French gilt mirror, circa 1880.





In the living room, George III armchairs rub elbows with a 19th-century  
Tuscan fauteuil from Thierien. Here, a bouquet of color and texture is layered  
with floral prints from Etamine and brilliant hues from Bergamo.  
The Gorky's "Table Top" dresses a side wall, while Fernando Botero's  
"Mera Degli Sposi" pops above a Vincent Frank sofa from Tui Pranchi.







A Paul Ferrante tassel chandelier lightens the mood in the library, where "Nature Morte," a boldly geometric 1923 painting by Fernand Léger, presides over Lucien Rollin lounge chairs from The William Switzer Collection clad in a vivid orange suede from Holly Hunt.

"The house has been in his family for years, and it had more of a classic feel to it," Vincenzo says. "It was definitely time to revamp." In the reimagined spaces of the interiors, art is everywhere, including works by Renoir, Gorky, Botero and Bravo. The owners' passion for Chagall prompted the designer's deft use of vibrant color and provided the inspiration for the ceiling mural in the family room, which gives way to a colorful yet sophisticated aesthetic.

Vincenzo also used decorative treatments to transform ordinary walls into works of art. Pale

yellow glazing striated to reveal florals in mauve, green and red paints the dining room in sunny warmth. Here, a grand Louis XVI-style Cuban mahogany and metal ormolu table juxtaposes with a breakfast banquette for informal dining. Perhaps the most striking finish is found in the foyer to the family room, where Vincenzo and his artisans created a trompe l'oeil area rug based on an antique textile design in lilac, ochre and russet.

To satisfy the owners' penchant for entertaining, the living room boasts no less than six conversation groupings. A banquette and two back-to-back sofas



At once fresh and stately, the master bedroom lends a refined air, where a stenciled Asian motif of linen-textured striations wraps the walls in regal elegance to frame "Tete de Femme" by Auguste Renoir.




divide the large space into intimate units for socializing — retaining the grand scale with richly textured yellow walls, an abundance of antiques and subtle floral fabrics. "Like nature itself, the whole room is an exquisite bouquet of flowers," Vincenzo says.

The designer's masterful subtlety continues in the powder room, where he created a lighted niche inset with a gilt fretwork antique mirror against a backdrop of Venetian plaster. "It's a boudoir for the ladies," he says. And in the only departure from the home's signature palette,

existing English pine paneling in the library was lovingly restored, and the bookshelves backlit to provide soft lighting in the gentlemanly space.

With the bones of the lushly landscaped brick courtyard in place, Vincenzo designed this area to highlight the owners' love of travel with Asian-accented tableware to complement their collection of Buddhist statuary. "They travel extensively and have exquisite taste," Vincenzo says. "I was shopping in London and called my client to consult. He simply said, 'Your job is to buy beautiful things, my job is to look at them.'" Mission accomplished.





Torchières edge teak furnishings in the courtyard, where Vincenzo made use of the owners' collection of Southeast Asian statuary and oilcloth parasols to intensify the exotic ambiance.