

INTERIOR DESIGN Renata Pfuner,  
Pfuner Design, Inc., Miami, FL  
TEXT Robin Hodes  
PHOTOGRAPHY Craig Denis, Miami, FL

Smoke and mirrors are all part of the magic in the stairway and dining area, where gray shades appear from the stainless steel on the stairway railings, to the silver leaf finish and velvet upholstery on an elegant set of dining chairs by Christopher Guy.

## ABSOLUTELY WHITE

Once Partial To Traditional Decor, A Couple Embraces Cool, Contemporary Design ... And In Their Miami Penthouse, A Canvas Of White Feels Just Right

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THERE WAS A TIME MILENA BIROV AND HER husband couldn't possibly have imagined living in an ultra-modern residence. Not only had they veered toward the traditional in their own home, but their fondness for a more conventional look transcended into business as well. "We are the developers of upscale luxury homes on the North Shore of Chicago, and most of the houses we build are traditional," Birov says. "We needed somebody who could help us transition to the more contemporary style of Miami." When they worked on a previous penthouse with interior designer Renata Pfuner, the Birovs "dipped their toes" so to speak, bringing some transitional elements into the mix and experimenting with the contrast between light stones and dark woods. However, on their second project with Pfuner, a 5,150-square-foot penthouse in the spectacular Jade Ocean condominium in Sunny Isles Beach, Fla., all traces of traditional fade away.

RIGHT: High gloss white-lacquer surrounds simulate the ocean at its calmest and most reflective, while the textured pattern on the bar base and cabinetry suggests a wave-like movement beneath shimmering pendants from Luxe Cable & Light.





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A mother-of-pearl backsplash adds an iridescent glow in the spacious kitchen equipped with state-of-the-art Miele appliances, black granite countertops and a quartzite island.



With all systems go on the journey to a lighter look, the homeowners were in favor of Pfuner's interior scheme in white — who'd have ever guessed that the absence of color itself would be the one that most moved them? That said, Birov momentarily tapped her foot on the brake when she feared things might look too sterile. As Pfuner started to work her magic, adding luxurious chandeliers, plush area rugs, and occasional bursts of color to the predominantly white, silver and gray palette, her comfort level was restored. "I am a minimalist designer, but when a client comes from a traditional background as they do, I always bring in some elements to detract from the minimalism and make it more approachable for them," Pfuner says.

The designer did not hold back at the entry, where she uses two magnificent light sources to captivate the eye. The first, by Artglass International, veritably drips white Murano glass down the stairway that sets the tone of translucency from the start. "I really wanted them to have the Atlantis chandelier," says Pfuner of the

LEFT: A white-lacquer Italian table with a mirrored inset, and chairs from Judith Norman shaped with an airy and festive cutout design, suggest a bit of fun and whimsy in the breakfast area.



second, a stunning and unusual Terzani fixture comprised of a canopy of draped chain links that illuminates the dining area. "It really adds sparkle to the space and bespeaks luxury." Calacatta marble flooring augments the elegance factor, while lacquered wall panels add a high-gloss sheen. Alongside, a segment of white quartz stone creates textural interest.

Not one to shy away from bling, Pfuner chose a pair of white leather sofas tufted with Swarovski crystals for the living area. Though the furnishings may be sleek and jeweled, the family loves to cozy up in this favorite gathering spot and watch television. The nearby bar offers that same opportunity, with a custom built-in unit that utilizes quartzite countertops and walnut insets for an attractive setting in which to enjoy drinks and conversation amid glorious ocean vistas. "You feel like you're on a ship surrounded by water," Birov says.

The water theme extends into the breakfast area, where yet another eye-popping chandelier bursts with effervescent "bubbles" of Murano glass. "I loved the playfulness of this piece," Pfuner says. Streamlined white cabinetry with stainless accents runs the expanse of the kitchen, where Pfuner raised the ceilings to bring a sense of height to the space.



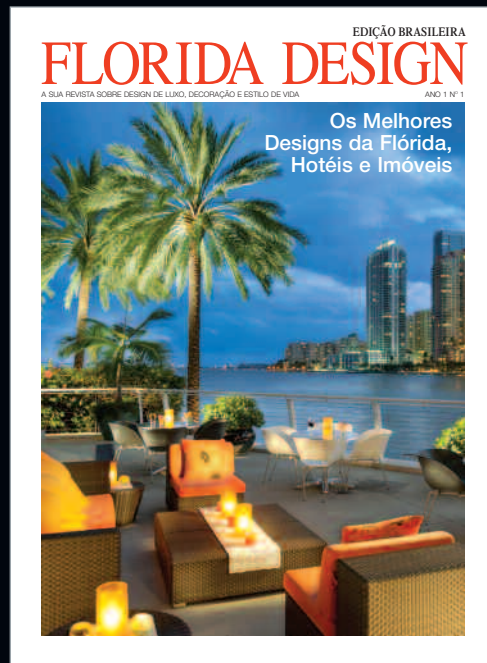
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The cool, contemporary style with luxurious influences is a true collaboration between Pfuner, who has a flair for drama and knows how to showcase it, and homeowner Milena Birov, who understands design and appreciates high quality pieces.

ABOVE: Murano glass undulates like floating sea creatures on the Italian chandelier and sconces from Leucos in the master bedroom. The headboard wall is recessed, with high gloss white lacquer panels bringing glamour to the bed from Artglass International and bedside chests from Neiman Marcus.

ABOVE LEFT: Swirls of mosaic glass tiles from Sicis adorn the flooring in the master bath. Whether relaxing in the roomy Hydrology bathtub or resting in the body hugging, white leather chair by Longhi, the oceanic panorama is virtually endless.

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Using the sea for inspiration, the master bedroom is tinged with silver and blue-gray, from the shimmering bedding on a white-leather tufted bed, to the glamorous pair of mirrored bedside chests from Neiman Marcus. A vaulted ceiling is embellished with a lustrous paper from Innovations, which features hundreds of silvery glass beads. "When you are in Miami, especially on the beach, you want to capitalize on the view," Pfuner says. With this in mind, she and the Birovs demolished the half-walls in the master bedroom and bath, replacing them with floor to ceiling walls of glass — slanted windows characteristic to that portion of the building.

"Ever since we first visited Sunny Isles, we fell in love with it," Birov says. "The beautiful sandy beaches, numerous fine restaurants, the stretch of stately condo buildings ... the Jade Ocean is the one that stands out like a gem." And with Pfuner's influence, this penthouse sparkles with the clarity of white diamonds.

**SOURCES**

Dining Area

Dining table and chairs - Christopher Guy, Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cabinetry - Longhi, Artglass International LLC, Naples, FL

Orchid centerpiece - Emilio Robba, Miami, FL

Chandelier and wall sconces - Terzani, Artglass International LLC, Naples, FL

Mirrored wall treatment fabricated by PH Glass, Miami, FL

Quartz-stone wall treatment - IBC Construction, Inc., Miami, FL

Stairway

Calacatta marble stairway - Custom designed by Pfuner Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Fabricated by IBC Construction, Inc., Miami, FL

Lacquered wall panels fabricated by WK Custom Design & Cabinetry, Chicago, IL

Murano glass chandelier - Artglass International LLC, Naples, FL

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Artwork - Owners' Collection

Living Area

Sofa and ottoman - Longhi, Artglass International LLC, Naples, FL

Accent pillow fabric - Donghia, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table and centerpiece - Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Florals - Emilio Robba, Miami, FL

Cabinetry and wood wall treatment - Custom designed by Pfuner Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Fabricated by WK Custom Design & Cabinetry, Chicago, IL

Artwork - Yelena Klairmont, Chicago, IL

Bar Area

Cabinetry and bar - Custom designed by Pfuner Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Bar fabricated by WK Custom Design & Cabinetry, Chicago, IL

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Barstools - Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Pendants - Luxe Cable & Light, Miami, FL

Samsung TV, pear accessories and glassware - Owners' Collection

Draper fabric - D & L Rainbow Verticals, Dania Beach, FL

Window blinds - Rollingshield, Miami, FL

Breakfast Area

Dining table - Elite Light & Living, North Miami Beach, FL

Chairs - Judith Norman, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cabinetry fabricated by WK

Custom Design & Cabinetry, Chicago, IL

Samsung TV - Owners' Collection

Accessories on shelving - Britto

Central, Inc., Miami, Beach, FL

Chandelier - Artglass International

LLC, Naples, FL

Kitchen

Counter stools - Judith Norman,

DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Accessories, clock and

artwork - Owners' Collection

Double oven, cooktop, hood and

refrigerator - Miele, The Drimmer

Group, Miami, FL

Faucet - Dornbracht, Farrey's

Wholesale Hardware Co., Inc.,

North Miami, FL

Light fixture and pendants - Luxe

Cable + Light, Miami, FL

Master Bath

Tub - Hydrology, Advantage

Kitchen & Bath, Niles, IL

Chair - Longhi, Artglass

International LLC, Naples, FL

Light fixture and wall

sconces - LBL Lighting, supplier

Idlewood Electric Supply, Inc.,

Highland Park, IL

Corner vases - Emilio Robba,

Miami, FL

Flooring - Sisis The Art Mosaic

Factory, New York, NY

Master Bedroom

Bed - Bretz, Artglass International

LLC, Naples, FL

Bed coverings, accessories and

artwork - Owners' Collection

Bedside chests - Neiman Marcus,

Coral Gables, FL

Sofa - Longhi, Artglass

International LLC, Naples, FL

Chandelier and sconces - Leucos

USA, Inc., Edison, NJ

Glass wall fabricated by PH Glass,

Miami, FL

Headboard wall panels fabricated

by WK Custom Design & Cabinetry,

Chicago, IL

Draper fabric - D & L Rainbow

Verticals, Dania Beach, FL

Throughout

Ceiling treatments - Custom

designed by Pfuner Design, Inc.,

Miami, FL

Fabricated by IBC Construction,

Inc., Miami, FL

Flooring - Opustone, Miami, FL ♦