

SINGAPORE

home concepts

INSPIRING HOME DESIGNS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011 / \$4.80



Join us on Facebook!
Home Concepts Magazine SG



**HOLIDAY HOMES
KEEP WARM IN STYLE AND
IN SUNNY CLIMATES**

COUCHES TO PERK UP
A LIVING ROOM INSTANTLY

HANDY TIPS TO REVAMP
YOUR OWN HOME FOYER

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY
TO AGE-PROOF YOUR HOME

GROW YOUR SPACE WITH
NIFTY STORAGE SOLUTIONS



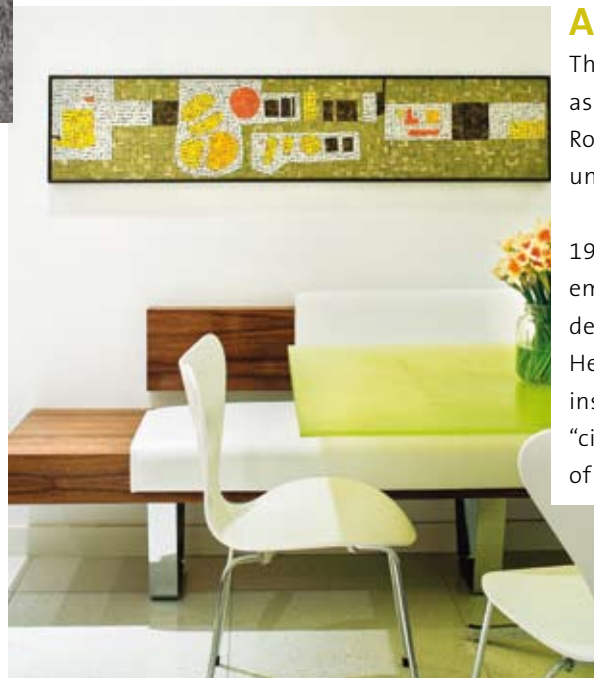
AMIDST THE LUSH TROPICAL LANDSCAPE OF SAN MARINO ISLAND IN MIAMI, FLORIDA RESIDES A gorgeous single-storey house that reflects an eclectic mix of mid-century style intertwined with modern contemporary design.

Showing off rich architectural character symbolic of the 1930s art deco style, this sleek abode features a roof terrace, an outdoor pool flanked by a beautiful flagstone wall with running water, and a 300-square-foot pool house which serves as accommodation for guests.

History Redesigned

Art deco style juxtaposed with cosmopolitan flair brings out the character of this updated 1930s Miami home

words annabel middleton



A Kaleidoscope of Colours

The owner—a New York attorney who uses the home primarily as a weekend and vacation home—called on interior designer Robert Kaner of Robert Kaner Interior Design in New York City to unearth the design potential of this historical residence.

For this Miami pad which had a new extension added in 1990, Robert implemented lines and mid-century pieces while employing bold splashes of colour to complement both the art deco style of the main house and the more modern addition. He chose yellows and greens as accent colours, which were inspired by the tropical vegetation surrounding the house, while “citrus tones in the front room are incorporated to give a sense of freshness and vibrancy,” explains Robert.



“The use of white with strong colour accents creates a much different feel from the owner’s New York City residence,” points out Robert. “The envelope of the house is all white, creating an open feel. Its white tones unify the space and provide a lot of breathing room around the stronger, striking colours.”



The Pool House

Robert adopted shades from the orange/burnt-orange family, as “orange accents in the front room connotes the sun and are intended to pull in colours of the flowers,” he says, “while the white and blue tones, which connote water, dominate the sleeping, dressing and bath areas.”

Customised shelving and cleverly designed cabinetry conceal the appliances, including a washer and dryer, as well as a refrigerator and freezer that form the base for the table which accommodates the two stools.

“I used a system of gridded panels of various colours to create a more sculptural installation with some open space around it, so that the room feels bounded by the outer walls rather than the built-in cabinetry,” explains Robert.

In the washroom, the glass shower cube helps to maintain an open feel for the fairly small space, while reflecting the sensual and sometimes exhibitionistic ethos of South Beach.



“A biomorphic-shaped coffee table provides a nice geometric counterpoint to the rectilinear lines of the sofa and banquette, and bridges the space between the sofa and lounge chair”



The Living Room

Throughout the house and pool house, the floors are lined with large white terrazzo rectangular tiles, which form a uniform field to connect the spaces.

About his choice of furniture, Robert says, “A biomorphic-shaped coffee table provides a nice geometric counterpoint to the rectilinear lines of the sofa and banquette, and bridges the space between the sofa and lounge chair.”

Resting on an Alpaca Boucle rug, the sectional sofa serves to define the living room area within the larger space. Its low and partial back allows an open flow—and a view to the den behind.



The Den

In this second living room, blacks and woods—rather than the whites and woods of the main living room — create warmth and intimacy for hanging out, reading or watching TV. An Alpaca shag rug lines the floor and a zebra-print armchair adds a striking touch, while a custom-designed sleeper sofa converts into an extra bed for guests.

“The variety of furniture forms are intended to create a cosmopolitan flavour for the house reflective of the ethos of Miami,” says Robert.



The Dining Area

The kitchen cabinets show off a silvery-grey matte lacquer, and white thassos marble countertops create a clean space for the home chef. Upper cabinets form a narrow horizontal band in etched glass while the refrigerator is concealed in a cabinet.

For a cosy nook to dine, Robert installed a bench into the wall, enhanced with upholstery for comfortable seating. The table is a custom-designed cast resin tabletop with a stainless steel armature to support it, mounted on a vintage Florence Knoll table base.

“Using the dining banquette allowed us to move the table closer to the edge of the space and help the circulation and flow through this area of the house,” says Robert.



The Master Bedroom

Simplicity is the order of the day in the bedroom. Bright yellow nightstands accent a largely white-coloured space. For a unique touch, Robert included eye-catching round bedside tables by Cappellini, which are made of a plastic material.

Combining a modernist design approach with an appreciation for the art deco style of the past, Robert’s designer touch has transformed a piece of history into a modern day holiday home that brings vacationing to a whole new level of finesse and style. **HC**



DESIGNER TIP

If you want to play with bold colours in your home, “a little goes a long way”:

- have a lot of neutral/white breathing space around bold colours so that they can be appreciated and not overwhelm the senses.
- pick a very constrained range for the bold accent colours in a space, so that there is a coherence to the bold colours one experiences in the space.