

LEFT: A corner of the living room in the 1,700-square-foot apartment reveals a painting titled *Tree of Life* by Bruce Rubenstein above a modular sofa by Eichholtz.

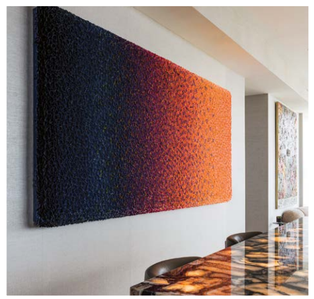
Downtown Vibes

DESIGNER JOE FAVA DELIVERS A MIAMI VACATION RESIDENCE DEFINED BY ITS URBAN LOCATION

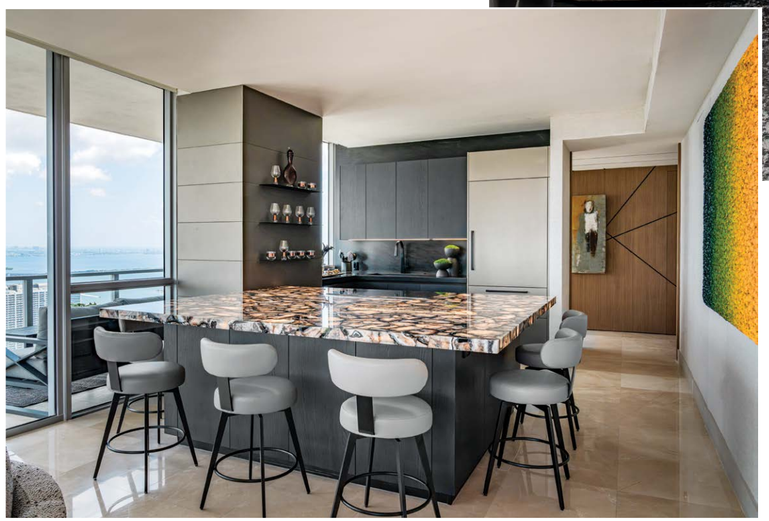
TEXT FLORIAN JOUIN | RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY VENJHAMIN REYES



Overlooking Downtown Miami, the living room offers a composition of color, texture, and sculptural forms that defines the residence's contemporary design. Furniture selections include a sofa, chair, and coffee tables from Eichholtz, all anchored by a gray area rug by Stark. Designer Joe Fava incorporated underlit black oak shelves into the residence's structural support column to create an art-inspired feature.



ABOVE: Near the kitchen's dining island, a painting by Chinese artist Zhuang Hong-Yi was commissioned for the apartment through SmithDavidson Gallery in Miami.



RIGHT: The surface of the kitchen's dining island is made up of two slabs of agate from Stone Design by Santos, which inspired the color scheme of the residence. The gray stain on the Pedini cabinetry matches the gray leather upholstery on the barstools from Interlude.

DESIGNER PHOTO BY GREG LOTUS/COURTESY OF FAVA DESIGN GROUP

When longtime friends called on Joe Fava to lean into Miami's chic spirit when designing their vacation condo residence in Downtown's Park West neighborhood, the designer knew exactly what they wanted. With assistance from Camilla Semas and Jennifer Miller from his team, he crafted an elegant urban retreat with sleek lines and a personal art collection.

What was the design directive for this residence? The clients, who are friends of mine for 40 years and attended the University of Miami with me, wanted a real Miami-inspired vacation condo, perfect for entertaining friends and spending long weekends here. And they absolutely wanted a vibe that was completely different from the one in their traditional home up north in Virginia where they live for most of the year.

What kind of design aesthetic were they looking for? They asked for sleek lines with interesting features and textures. They wanted a contemporary look with a warm color palette, minimal



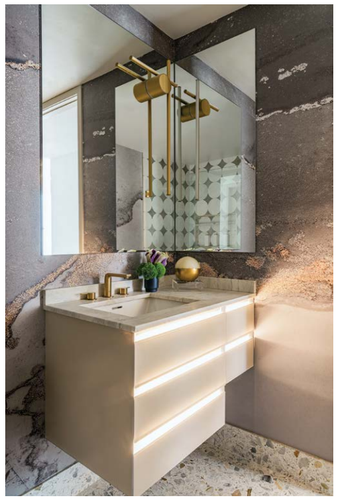
ABOVE: Designer Joe Fava is the founder and principal of Fava Design Group in Miami. He also oversees the store Layers by FDG in Blue Ridge, Georgia.



ABOVE: The elegant foyer sets the tone for the residence with a Mckinley console by Arteriors, a Laurent swivel chair by Interlude, and a mirror by Quorum.

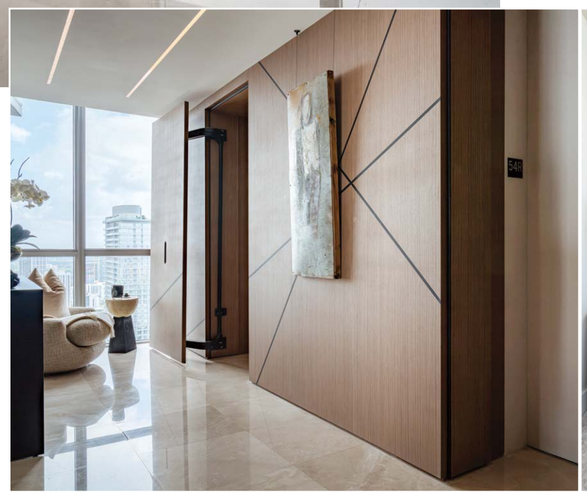
RIGHT: Paneling in natural wood with metal details designed by Fava Design Group and fabricated by The Wooden Diamond conceal the elevator doors in the foyer.

"The clients asked for sleek lines with interesting features and textures," says designer Joe Fava. "They wanted a contemporary look with a warm color palette, minimal patterns, and plenty of textural elements."



ABOVE: Terrazzo tiles in shades of gold and white capture the eye in the powder room.

BELOW: A Modern Muse wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries achieves a mural-like effect in a guest bedroom.







A palette of soft gray and warm neutrals establishes a restful atmosphere in the primary bedroom. A Phillip Jeffries wallcovering above the bed introduces a geometric pattern in the room.

patterns, and plenty of textural elements. We presented a couple of color schemes as a starting point, and those selections informed the final look.

What were those color schemes? Shades of black, smoke gray, and deep purple that were inspired by the slabs of agate used on the kitchen's dining island.

What role did art play in your design approach? A big one as I helped the homeowners curate their collection. It started when we encountered art by Zhuang Hong-Yi, a Chinese artist whose work I happen to love, while on a shopping trip, and they fell in love with his style as well, so we commissioned a piece of his work through SmithDavidson Gallery that now hangs near the kitchen. What they like most about the painting is that when you walk from the living room to the foyer, the colors in it appear to turn orange and green, which are the colors of their alma mater.

What was your approach to materials? We selected a variety of fabrics such as leather, bouclé, and tweed to add warmth to the space, and there's wood paneling that introduces an organic element into the home.

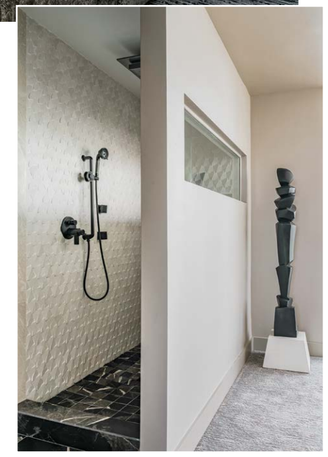
What informed your furniture selections? As this is a weekend retreat, they wanted furniture that was practical and upholstered with durable fabrics. As far as brands go, we sourced pieces from Arteriors, Interlude, Quorum, and Eichholtz, rugs from Stark, fabrics from Romo, and wallcoverings from Phillip Jeffries. There are also some selections from Layers by FDG, which is my store in Blue Ridge, Georgia.

Looking back on the project, what are some of your favorite design features in the home? Because the elevators open right into the foyer, we were asked to come up with a way to camouflage the elevator doors, so we created walnut paneling that incorporates metal accents in a geometric pattern and that completely hides the doors. That's certainly one of my favorite touches in the residence.

What was the project's biggest challenge? Well, it wasn't anything design-related, but midway through the construction phase we discovered a crack in the concrete ceiling, so we had to stop work and monitor it for four months to determine how serious it was. Fortunately, it was easily remedied, but it delayed us for a while.

What was the homeowners' reaction to the finished residence? They were blown away. I think it far exceeded their expectations.

And how do you feel about it? I am so proud… and relieved. People say, "Don't work with friends," but I don't believe that. I wanted to design something extraordinary for them and they let me be creative, and that's why it turned out as well as it did. *favadesigngroup.com*



ABOVE: The spa-like primary bathroom features three-dimensional marble tiles in the shower and a sculpture by Joël Urruty.