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SHIMMERING, WARM AND BRIGHT

WHITE GLASS TILE, WENGE WOOD AND CREAMY COLORED FABRICS CREATE AN AIR OF CONSISTENCY IN THIS ETHEREAL MIAMI BEACH RETREAT

INTERIOR DESIGN BY BRUCE BIERMAN WITH JOHN LEHMANN AND JILL PATLA, BRUCE BIERMAN DESIGN, INC., NEW YORK, NY
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Stepping into this 10th-floor condominium in Miami Beach's The Bath Club, one feels as if floating on air. Located on Millionaire's Row, the luxury tower is conveniently situated between North and South Beach — the exact location the homeowners were looking for when purchasing a seasonal residence for family and friends.

"What's incredible about these units is that they have views to the east and to the west, so you get the sunrise and sunset; the ocean views on one side and Biscayne Bay on the other," interior designer Bruce Bierman says. "With a beach club, restaurant and full-service amenities, it truly feels like resort-style living."

Just shy of 4,000 square feet, the condominium easily accommodates the couple and their two grown children. Primarily residing in New York, the homeowners looked to Bierman to render their retreat with the same aesthetic as his own Palm Beach pied-à-terre.

LEFT: A 40-foot-long, taupe Stark area rug runs the length of the living area, where interior designer Bruce Bierman custom designed nearly every piece of furniture, including the sofas, chaises and cocktail ottomans. Dressed in chenille and plush leather from Hinson & Co., Holland & Sherry and Old World Weavers, the pieces convey Bierman's consistency of design throughout. The homeowners' *Nice, Negresco* beach scene by Massimo Vitali hangs above one of two seating areas.

THROUGH GLASS DOORS, THE TERRACE
WELCOMES THE OWNERS TO BASK IN THE
SUN ON RICHARD SCHULTZ FURNISHINGS.



Having worked with the owners on their primary residence in Westchester County, Bierman "understood the parameters for the family's lifestyle." During one of Bierman's first design presentations, "the wife asked, 'Would you pick this for your own apartment? I'll make a deal with you; don't choose anything that you wouldn't put in your own place,'" he recalls.

Taking this design directive to heart, Bierman, along with two other designers from his firm, went to work. For the architectural elements, he partnered with John Lehmann, and for the



furniture and accessories, he teamed with Jill Patla. "We wanted to design the home for everyday use; not how you would like to use it a few times a year," Bierman says.

Beginning with a clean slate, Bierman and Lehmann knocked down and recessed walls to take advantage of every inch of the home. So even though there's separation between the master and guest wings, it feels as if everything flows fluidly without interrupting the ocean views. Unifying the entire space and establishing the crisp palette, white glass-tile flooring glistens

"THE STYLE OF THE APARTMENT IS VERY UNDERSTATED WITH DECOR THAT DOESN'T COMPETE WITH THE SURROUNDINGS AND A SPACE THAT'S VERY ARCHITECTURAL," BIERMAN SAYS.



underfoot throughout the apartment. The homeowners saw the same flooring in Bierman's place in a slightly different hue and knew they wanted it for their new escape.

In the extended living area, Bierman and Patla distinguished two seating areas — one with an L-shaped sofa and chaise, and another on the opposite end near a series of glass doors. Textured chenille dresses the furnishings in comfort and durability. To break up the creamy white wonderland, fuchsia and orange accent pillows take their cue from the couple's art collection. While a contemporary photograph defines the seating area in the foreground, a TV built into white cabinetry signals the opposite social grouping. "We used a grid pattern to conceal the storage doors," Bierman says.

ABOVE: Cig Harvey's *The Channel Marker, Self Portrait* buoy print, 2004, appears as a continuation of the kitchen's wraparound ocean views. Here, Bierman placed white glass tiles as the countertops for the custom cabinetry, while green glass tops the island bar area for subtle contrast. Pendants by Bega seem to dance in the natural light.



A lampshade fixture from Holly Hunt and a wenge wood table dress the dining area in understated elegance. Another piece from the owners' Vitali collection, *Madima Wave #2*, a chromogenic print, has an almost angelic quality to it, much like the design of the home.





Stark, simple and straightforward, the kitchen showcases panoramic views of sea and sky from its floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors. White lacquer reappears in the cabinetry but with a satin finish here, while the island countertop brings to mind sea glass found along the shore.

The dining area cozies up in its own little nook with matching benches and chairs custom designed by Bierman. Upholstered in cream leather, they offer a sharp contrast to the wenge wood frames and table. On one wall, recessed cabinetry gives the space an ethereal effect.



LEFT: Karine Laval's *Untitled #125 Cascais*, 2002, rests pensively on a custom-designed upholstered headboard that runs the entire length of the master bedroom. Ralph Lauren swing-arm lamps focus light where the owners want it. Nearby, oversized Christian Liaigre chairs clad in Nancy Corzine fabric face one another in the seating area, which is defined by a wall of books.

BELOW: The vanity in one guest bath includes a chair that slides seamlessly into wenge wood cabinetry as if one connected piece. White countertops and white glass-tile flooring glisten in the light.



Inside the master suite, the owners revel in luxury and comfort with a plush upholstered bed. Small details, such as sliding-glass shelves in the bedside tables' design, showcase Bierman's acute attention to detail. Defined by a wall of books, the seating area offers a scenic respite.

Clearly happy with the outcome of the design ... the thing Bierman is most proud of is that the family is using their retreat the way it was intended. "One Christmas, they sent me a postcard of their front entry with 20 flip-flops sitting near the door," he recalls. A picture worth a thousand words.