

# OBJETS *d'affection* DE MIAMI

Miami design enters a new era as starchitects, international art lovers, and now the **MAISON & OBJET AMERICAS** decorative arts fair flock to South Florida.

by *JEAN NAYAR* photography by *GARY JAMES*



New Yorkers often like to refer to New York as the center of the universe. But if you were a top-caliber architect or designer anywhere in the world right now, you'd probably be more inclined to reserve that claim for Miami.

Thanks in part to the sophisticated international crowd that regularly attends Art Basel in Miami Beach, the demand for residences and hotels commensurate with their tastes have upped the ante on Miami's architecture scene. Savvy developers such as The Related Group, Swire Properties, and Terra Group, who understood the value of name-brand designers as marketing tools for their new developments, began enlisting top names to

create their buildings. Now, not only are there arguably more world-class architects designing luxury hotels, signature condominiums, high-profile cultural institutions, and even landmark garages here than anywhere else in the US, but flocks of wealthy North and Latin Americans, Europeans, Russians, and Chinese have been arriving in droves to partake of the first-class city Miami is becoming, partly as a result of their influence.

To sate this sophisticated crowd's appetite for high design, new waves of furniture, product, and fashion designers from all over the globe are setting up shop in the rarefied Miami Design District as well as in the edgier and more affordable Wynwood and Ironside



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ANTRÓBUS RAMÍREZ (LOBBY, PENTHOUSE)





CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Interior designers Ruby Ramirez and Alison Antrobus at Ocean House; the Ocean House library combines gilded accents and modern twists on traditional elements (“Design is about creating a narrative and a sense of theater,” notes Ramirez); the Palazzo del Sol north lobby on Miami’s exclusive Fisher Island and the penthouse at Ocean House are among the duo’s current projects.



*design duo*

**ALISON ANTROBUS & RUBY RAMIREZ**

With an impressive project list that includes Icon Brickell and Prime 112 in Miami, Alison Antrobus and Ruby Ramirez have consistently been tapped as a creative force for major product manufacturers and design projects since they began partnering in 2011. The two met while working at the helm of the Miami office of the internationally acclaimed property and design development firm Yoo, which works with design stars Philippe Starck, Jade Jagger, Kelly Hoppen, and Marcel Wanders on multifaceted urban development projects such as the new 65-acre Metropica in Sunrise, Florida, as well as others in Mumbai, Singapore, Moscow, and Buenos Aires. Though their training and experience are rooted in interior design—both are architects with award-winning residential, restaurant and hotel, retail, and private jet projects under their belts—each is applying her design skills to new realms. Antrobus is making a mark in the fashion world with her revolutionary patented handbag, called the Antrobus Bag, and Ramirez is fusing her love of artisanal craft and international travel in a jewelry collection she plans to launch later this year. “Design is about creating a narrative and a sense of theater,” says Ramirez. “Theater for me is the emotion that carries you, that lingering impression and at times a sense of wonderment.” Evidence of this idea will soon be seen in the common spaces of the Muse condominium, which they are currently working on in collaboration with building architect Carlos Ott, and the Palazzo del Sol on Fisher Island. *Antrobus + Ramirez, 7636 NE Fourth Ct., Ste. 112, Miami, 786-420-2996; antrobusramirez.com*





Charlotte Dunagan in the sitting area of a master bedroom of a residence she designed in Miami Beach. BELOW, FROM TOP: The family wanted to give their modern home an open feeling to take advantage of the views, while creating a cozy and relaxed place for their children; using a neutral palette, Dunagan in the living room mixed Anglo-Indian pieces and slipcovered upholstery made of outdoor fabrics for easy maintenance. Overall, the effect is one of clean-lined, warm, inviting spaces.



## DESIGN HUB

*Not-to-be-missed showrooms and shops around Miami.*

### 4141 DESIGN

Anyone interested in sitting back and relaxing in plush style should consider Maxalto's Solatium, the latest sofa by Antonio Citterio available at 4141 Design, the largest furniture showroom of exceptional European brands in the US. 4141 NE Second Ave., #115, Miami, 305-572-2900; 4141design.com

### ARTEFACTO

For more than 35 years, Artefacto has been creating some of the most sought-after contemporary and classic interiors in the world. Born in Brazil, the Artefacto brand has exploded in America, with retail stores located in Coral Gables and Aventura, and shipping all around the globe from Miami. Stores have recently opened in the Caribbean and Mexico, with rollouts planned for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East in the next few years. 4440 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Ste. 1600, Coral Gables, 305-774-0004; artefacto.com

### BOCA DO LOBO

For over-the-top luxury furniture, lighting, rugs, and accents like the Black Diamond safe or the Symphony humidifier, the newly opened Boca Do Lobo showroom in the Miami Design District is a must. 278 NW 37th St., Miami; bocadolobo.com

enclaves nearby, expanding the nexus of the design community north and south along Biscayne Boulevard. Solidifying Miami's ascendance in the global design firmament is the arrival of Maison & Objet Americas, the preeminent French decorative arts trade show, which launches in Miami Beach this month.

## DESIGNING THE SKY

Over the past several years, a serious flock of international talent—starchitects, if you will—began shifting the aesthetic of Miami's new buildings. They include OMA, the firm of legendary Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas; New York- and Toronto-based Yabu Pushelberg; Pritzker Prize-winning London-based architect Zaha Hadid; knighted British architect Sir Norman Foster; French designer Philippe Starck; Swiss superstars Herzog & de Meuron; Italian master Piero Lissoni; and New York architect Richard Meier, to name but a few. All told, the architectural talent enriches the fabric of the city with what Coconut Grove-based architect Max Strang refers to as "the connective tissue" that links the new buildings with Miami's rich design legacy—and its environs.

The buildings designed by these global starchitects, as well as significant local firms such as Arquitectonica, Revuelta, and Max Strang Architecture, are a departure from the ubiquitous, safe white boxes seen a generation prior, and they have initiated a movement within the real estate community to take historical, social, or environmental context more deeply into account. Part of this movement is a vibrant sense of synergy with the surroundings: sculptural building shapes that meld with both lush landscapes and an urban context. Think Herzog & de Meuron's Pérez Art Museum



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN (BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM)



The modern living room is replete with sophisticated artwork and a free-standing sculpture (*God of Some Things*, 2011, by artist Huma Bhabha) against a paneled wall that hides a door to the kitchen.



*french import*

**CHARLOTTE  
DUNAGAN**

Since moving from France to Miami almost 20 years ago, designer Charlotte Dunagan has been making her sophisticated mark on large-scale, high-end residences and boutique commercial projects throughout South Florida. Dunagan began to cultivate an eye for collectible art and furnishings under the tutelage of her parents—her mother was an interior designer, her father an antiques dealer—when she was growing up in Paris and traveling with them throughout Europe. She later began her formal arts education at the MGM School of Design in Nice, France, and completed it at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, where she graduated with honors before launching her own interior design business in Coral Gables. Since then, Dunagan has relied on her wide range of international resources to find undiscovered materials and one-of-a-kind pieces to create inherently unique interiors that reflect her clients' personality and individual style. "When I first meet [my clients], I pick up on all the small details that make them who they are—their clothing, their accessories, even the car they drive provides me with the style direction that is appropriate for their home. I'm a strong believer in building structures that are timeless and creating a very sophisticated background that we will love forever." *Charlotte Dunagan Design Group, 2100 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Ste. 920, Coral Gables, 305-438-0130; atmospherecreations.com*



RIGHT: Nisi Berryman at Niba Home, her home furnishings store in the Miami Design District. "For me, good design is as much about function as it is about flourish," says the former design editor for *Metropolitan Home*, who honed her curatorial approach working for Dacra Development and Tui Pranich, among others. BELOW: The Raleigh bed is from Nisi B. Berryman's newly launched furniture collection, shown with a turquoise Empire chandelier by Marjorie Skouras, ivory blown-glass decanters by Joe Cariati, bedding (including the cashmere blanket) by Threadcount, and rug by Jan Kath; *Elephant II*, a sculpture of toys and found objects created by Keith Clougherty (Berryman's son), serves as an eye-catching accent piece in the store.



#### CAPPELLINI

Statement pieces abound in the Cappellini collection. Top picks include David Trubridge's Body Raft lounge chair and Tom Dixon's Bolide rocking chair, both available through Poltrona Frau Group in the Miami Design District. 3800 NE Miami Ct., Miami, 305-576-3636; poltronafraumiami.net

#### DEVON & DEVON

With a cult-like following among design lovers dedicated to personal well-being, Devon & Devon offers finely crafted European fixtures, fittings, and finishes for distinguished and timeless bathrooms. Farrey's, 3000 SW 28th Lane, Coconut Grove, 305-445-2244; farreys.com

#### INTERNUM

Known for its offerings of the most recognized Italian brands in the furniture business, Internum's showroom in the heart of the Miami Design District is making waves with its introduction of Baxter furnishings, including pieces by Paola Navone, Matteo Thun, and Draga Obradovic. 3841 NE Second Ave., #101, Miami, 305-576-1135; internum.com

Miami downtown or the firm's Lincoln Road parking garage in South Beach, as well as Danish wunderkind Bjarke Ingels's torquing Grove at Grand Bay towers in Coconut Grove.

A greater commitment to fine art and furniture and a livelier color palette also add more dimension to the holistic mix of ideas prevalent in top buildings, such as the SLS Lux hotel and condo designed by Yabu Pushelberg and slated for completion in Brickell in 2016. "We wanted to up the luxe quotient by creating a modernized version of old Havana with colors of Latin America—emerald greens, deep blues, and soft pinks—reviving them as a character study in a more sophisticated and exotic way," says designer Glenn Pushelberg of Yabu Pushelberg.

At SLS Lux, the public spaces will get a lift from significant paintings and sculptures by renowned contemporary artists like Fernando Botero and Matias Duville. "People are so art centric today that it's easier to bring in work by great artists that are recognized and appreciated," adds George Yabu.

Art is also playing a major role in the latest project by Alan Faena, the developer of the much-touted Faena project on the Beach. The building's developer has not only enlisted a team of top talent—including Foster + Partners and OMA—to design an exceptional condominium, but he is also helping infuse the surrounding neighborhood with a sense of community anchored in culture. "Alan Faena is known for having an art forum in mind in the neighborhoods he transforms," says Shohei Shigematsu, the lead architect from Koolhaas's firm OMA, which is working on part of the project. "Our project in the Faena District is a cultural center that represents a new typology that's emerging—it's not a museum, or gallery, or theater, or

