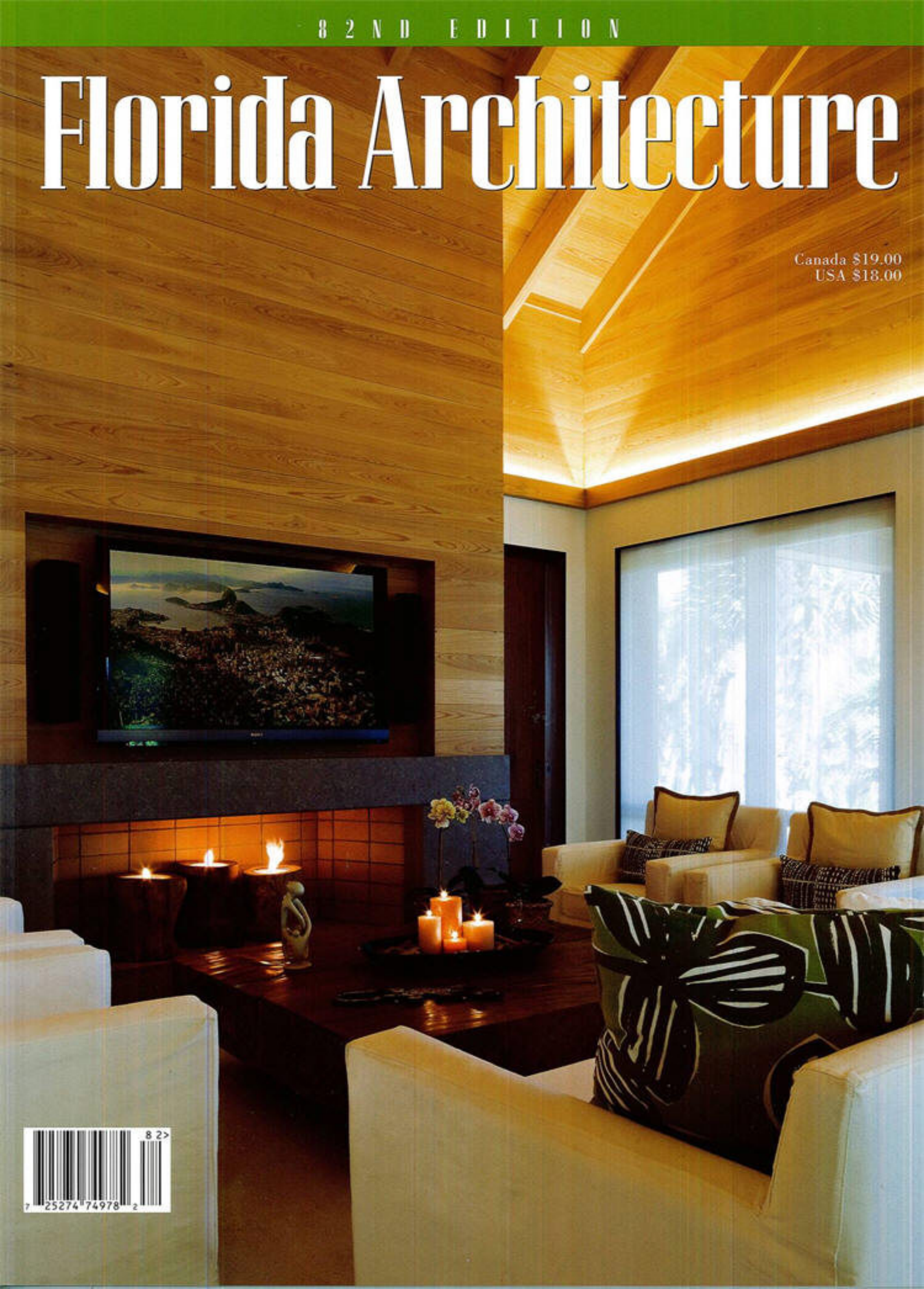


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# BOND MEETS THE BEACH

A SLEEK AND SEXY BEACH RESIDENCE IN SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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Photography by John Stillman



Cindy West Ray, Allied ASID, & Mark Flora, Cindy Ray Interiors, INTERIOR DESIGN

Upon entering the elevator lobby of this ocean-front apartment, located in one of the Trump towers on Sunny Isles Beach, the immediate impression is one of intrigue and anticipation. The lobby is clad in bleached cedar latticework with mirror backing, giving the illusion that you are peeking into another room.

"It's like spying a little bit," designer Cindy West Ray says.

"It is an introduction to the design concept for the apartment."

That concept, she says, could best be termed as "Bond meets the beach." In designing this residence, Ray communicated only with the man of the house. While the wife was responsible for designing the family's primary residence, this apartment, as Ray puts it, was "his baby. He wanted to accommodate his family but really make it his space."







The owner's vision was to create a sleek, seductive, masculine apartment that was technologically advanced. "You picture James Bond flying in on a helicopter and getting out on his terrace, walking in and taking out his controls," Ray muses. "Then the TV pops up, and the bar is behind a secret hiding place. Everything is operated by pushing a series of buttons."

To give the apartment that alluring feeling while imbuing it with a sense of place, Ray used materials and custom millwork that reflect the beach but are rendered in a more contemporary iteration.

She began with limestone floors and "greige" grasscloth for the walls. The latter was the owner's specific request. "He emphasized that he did not like painted walls," she says. "He loved wallpaper. He wanted the walls to be covered."

With that as a backdrop, she focused on using a

combination of woods to warm up the space. "We used a lot of Spanish cedar and teak that are natural and beachy," she says. "But we bleached them out and fashioned them into a more contemporary design."

For example, in the living room, she created a custom wall system of bleached Spanish cedar accented with strips of black mirror. The same mirror material is used in other areas within this space, namely the bar and a sitting nook. "The mirror is reflective but not too bright, and is really masculine," the designer says.

The unit not only provides a striking focal point in the space, it also is highly functional, housing the audio-visual equipment and providing lots of storage space via disguised drawers that, at first glance, look like simple wood planks.

Around the corner from the unit is one of the

**The living room was designed with a masculine sensibility. Above the card table (rear) hangs "Casino" by David Drebin who specializes in highly stylized, sexy city scenes.**



Opposite the bar area is a conversation nook. The petrified wood tables, rope chair and real zebra skin rug are examples of the natural materials used throughout.

owner's favorite spaces, a dramatic bar backed with black mirror. From the lighting soffit hangs "Miami by Night," a photo by David Drebin, who specializes in highly stylized, sexy city scenes. On the opposite side of the hallway is a nook that provides an intimate conversation area or space to relax with a cognac and a good spy thriller.

The space is dominated by interesting textures and sumptuous materials. In the main living area,

a bamboo fiber shag carpet provides plush softness underfoot, while a top-stitched leather sectional and a chunky teak cocktail table are testaments to relaxed luxury. Accents of polished chrome add sleekness and reflectivity to the otherwise serene space.

In the nook, a black rope net chair sits atop a trophy-grade zebra skin rug. The chair and the built-in banquette facing it are upholstered in a stain-



less steel mesh fiber that “feels like silk but is very durable and has a silvery glimmer to it,” the designer explains.

The dining room also is designed in the contemporary vein, but is decidedly more informal. “Here, we wanted to do a different kind of lighting,” Ray notes. “We went with burlap fixtures grouped together to make one statement piece.”

The idea, she says, was to give the feeling of dining outside. Since the dining room overlooks the terrace and the beach beyond through floor-to-ceiling windows, Ray wanted to impart an outdoorsy flavor without departing from the polished, contemporary design of the rest of the house.

She used a sisal carpet and a slightly distressed picnic-style table, surrounded by lacquered chocolate ebony chairs that recall the decking of a ship. “Everything looks like it could be outside, but it’s still very sleek,” she says.

In his bedroom, the owner wanted to include a desk and a lounge chair. Because the space was limited, Ray floated the leather and stainless platform bed in the center of the room, and placed a desk behind the headboard. Directly opposite the bed is a large, contemporary armoire with ribbons of wood “tied” across it. “We call it the Bond-age unit,” she laughs.

On the other side of the custom armoire is a sleek lounge chair, above which hangs “Before the Storm,” another Drebin photograph. On either side of the bed, Ray suspended hanging bulb light fixtures encased in chain mail.

The other two bedrooms double as the children’s rooms and guest rooms. The son’s room is designed in shades of black and white with mustard-colored accents, consistent with the color scheme elsewhere in the house.

Above the bed hangs a painting of a zebra, and opposite sits a combination desk-etagère that displays interesting objects and provides a practical work surface.

The girl’s room is the only departure from the prevailing scheme. It is designed in shades of pink, with whimsical art and fabrics that a young girl









The boy's room features a metal shelving unit that can also be used as a desk. Mustard-colored mohair pillows punch up the black and white motif.

can appreciate. "It's a mod approach, but still very fun and very girly," Ray says.

It's just one of the surprises that make this home so interesting. Nothing about it feels contrived or static. "There are surprises everywhere you look," the designer says. "From the secret compartments to the unexpected combination of materials, it keeps you engaged."

In addition, she says, a studied combination of old

and new, sleek and down-to-earth, and comfort and elegance makes the house work.

"Basically, it's a beach house that is easy to live in because everything is at your fingertips," the designer explains. "But it's very chic and high-end. It actually combines the best of both worlds, being at once alluring and accessible, informal and cutting edge."

Like Bond himself. ▲

