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## After

Anigre wood paneling and dramatic lighting have turned this dining room into a swanky cocktail lounge (above). Tub chairs invite card players or novel readers to get cozy—just pick your favorite color! The custom table can be raised up to dining height for meals (left). That Santa Fe orange tile fades into the background beneath a beautiful new circular rug (far left) creating perfect symmetry in this geometric space.



## Before

The rectangular dining room in this Highland Beach condo featured faux-painting—two potted bougainvilleas and a fountain—and very little lighting—just one chandelier to illuminate the entire space. Peach-colored walls emphasized the tile floor's terra cotta color. "It was very Santa Fe," says Cindy West Ray of Cindy Ray Interiors.

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# Whipped into shape

This Highland Beach condo overlooking the ocean was dark, and the faux painting on the walls was dated. Enter Palm Beach-based Cindy Ray Interiors, who got the home's dining area squared away.

BY LAUREN PERRY • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY RABINOWITZ

The homeowners of this Ocean Boulevard condominium didn't think they'd use a formal dining room, so they asked for help from designer Cindy West Ray, ASID, of Cindy Ray Interiors in Palm Beach. Ray says the owners requested a multi-functional space where they could entertain, or just relax and enjoy the views. "You would never really sit in the dining room to read a book," says Ray.

Ray changed the room from a rectangle to a square by adding a built-in bar, a feature that her clients requested. Soffits were added to pull the center of the room towards the windows to take

advantage of the views—and to hold recessed lighting. Ray gave the area a cozier "library feel," designing custom millwork in squares of anigre wood with ebony accents for the wall shared with the kitchen and the bar area. The geometry continues with the round ebony-stained tiger maple table encircled by colorful tub chairs in Donghia's "Palazzo" taffeta, both custom designed by Cindy Ray Interiors. The table rests at a cocktail height normally, but Ray designed it to be raised up from the base and lock at a dining height when needed.

A circular, oriental-style rug from Starck pulls the room together. ■

• **Tip:** *If you are on a budget or under a time constraint, consider working with existing flooring.*

• The floors in this condo were in good condition, so Cindy Ray used a palette of greens, golds and caramels to neutralize the orangey-ness of the tile and eliminate that Santa Fe look. "Anything too beige would make the floors jump," she says.