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CHIC RETREAT

WRITTEN BY **MARISA SPYKER**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MICHAEL STAVARIDIS**

IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT EXACTLY HOW AND WHEN A PLAN FALLS PERFECTLY INTO PLACE. But for decorator Cindy West Ray, president of Cindy Ray Interiors, Inc., the "Aha!" moment for a Palm Beach condominium came in the form of a William Switzer table. "We definitely went off course the day we found the chartreuse table," says Ray. "We just loved the mix of the contemporary lacquered top with the baroque hand-carved base that resembles old driftwood."

What began as a table soon evolved into the eclectic yet refined style that owner Sue Dickson and husband Gary dreamed of when they purchased their second-home vacation retreat two years ago. "I knew the style I wanted from the beginning," Dickson says. "A sophisticated look with a little flair and a little fun—something a bit out of the ordinary." To accomplish the task, Dickson sought out Ray after interviewing several designers in the area. "Cindy just has a great sense of style, and she's a wonderful listener," Dickson says. "She let me bring forth my ideas and then allowed my vision to come true."

After several meetings and trips to Ray's Palm Beach showroom, the Dicksons settled on an initial design direction, and turned to the space they had to work with. Although the first-floor condominium had recently been renovated, the designer recommended minor alterations to open up the layout. "It was redone beautifully, but it needed to be taken a step further," Ray says. "The den needed to be opened up so it could be utilized as both a den and an office." Ray had a wall in the den replaced with sliding doors, creating a larger, more airy feeling in the main living areas that better complements the location and design style they envisioned.

INTERIOR DESIGN Cindy West Ray and Mark E. Flora,

Cindy Ray Interiors, Inc.

BEDROOMS 2 | **BATHROOMS** 2 | **SQUARE FEET** 2,200



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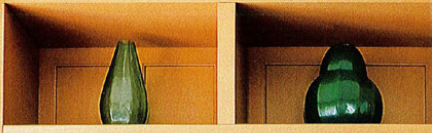
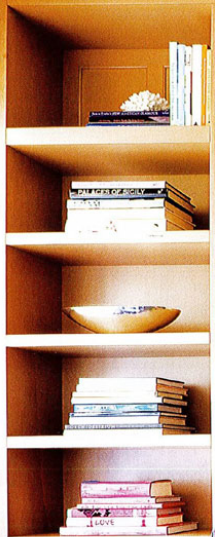
With the canvas in place, Ray began the hunt for furnishings and accessories that would honor the home's setting between the ocean and Intracoastal. "We chose pieces that are lighter in palette, and used sandy tones and natural fabrics," Ray says. "In the library, the wood was distressed to make it look as though it was washed by salt from the ocean. It lends sophistication to the room."

For an infusion of color, Ray chose a palette that complemented the coveted chartreuse William Switzer accent table that sits between Formations armchairs from Jerry Pair and floor-to-ceiling windows in the living room. "Originally, the owner liked the taupes, beiges and grays mixed with accents of turquoise, orange and jewel tones," Ray says. "But when we found the table it evolved into a palette of pretty plums, purples and lilacs." In the den, a dusty-purple sofa upholstered in Dedar fabric echoes the bright purple Donghia fabric that wraps the pillows in the adjacent living room. Bolder accents of color were added in the master bedroom, where bright raspberry-colored Métaphores fabric covers the



BRIGHT IDEA

In the dining room, Lewis Miltman chairs upholstered in fabric from Ann Gish surround a custom-designed dining table, while the chandelier above from Oly provides ambient lighting.





PLUM BENEFITS

Custom shelving serves as the backdrop in the den, where the dusty-purple sofa from Cisco Brothers and cocktail table by Curvet USA act as focal points. The accent pillows are from Ray's Palm Beach showroom.



ELEGANT ENTRY

The entry hall features a table from Eric Brand Furniture and custom-designed benches upholstered in Hines fabric from Jeffrey Michaels. A chandelier from The Stephanie Odegard Collection provides visual flavor along with the owners' prized Mira Lehr paintings.



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Art selections were left to the owners, who collect as a hobby, and were acquired both in Miami galleries and in their hometown of Atlanta. "We were looking for a mixture of abstracts and prints," Sue Dickson says. Her eclectic mix of artwork adds a contemporary touch to many rooms, where the general tone provided by the clean lines and neutral fabrics is that of simplicity.

With a combination of traditional elegance and sophisticated edginess, the condominium evokes a sense of style that's as fashion-forward as the city in which it resides. "I think it turned out spectacularly," Ray says. "There isn't one specific style; it's a culmination of many different looks." Sue concurs, "It's sophisticated, but very comfortable. It fits our lifestyle perfectly." **14**

OPEN AIR

An open plan between the den, living room and entry hall allows for a seamless flow between spaces. Lewis Millman ottomans in Robert Allen leather sit adjacent to the Dennis & Leen cocktail table in the living room.