



A BOATER'S PARADISE

GOING BEHIND THE FACADE FOR A CONTEMPORARY EXPERIENCE WITH SPECTACULAR WATER VIEWS

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By design, owner Nuha Khoury's lovely, newly constructed 7,000-square-foot vacation retreat blends in at Harbor Beach, an older well-established neighborhood in South Florida. Purposefully, she asked designer Raquel Mothe for a pristine, clean, transitional-style home that approaches contemporary, but is warmed up and softened by some well-placed curves. But once inside, Khoury wanted her heart's desire, pure contemporary in form and substance: airy, bright, open, sleek and modern all the way. "It's like a surprise," Mothe says. "Outside, it's a beautiful white house, but when that front door opens the 'wow' factor instantly captivates."

First, it's the dramatic contemporary interior scheme that catches attention. Then it's all about the water. And finally, the eyes are drawn across the Intracoastal Waterway to the megayachts docked at the Pier 66 Marina. "Everything is aligned to that view," Mothe says.

LEFT: The transitional architectural design of this Harbor Beach vacation home is enhanced by a juxtaposition of straight lines and subtle curves. A dark-tile roof, balconies with black wrought-iron railings, windows framed in espresso-hued trim, and arched, dark wood garage doors accent the exterior in perfect complementary contrast to its off-white stucco finish.



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In the great room, Roche Bobois' leather-clad "Digital" sofa joins a pair of custom armchairs to shape the living area's social grouping. Nearby, Restoration Hardware's dining table easily accommodates a party of eight, while additional guests pull up to the adjacent bar.

Throughout, the color palette is neutral: off-white walls and white sheers combine with subtle tones of white-to-gray fabrics. The custom-designed stairway is a showstopper, and since it involves curving glass edged in stainless steel, it's an engineering feat as well. Its white marble treads create a seamless transition with the marble flooring upstairs and downstairs. "I wanted something that flowed and would appeal to everyone's taste," Khoury says. Stunning views, the sinuous stairway and a soft color palette do, in fact, set the stage,

but it's the layout and furniture groupings that set the tone. A curvaceous theme prevails in the living area, where a circular cocktail table topped in black glass centers the poetic curves of a large leather-clad sofa and a pair of rounded armchairs. A dark-gray area rug, in silk and viscose, allows for a circulation pattern around the seating area while grounding the space in warmth. The impression Mothe aimed to create in the great room is cozy and intimate with an easy transition from the living area into the dining area, bar and kitchen beyond.

“ARCHITECTURALLY, WITH ITS OPEN CONCEPT AND MARINA VIEW, THE MASTER BEDROOM IS A VERY PRETTY SPACE,” DESIGNER RAQUEL MOTHE SAYS. “FOR A CONTEMPORARY LOOK THAT WAS NOT TOO COLD, WE USED SOFT COLORS AND FABRICS.”



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BELOW: Featuring both a leather-topped, dark wood chest from Ornare and a floating white vanity by Antonioplupi, the master bath exudes all the serenity of a private retreat. Lacquered-wood cabinetry provides desired storage, while a picture window set within the book-matched marble wall showcases a marina view.



Upstairs in the master bedroom with its en suite bath, the contemporary design and neutral color palette carry through, highlighted by large mirrored panels that reflect the water view, add light and expand the space. Here, the custom bed designed by Mothe with a tufted-linen headboard takes center stage, while a luxurious chaise offers the perfect perch to enjoy the magnificent vista. “When I’m in my bedroom, I feel like I’m in a penthouse,” Khoury says. “It has an incredible view with everything oriented toward the water.”

While architecture and interior design elements embrace curves, the pool area is all about straight lines, albeit with some that disappear. Incorporating a seating ledge and a walkway that crosses the shallow end, the pool features a dramatic infinity edge that sends water cascading down to the lower-level dock.

“The water is what grabs you, where ever you are in the home,” says Khoury in appreciation of Mothe’s expertise in creating an integrated environment. A neutral scheme inside and out is an element the designer often employs because it gives her clients options. “With an understanding of both the structure and architecture as well as interior design, a home comes together better and is more cohesive,” Mothe says.

ABOVE: Styled in shades of gray, the master bedroom features a low-profile bed, lacquered bedside chests and a luxurious chaise wrapped in the light achromatic hue. Charcoal-colored suede panels climb the wall behind the bed, while a dark-gray ottoman rests by its foot. Murano-glass bedside lamps from One of a Kind add the sole pop of color as well as a touch of traditional styling.

Marble flooring slightly shifts shades as it flows from the inside to the patio and pool area, where Restoration Hardware's chaises recline in the sun.



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“IT LOOKS LIKE THE INFINITY POOL MIXES WITH THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY,” MOTHE SAYS. “WE LINED THE POOL WITH A DARK-GRAY TILE TO MAKE IT SIMILAR IN COLOR.”

SOURCES

ENTRY HALL AND LIVING AREA

Stairway, armchairs and cocktail table - Custom designed by Mothe Design, Miami, FL
Stairway fabricated by Sarkela Corporation, Boynton Beach, FL
Railing glass - Dolphin Glass Specialists LLC, Hialeah, FL
Railing fabricated by Valencia Welding, West Palm Beach, FL
Sofa - Roche Bobois, Miami, FL
Centerpiece - One of a Kind, Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - RT Decor, Miami, FL

Area rug - The Carpet Boutique, Miami, FL

DINING AREA AND BAR

Dining table - Restoration Hardware, Aventura, FL
Bar fabricated by Sarkela Corporation, Boynton Beach, FL
Chairs and barstools - Custom designed by Mothe Design, Miami, FL
Centerpiece dish - Michael Dawkins Home, Miami, FL
MASTER BEDROOM
Bed, headboard wall, bedside chests, white chest, ottoman and chaise - Custom designed by Mothe Design, Miami, FL

Chaise fabric - Jeffrey Michaels, Hollywood, FL
Bench ottoman fabric - The Low Prices, Inc., Miami, FL
Mirrors - Nations Glass and Mirror, Cooper City, FL
Table lamps - One of a Kind, Miami, FL
Drapery fabric - RT Decor, Miami, FL
Area rug - The Carpet Boutique, Miami, FL
MASTER BATH
4-drawer chest - Ormare, Miami, FL
Vanity, cabinetry and countertop - Antonioliupi, Progetto Interni, Miami, FL

Shower enclosures - A-Christian Glass, Delray Beach, FL
Marble wall covering - La Casa of Granite, Pompano Beach, FL
PATIO AND POOL AREA
Pool and spa - Aquaventure Pools, Coconut Creek, FL
Chaise lounges - Restoration Hardware, Aventura, FL
THROUGHOUT
Window and doors - WinDoor, Orlando, FL, and Clear Choice Windows & Doors, Miami, FL
Recessed lighting - Lighting Dynamics, Tamarac, FL 