

ELLE DECOR

OCTOBER 2023

THE CHANGE ISSUE

INSIDE DESIGN'S
BOLD NEW MODE:
ARE YOU READY?



In Miami Beach,
Charlap Hyman &
Herrero Upend
Expectations

Bold New

A Change of Attitude

Charlap Hyman
& Herrero bring
surrealism to
South Beach
in a stunning
Miami high-rise.

By Camille Okhio
Photographs by Chris Mottalini
Styled by Tessa Watson

The living room of Tom Healy and Fred Hochberg's apartment in Miami Beach, designed by the firm Charlap Hyman & Herrero. Luigi Caccia Dominioni sofa in a Pierre Frey fabric; Terra side tables (by sofa) by Luca Erba; Modern Relik; 1970s cocktail table by Lella and Massimo Vignelli; curtains and vintage rocking chair cushions in a DeLany & Long stripe; side tables by Shun Kinoshita; paintings by Abel Michel (left) and Michael Jacques. For details, see Resources.

Wave

W

hen Tom Healy, a writer and educator, and Fred Hochberg, a former businessman and government official, received an unexpected offer on their Miami house, it proved too good to pass up. They accepted and took the sale as an opportunity to downsize—to a

luxurious floor-through apartment in South Beach that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. The offer on their former home included the bulk of the couple's furniture, leaving Healy and Hochberg with a blank slate.

In a confluence of goodwill, two of Healy's friends—gallerist Nina Johnson and curator Alexandra Cunningham Cameron—both recommended the same designers within hours of each other: Adam Charlap Hyman and Andre Herrero of the New York-based firm Charlap Hyman & Herrero. "When Adam and Andre first arrived at the apartment, Adam was dressed like it was the middle of winter and Andre was wearing a shirt open to his navel, with tight leather pants," Healy remembers. "What I love about them is that balance of temperaments and styles, which I felt reflected our relationship as well." While Healy and Hochberg's previous homes had been decidedly bold, Charlap Hyman & Herrero took the couple to a whole other level, Hochberg says. The firm looked to the extreme environmental conditions and architectural history of Miami Beach for inspiration, conceiving a design scheme organized around the elements.

"There was this choreography that we envisioned from the beginning," Charlap Hyman says of the home's layout. The apartment is situated on an east-west axis with windowed terraces on both ends; visitors enter at its center, stepping off the elevator into a modernist grotto featuring a seashell-encrusted ceiling. A custom wraparound bench, an ode to 1920s Vienna, is nestled beneath, with gradient wallpaper covering the corridor. "We wanted to evaporate the hallway, so you enter through a clouded sunset," Herrero explains. It is here that Hochberg greets the guests of his and Healy's weekly gatherings before escorting them to the surrealist dining-cum-living room, the centerpiece of which is a reflective custom dining table in the shape of a puddle.

The firm approached the project as a *Gesamtkunstwerk*, translated as a "total work of art." The detailed interiors that signified this aesthetic ideal in the 19th century, when the concept was first formalized, are significantly harder to execute in the 21st century. Only designers as hawk-eyed and well informed as Charlap Hyman and Herrero would even try. From little bows on the back of outdoor dining chairs to glass knobs camouflaged on jib



doors, not a single opportunity for adornment was missed.

Descended directly from this decorative legacy is Healy's study, doused in moss green from the high-gloss walls to the custom lacquered millwork. "Using one color or material everywhere sublimates forms, blurring the edges of a room and the pieces of furniture within it," explains Charlap Hyman. "The effect is something expansive, even infinite."

The same approach reappears in the primary bedroom, where the walls, bed, and nightstands are covered in cork as a nod to writer Marcel Proust's own cork-lined bedroom. "I wanted an homage to irreverence," says Healy. "Since Adam is so well versed in design history, we thought, let's do something Proustian in Miami."

The past and the planet collide in Healy and Hochberg's private quarters, the entrance to which is demarcated by a shell-encrusted door fabricated using the same technique as the foyer's ceiling. The door appears to be a wall when closed, but when open it reveals a hallway of books leading to a steel-clad screening room—a tribute to Gae Aulenti's 1970s apartment in the Palazzo Pucci.

Yet the room, while grounded in history, is not stuck in the past. One wall features a series of built-ins comprising Hochberg's home office, while the top cabinet conceals an integrated air-conditioning unit, tucked away behind circular screens. It's yet another layer to Healy and Hochberg's heady interior world; luckily, guests can retreat to the dining terrace to digest it all. "It's the most amazing privilege to get to work with clients who have a rich inner life," Charlap Hyman says. "And these two really do." ■

A hidden door of seashells fabricated by the artist Me She of Openstudio leads to the couple's private wing. Custom gradient wallpaper produced by Wallpaper Projects.

OPPOSITE: A painting by Rodney Demps hangs in the dining and living room. Custom table; vintage chairs; lamp by Matthew Verdon; rug by Weavemanilla.



In the screening room, the stainless steel cabinetry and desk are custom. 1970s; Afra and Tobia Scarpa monk chair; Beni Ourain rug.

OPPOSITE: Maarten Van Severen chairs surround a concrete dining table from Teak Warehouse on the sunset terrace. Bolleke outdoor lights by Fatboy.





The natural cork wall-covering in the primary bedroom is by Philippe Romano. Custom nightstand and bed frame by Setzler; bedding, John Derian; artwork by Evelyn Taocheng Wang.

OPPOSITE: The walls in the study are painted in Alligator Alley by Benjamin Moore. Vintage Toio floor lamp by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni; custom lacquered cabinets and shelves; custom sofa in a Métaphores fabric; armchairs by René Gabriel; rug by Berber Creations; artwork by Esko Männikkö.

"Since Adam is so well versed in design history, we thought, let's do something Proustian in Miami."
 —Tom Healy