

FLORIDA DESIGN'S

MIAMI

HOME & DECOR




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VOLUME 5 NU



AN ENVIABLE ARRAY OF TREASURES
THOUGHTFULLY DISPERSED THROUGHOUT
REFLECTS THE OWNER'S UNWAVERING
LOVE OF ITALY, WHICH IN TURN PLACES HER
PERSONAL STAMP UPON THE DECOR.

In the nearby kitchen, sleek wenge-wood drawers with recessed stainless-steel pulls run the length of the room. Above, a cool white Calacata marble countertop and backsplash warmed by veins of gold leads to streamlined frosted mirror cabinets. "I loved designing this kitchen for her because I knew that it was going to get used," Rosso-Ubarri says of the owner, a gourmet chef who was ultra-involved in selecting the Miele and Thermador appliances. An antique Persian area rug is added to the seating area, offsetting the room's sharp lines with a homier softness. Suspended from the 12-foot ceiling, a red Murano glass chandelier casts an ambient glow.

And in the end, Rosso-Ubarri set the scene for the owner's love of all things Italian, and it is in this spirit that every inch is designed for a rich and abundant "la vita è bella," or "beautiful life," as is the Italian way.

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ABOVE: Surrounded by 10 cordovan leather chairs from Cassina, the kitchen's low chef's table stands in lieu of the traditional island to allow personal interaction with guests while cooking. A red Murano glass chandelier from La Murrina adds bright contrast to stainless-steel appliances from Florida Builder



RIGHT: A flicker of imagination begets dramatic effect when an ensemble of the owner's beloved collection of glass candlesticks, atop a 19th-century, painted Venetian console, are set aflame for parties. The owner obtained the pair of oversized blue-and-white porcelain jars on a trip to Vietnam

BELOW: The high-gloss finish of wall-to-wall custom woodwork by Bon Vivant imparts a contemporary sheen in the living room, while carefully placed antiques, like the scrolled wrought iron piano bench and vintage 1930s Fornasetti occasional table, bring in a touch of Old World style. The orange hue of a Jim Thompson silk from Jerry Pair adds a splash of color to the space.

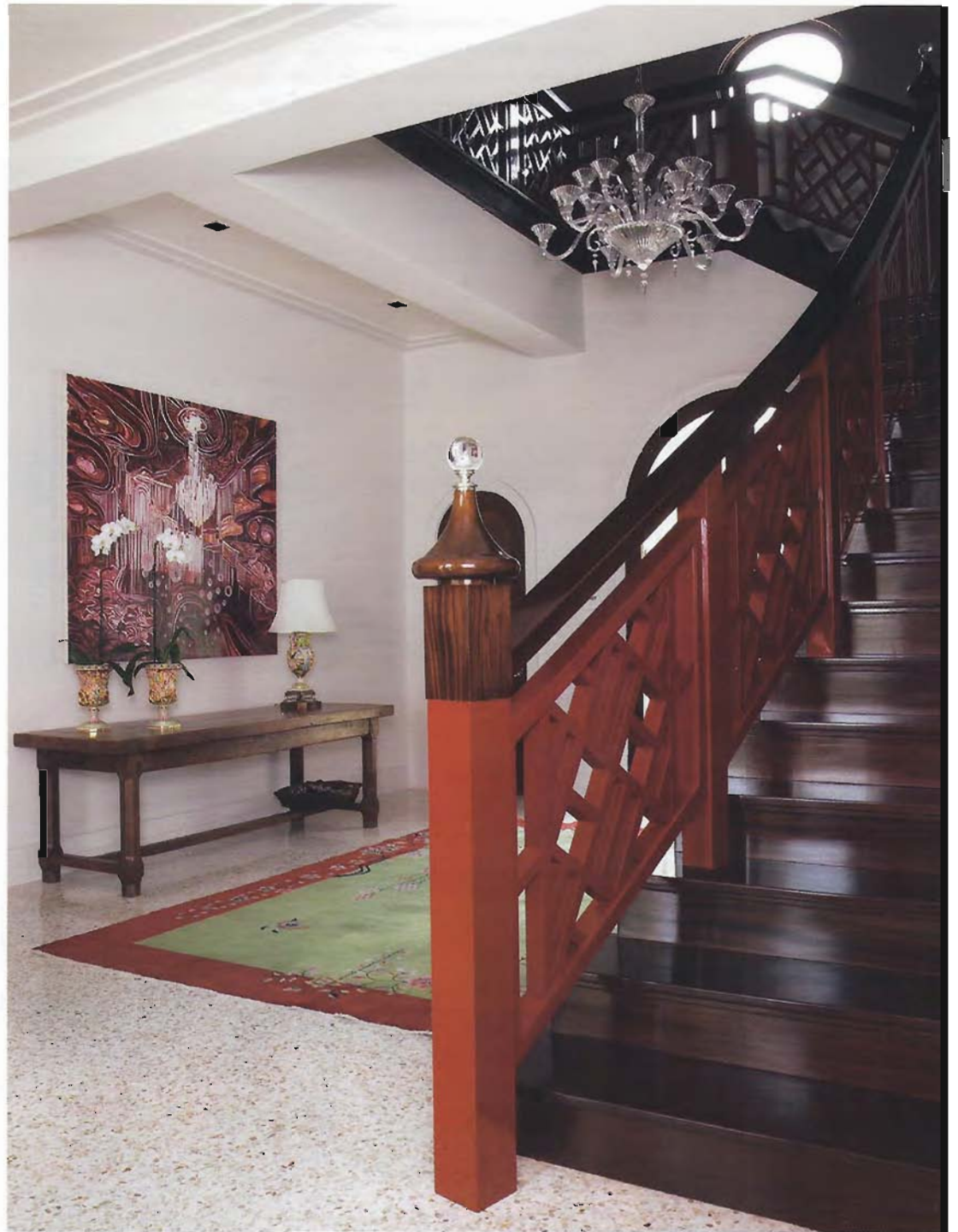


Following the terrazzo flooring into the 18th-century English-style banister, lacquered doesn't merely draw the eye, it captures it and holds it in a firm, elegant, and comfortable hostage. Crystal knobs embellishing the new modernize the Honduran mahogany stair trunk handrail, while a Baccarat chandelier keeps the space bright with one found in the painting "Soft Velvet," a canvas by artist Emi Avora. The owner's own Deco area rug dates back at least half a century.

In any respectable Italian villa, the wine flows as Florence's Arno River. And this home is no exception. In the dining room, antique paneled doors to showcase a cellar stocked with a staggering amount of about 2,000 bottles, most of them being vintage from Italy. Comfortably seated on a set of Queen Anne chairs, guests can feast their eyes on the ever-present black-and-white Fornasetti decorative plate that accents the walls.

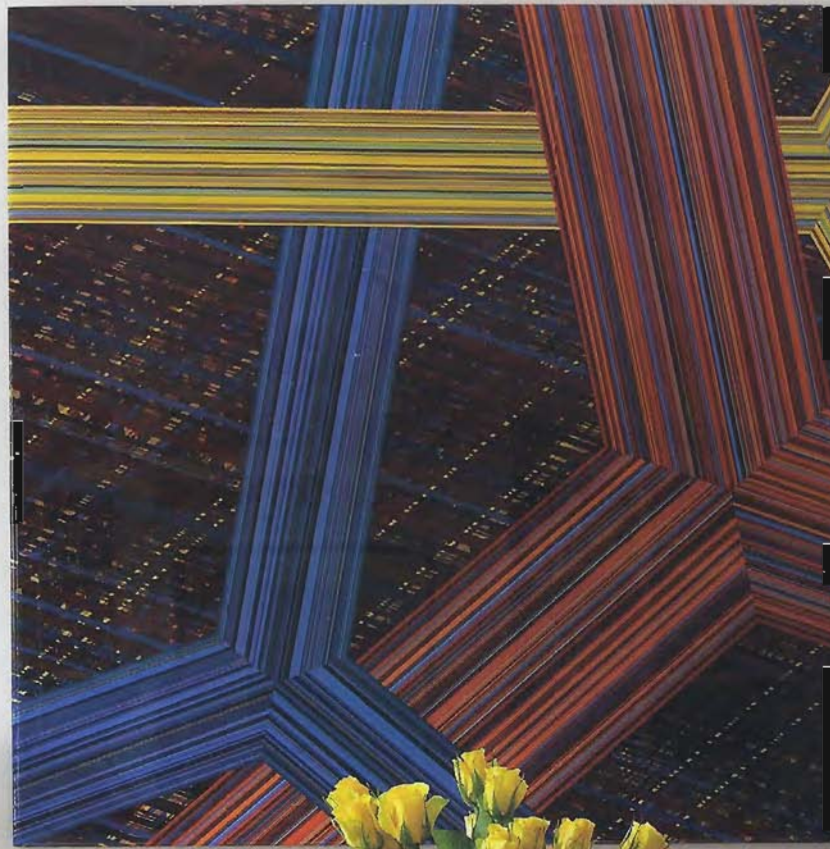
RIGHT: The dining room's glass table, set atop a natural walnut base, reveals yet another exquisite piece from the owner's collection. A black crystal chandelier designed by Philippe Starck for Baccarat provides a touch of punctuation to the vast inflow of natural light. On the dining chairs, Fortuny's gilded and silvered printed-cotton fabric by J. Batchelor covers the cushions and echoes the scene of the hand-painted Italian panels that frame the wine cellar.

Like a swipe of bold lipstick on an otherwise bare visage, a splash of red adds excitement to the foyer stairway. Taking a more rustic turn, an authentic Tuscan farmhouse table sits under the glow of a Baccarat chandelier from Neiman Marcus.



The tranquility of the exterior continues inside, where hushed tones of off-white and cream allow a trove of Italian treasures from "the boot" and beyond to speak volumes. At one end of the spacious living room, Rosso-Ubarri chose timeless lines for a custom-designed sofa and lounge chair setting "You could literally have that sofa for 40 more years and no one will ever complain that it's dated," he says. Still, with a homeowner so spirited, total serenity without interruption just wouldn't be her. As such, an antique wingback chair from her previous home is treated in a

Centuries span the living room, where an antique Capodimonte lamp sets a chronological counterpoint to contemporary artwork by Gavin Perry in a delightfully surprising medium — car detailing tape and plywood on resin. Interior designer Jorge Rosso-Ubarri custom designed the sofa, covered in a Brunschwig & Fils silk ottoman fabric, and the lounge chair, covered in a textured Clarence House fabric, which surround the Council cocktail table from Baker Knapp & Tubbs.





LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

A PASSION FOR ALL THINGS ITALIAN BRINGS AUTHENTICITY AND FLAIR TO THIS MODERNIZED TAKE ON A PALLADIAN VILLA

INTERIOR DESIGN BY JORGE ROSSO-UBARRI, STUDIO ROSSO UBARRI, CORAL GABLES, FL
ARCHITECTURE BY JORGE, MARI AND LUIS TRELLES, TRELLES CABARROCAS ARCHITECTS, MIAMI, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY DEENA BELL, HALL BELL AQUÍ, INC. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, MIAMI, FL, AND MERRITT ISLAND, FL
BUILDER ALEX PERMUY AND HECTOR CASTRO, HALMAC DEVELOPMENT, INC., MIAMI, FL
TEXT BY ROBIN GELFAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK ROSKAMS, MIAMI, FL

“Make this a house that is comfortable.” So was the wish that the owner of this 8,500-square-foot Palladian masterpiece, set in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of Coral Gables, Fla., expressed to interior designer Jorge Rosso-Ubarri at their initial meeting. She elaborated that while some areas ought to be dressy to substantiate the formality of the architecture, the overall sense should not be a showplace, but rather a home where life is lived to its fullest.

Taking a cue from European sensibilities, the facade features columned and arched doorways, as well as extensive walls and small windows to advocate privacy. Out back, a lavish pool invites a refreshing plunge, and is surrounded by a deck made of custom-cut coquina stone installed in a typically Italian pattern that allows for grass growth between the lines. The water level in the pool is kept on plane with the stonework for a seamless effect.

LEFT: Symmetry is to be expected with Palladian architecture — as demonstrated by the archways of the covered loggia and columns on the exterior. Unexpected is the flourish of flamingo pink, which tinges the lacquered iron gates. A Brown Jordan table and chairs covered in Perennials fabric from David Sutherland overlook the

