

# ENGINEERED TO PERFECTION

With A Comprehensive Approach, One Designer Grasps  
The Big Picture And Weaves Together A Complex Matrix  
Of Architectural, Design And Aesthetic Elements

AS SEEN IN

## FLORIDA DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN Alene Workman, Alene Workman Interior Design,  
Hollywood, FL  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR Frank DeCarlo, DeCarlo Construction  
Company, Inc., Miami, FL  
TEXT Marina Brown  
PHOTOGRAPHY Troy Campbell, Miami, FL

The graceful sweep of an anigre wood wall shapes the main living areas that in turn are encircled by 2,000 linear feet of terrace and the glittering aspect of Miami Beach. In the dining room, artist Fernando Botero's *Ballerina Vestita* — atop her pedestal — invites guests to gather around an oversized John Housmand table surrounded by Wendell Castle's stylishly modern high-back chairs.



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Designed for gatherings of more than 50 guests, the social areas flow one to another. Christian Liaigre sofas join Hugues Chevalier lounge chairs to form a conversation grouping in the living room, where a Robert Indiana sculpture of Hebrew letters, entitled *Tikva*, inspires hope.

AT THE TOP OF HER GAME, INTERIOR DESIGNER ALENE WORKMAN does not shy from a challenge. But even she admits she learned a lot from creating the 9,000-square-foot penthouse extravaganza located atop a 26-floor Miami Beach skyscraper. Built in 2008, the massive residence had been finished out by the developer and purchased, though no one had ever lived there. Now, the new owners offered Workman the opportunity to recreate the space as an entertaining showplace.

That meant out with the old and in with the new. “We took out everything: ceilings, interior walls and flooring,” Workman says. “Only the pipes remained.” But it wasn’t time for new dry wall. There were engineering details — at which this designer marvels — engineered inclusions in an already well-built building. “My clients thought of everything,” she says. “They not only wanted sleek elegance and a warm, delicious interior, but they wanted safety as well.”



AT TWILIGHT, THE SCULPTURED CEILING MIMICS THE BREAKING WAVES BEYOND, WHILE AN AREA RUG FROM STARK CARPET SHAPES A SOCIAL CIRCLE OF CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE SLIPPER CHAIRS AND A JOSEPH JEUP COCKTAIL TABLE FROM HOLLY HUNT.



In response, Workman redesigned interior walls to meet hurricane specifications, placing studs twice as close as the code required. A 300-gallon emergency water tank was installed in the ceiling should weather cause an interruption of service. And two “safe rooms” were devised should a hurricane make a beeline for Miami. It was only after these innovative solutions were engineered that Workman turned her attention to the condo’s sheer delight of space, view and ethereal ambiance high above Miami Beach.

With its central service core of utility elevators and stairwells serving as a kind of wheel-hub, and the condo’s private elevator rotunda just slightly to its side, Workman swept both the social and private areas in a vast 360-degree arc. And though there is a certain give to the hard exterior footprint of the building, she designed curves, spheres and waves in nearly every space.

ABOVE: No need to patter through the main living areas, the morning bar in the master wing corridor is convenient for an early coffee or a night cap. Slashed with deep reveals, the sweep of rich anigre walls and cabinetry prepare the way for the drama of the master suite.





ABOVE: With two sinks, two stoves and plenty of room for the owner or staff to stage a party, the kitchen arcs into independent stations. The luxe finishes of the main living areas flow through in Downsview Kitchen's cabinetry and Caesar Stone countertops.

The breakfast area and its cozy reading nook showcase B&B Italia's chenille-clad lounge chair from Luminaire and Moura Starr's spectacularly shimmering crystal-flower chandelier.



A massive S-curved wall, sheathed in exotic anigre wood, holds the living room, a social grouping, the dining room and breakfast area in its embrace. Providing continuity, the backside of a double curve that encompasses the entry rotunda, the kitchen and a wide corridor to the master suite also divides the area into intimate zones.

In the dining room, Workman created half-cylinder brushed stainless table pedestals topped with two-inch-thick bubingha wood made from one 22-foot tree log. Another engineering coup is the table's ability to silently roll from 10 feet to an additional 12 feet to accommodate the owners' frequent large dinner parties.

Wrapped by another arm of the "S," the living room is purity-defined. Plush, white chenille sofas are coupled with a pair of dark-caramel lounge chairs that seem as secure as a warm hug. Workman placed the group on a bespoke area rug that echoes the line of the wall.



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Treasured collections, books, art and cleverly cached storage vie for attention in the hallway to the guest wing. A white nickel Odegard chest and a Donald Baechler painting beckon beyond.

Drawing the eyes up and around the space, 11-foot ceilings follow the ebb and flow of the home's interior scheme. Highlighting the sculptural forms, both recessed lighting from an inverted soffit, and cached floor and ceiling illumination tucked into "wall bumps" call attention to the contours. And hiding in plain view, a four-chair conversation grouping and cocktail table appear intimate in the middle of the social area.

At the far end of the living room, a wide, 44-foot-long corridor leads to the master wing and Workman has put it to full use. An elegant powder room and expansive storage lie through two wooden doorframes. Here, beneath an elaborately stepped and illuminated dome, a morning bar is convenient. Rock crystal sconces and a chandelier of crystal pendants light the spider gold marble of the floor medallions.

The kitchen bears not only the designer's sense of dramatic élan, but also the owners' request to seclude it from the social areas when the staff is preparing for a party. The solution — a series of carved glass panels that slide into the countertop wall. In homage to the oceanfront setting, a whimsically monikered "squiggle" in the ceiling is an ingenious method of interrupting the length of the kitchen's long wrap. Beyond, the breakfast area, like the other carefully considered and well-engineered spaces, inspired a custom table designed with circular leaves that attach around its perimeter to seat a happy breakfast party of 12.



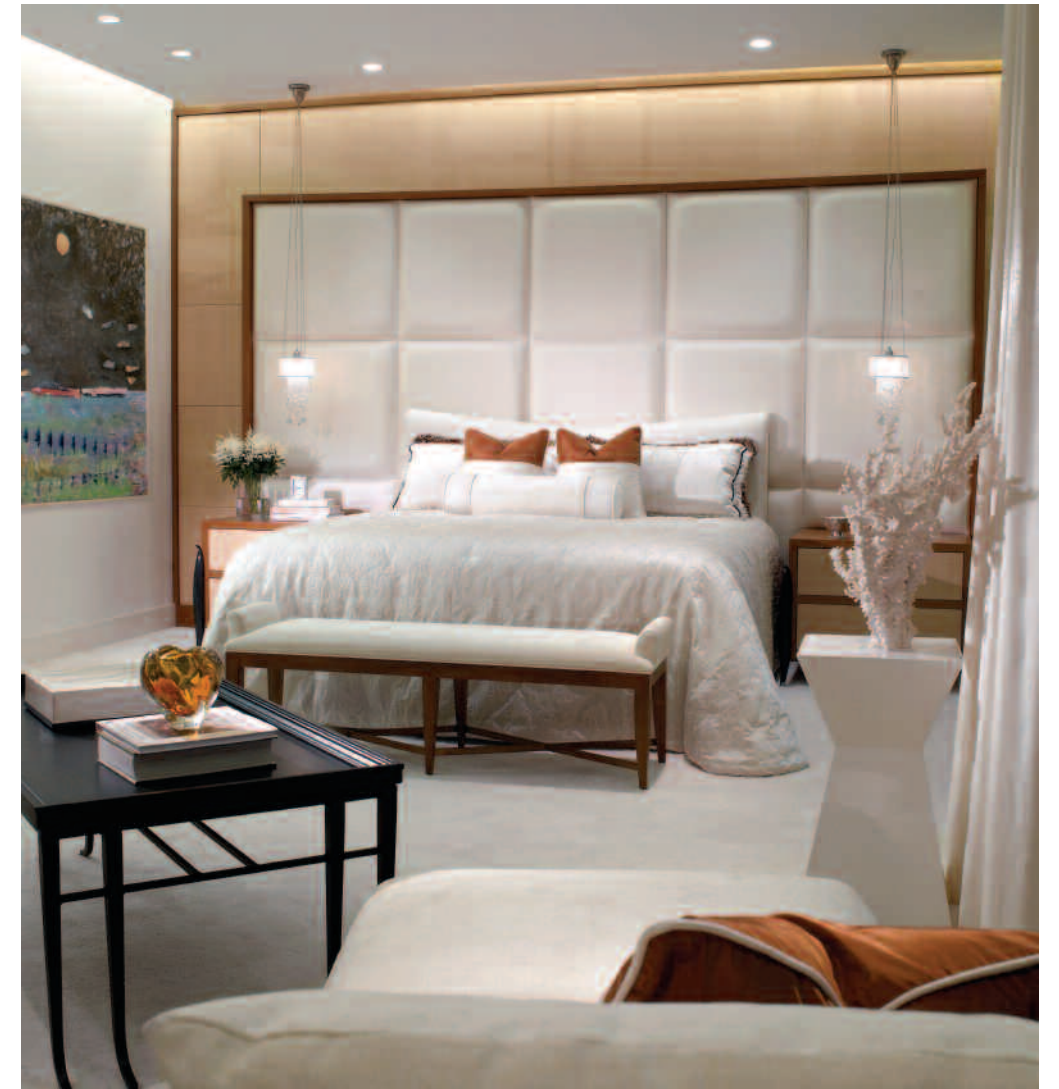
"OUT OF THIS WORLD ... A WONDERLAND," IS HOW INTERIOR DESIGNER ALENE WORKMAN DESCRIBES THE POWDER ROOM. HERE, A NANCY CORZINE VANITY CHAIR SETS A TONE OF DELICATE FEMININITY AMIDST THE GLASS-TILE WALLS AND SPARKLING MIRRORS.



In the master bath, Workman created echoing horizontal prosceniums in the contours of the illuminated floating ceiling, and the inset jasper and thassos marble floor pattern. A vanity chair by J. Robert Scott and a Bright bench add plush luxury.



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Small spaces need not be boring. Repeating chandeliers illuminate a 49-foot-long hallway that leads the way past vertical columns and niched cabinetry to the guest rooms — all situated in their own wing. Another small but favored spot is the “wonderland” powder room. With a suspended mirror and walls covered in mirrored tiles of viney patterns, dazzling reflections are set in motion.

Yet it is in the master suite, reached via sets of double entry doors from its private rotunda, that glamour and luxury unabashedly blend. Set on white plush carpeting, the appliquéd-silk-clad bed and its upholstered wall are framed like a painting by double steps of wood. Italian pendant bedside fixtures of crystal cast a glow on John Saladino’s nesting black iron table.

In a burst of drama, Workman reimagines the master bath as art. Set on backlit glass, thick bronze ribbons suggest sand and sea. His and her vanities flank the tub encased in soft pear wood and marble. And it is in this private space one finds a lofty place to linger and dream.

ABOVE: With a subtle juxtaposition of soft and hard surfaces, the master bedroom’s textures strike a balance. A coral array on a white-marble inverted pyramid table from E.G. Cody, a wrought iron cocktail table from John Saladino, and wood wall trim play against cascading layers of soft silk and velvety chenille.



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SOURCES

Dining Room

Dining table - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL  
Fabricated by John Houshmand, New York, NY

Chairs - Wendell Castle, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Chair fabric - Spinneybeck, Getzville, NY  
Pedestals - Stephen Turner, Hollywood, FL, and E.G. Cody, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
White bronze pear - Roberto Kuo, Niba Home, Miami, FL

Drapery fabric - Zimmer + Rohde, Ammon Hickson, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Living Room

Sofas and bench - Christian Liaigre, Miami, FL

Fabric - Osborne & Little, Ammon Hickson, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Lounge chairs - Hugues Chevalier, Studium, New York, NY

Fabric - Pierre Frey, Nessen Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table - John Houshmand, New York, NY

Sofa tables fabricated by Vogue Furniture, Royal Oak, MI

Table lamp - Niedermaier, Chicago, IL  
Vases - E.G. Cody, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Pedestals - Stephen Turner, Hollywood, FL  
Drapery fabric - Zimmer + Rohde, Ammon Hickson, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Area rug - Stark Carpet, Costa Mesa, CA

Social Group

Slipper chairs - Christian Liaigre, Miami, FL

Fabric - Bergamo Fabrics, Donghia, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Accent pillow fabric - Rodolph, Jerry Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table - Joseph Jeup, Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

Area rug - Stark Carpet, Costa Mesa, CA

Master Corridor

Wood paneling and cabinetry - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL; fabricated by Vogue Furniture, Royal Oak, MI

Countertop - Keys Granite, Miami, FL

Wall sconces - Fuse, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Chandelier - Prella & Mathieu, New York, NY

Kitchen

Cabinetry - Downsview Kitchens, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Hood - The John P. Downs Company, Inc., Dania Beach, FL

Oven - Wolf, Drimmers Appliances, Miami, FL

Flooring - Marble of the World, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Breakfast Area

Table - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

Chairs - Rolf Benz, Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric - Spinneybeck, Getzville, NY

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Lounge chair and ottoman - B&B Italia,

Luminaire, Coral Gables, FL

Fabric - Orient Express, Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Chandelier - Moura Starr, New York, NY

Table lamp - Foscariini, Jolo Enterprises, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Hallway

White cabinetry - Vogue Furniture, Royal Oak, MI

Light fixtures - Ralph Pucci, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Console - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

Fabricated by Odegard, Miami, FL

Powder Room

Mirror - bon, balance order nature, inc., Miami, FL

Mirror tile wall treatment and inset - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

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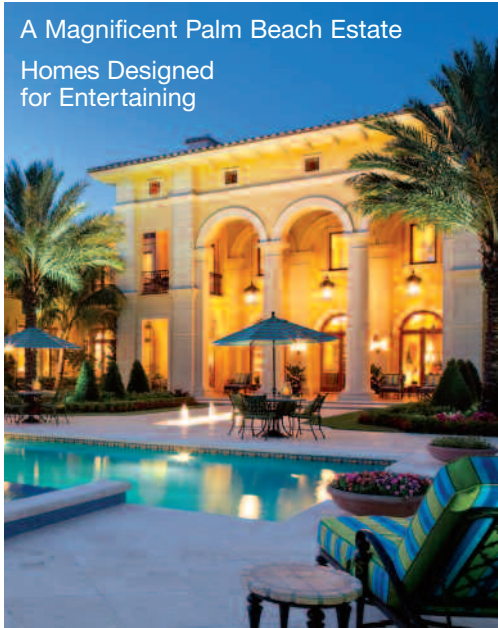
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Vase - E.G. Cody, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
Vanity chair - Nancy Corzine, Nessen Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric - Bergamo Fabrics, Donghia, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Sconces - Jonathan Browning, Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

Master Bedroom

Upholstered bed - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

Fabricated by Le Jeune Upholstery, Inc., Miami, FL

Headboard and wall fabric - Christian Fishbacher, Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania, FL

Fabricated by Sutton Draperies, North Miami, FL

Bedside tables fabricated by Vogue Furniture, Royal Oak, MI

Bed coverings - Bergamo Fabrics, Donghia, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabricated by Excell in Design Group, Inc., Boca Raton, FL

Bench - Powell & Bonnell, Canada

Lounge chair - Ralph Pucci, J. Batchelor, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Bench and chair fabrics - Elizabeth Dow Ltd., David Sutherland

Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table - John Saladino Furniture, New York, NY

White inverted pyramid table - E.G. Cody, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Coral - Stephen Turner, Hollywood, FL

Pendants - Baga, Jolo Enterprises, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Draperies fabric - Bart Halpern, Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabricated by Sutton Draperies, North Miami, FL

Master Bath

Vanity, cabinetry and tub surround - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

Fabricated by Vogue Furniture, Royal Oak, MI

Tub - BainUltra, Inc., Designer's Plumbing & Hardware, Miami, FL

Vanity chair - J. Robert Scott, Jerry Pair & Assoc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Bench - The Bright Group, New York, NY

Fabric - Creation Bauman, Jeffrey Michaels, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Bronze and glass wall panel fabricated by John Houshmand, New York, NY

Wall sconces on mirror - Studio Italia Design, Miami, FL

Throughout

Artwork and sculpture - Rosenbaum Contemporary, Boca Raton, FL

Ceiling treatments - Custom designed by Alene Workman Interior Design, Hollywood, FL

Recessed lighting - Iris, Cooper Lighting, Miami, FL ♦