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# Miami Design

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Combining warmth and comfort the guest bedroom is an inviting room for a visitor. "Not every bed needs a headboard," Martinez said. Round pillows and throw pillows fulfill that role in this room.

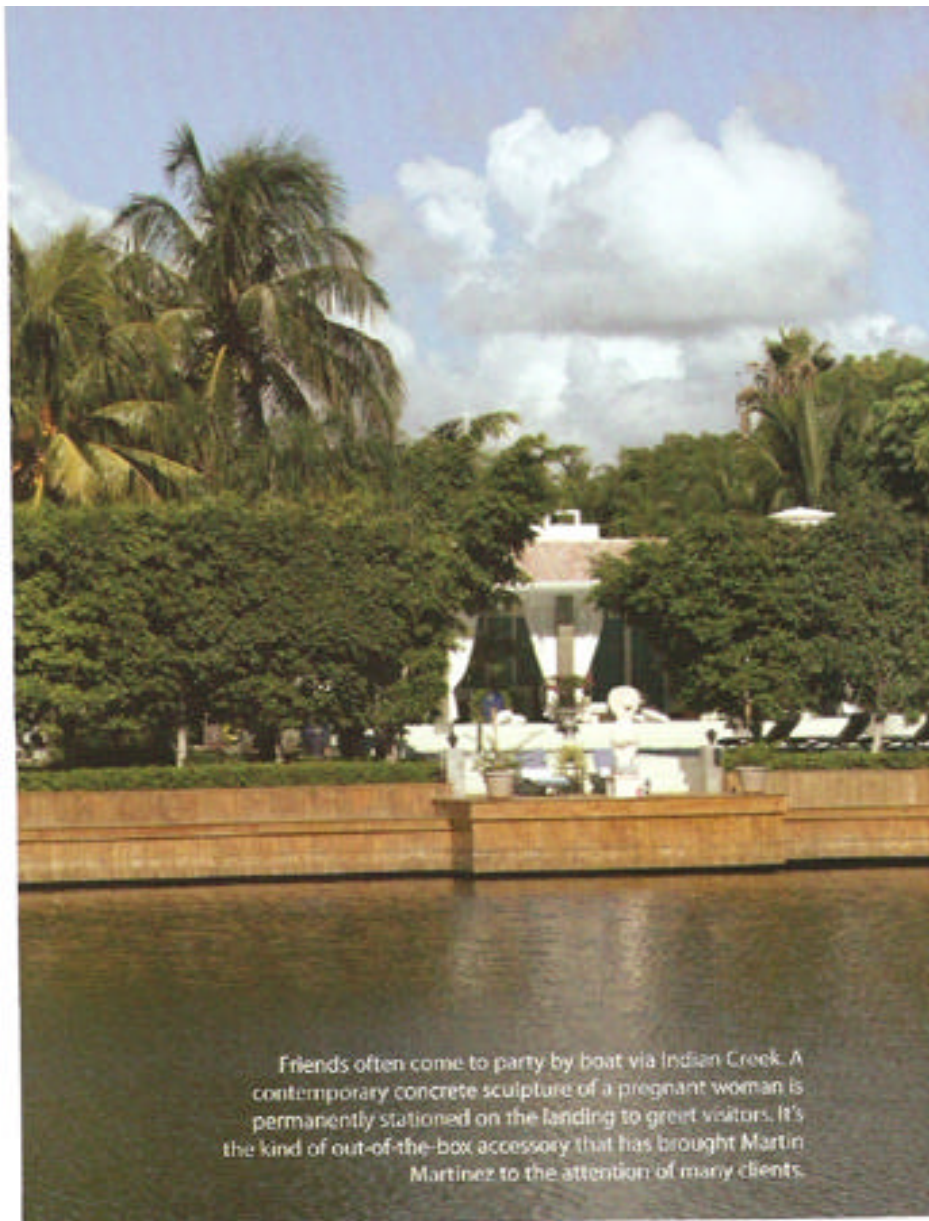


# Inside and Outside, This Waterfront Home Has Pizzazz

*A House Built In the '40s Takes On a Completely Different Look After Interior Designer Martín C. Martínez Purchased and Decorated It*

By Sue Lynn

Photography By Tim Ribar, Fort Lauderdale



Friends often come to party by boat via Indian Creek. A contemporary concrete sculpture of a pregnant woman is permanently stationed on the landing to greet visitors. It's the kind of out-of-the-box accessory that has brought Martín Martínez to the attention of many clients.

**M**artín Martínez loves to buy homes he furnishes, lives in and eventually sells. One of his homes he recently sold, located on Indian Creek in Miami Beach, became an inside-outside home as the outside and inside were both furnished with the same magical touches.

Martínez, a native of Uruguay, came to the United States when he was 20 years old to study at Parsons School of Design. He came to Miami in 1999 as he had several clients in New York who had bought new homes in South Florida that needed to be decorated from top to bottom.

The impact Parsons contributed to his natural flair for interior design helped him develop a style that takes shape once he studies the home's architecture and his clients' lifestyle.

"I like to design in different styles," he said, "depending upon my clients. I like some rooms to be very symmetrical. In others I like to furnish with an eclectic style, combining different styles of furnishings that complement each other. It depends upon my clients and their lifestyles."

Martínez enjoys stepping out of the box to create a mood





The English marble-topped mahogany console table is surrounded by white sheers at the entry foyer. A simple arrangement of branches in various configurations provides a graceful greeting.





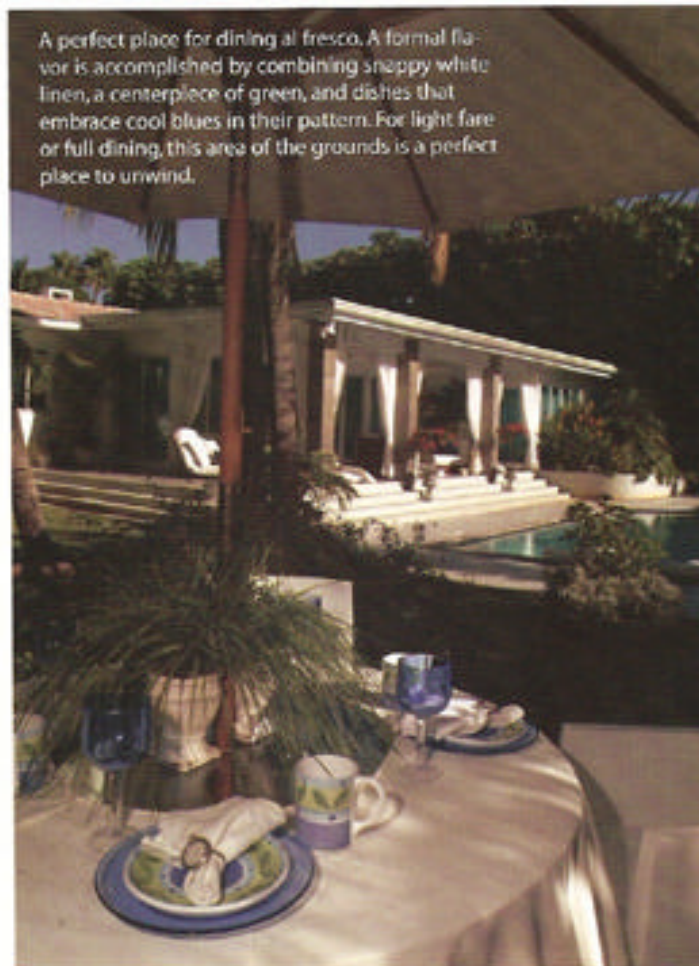
An ideal place for entertaining is the patio behind the house. Outdoor furniture is covered with Sunbrella fabric. Gauzy curtains add to a Shaharazad style ambience to the area. Cool blue chaises on the wood deck share space with crisp white pillows and towels.

that combines comfort with style by using basic colors with color accents throughout. In one condominium apartment in South Beach, he used the color orange as the main color in some rooms as well as orange as an accent color in other rooms.

However, in this 3,800-square-foot home, whose backyard shakes hands with Indian Creek, his approach was more conservative regarding color. Since both the condominium and the one family house were for his personal use, the possibilities of how he could give the house that lacked personality some oomph and pizzazz made his creative juices flow.

"This is a home, not an apartment, and having so much land around it, front and back suggested a completely different approach," he explained. The house was built in 1948 and, to an extent, wasn't attractive on the outside. There weren't any outstanding architectural details. The way Martinez overcame the lack of flavor on the house's boxy front was to cover the exterior with hedges.

"I cut out areas of the hedges where windows were located. In a room that faced the front of the house, you now can see the beautiful gardens. It automatically changed the look of the house." Martinez compared the grounds to an Italian garden with a tropical twist, thanks to the palm trees swaying throughout the garden. Off to the side on the front lawn, he placed two Phillippe Starke bubble



A perfect place for dining al fresco. A formal flavor is accomplished by combining snappy white linen, a centerpiece of green, and dishes that embrace cool blues in their pattern. For light fare or full dining, this area of the grounds is a perfect place to unwind.



A commercial berber area rug hugs the polished concrete floor and helps unify the living area. "Lamps are one of my passions," Martinez revealed. Interesting accessories are displayed on the fireplace mantel and gray wall.



club chairs, constructed of polypropylene. Between the chairs, in front of the undulating palm trees a bust of Beethoven was placed, "because it looked as if it belonged there."

Another unique touch in the front gardens is the niche where a statue of a boy and his dog are stationed. At night when the front yard is lit, the area becomes a dramatic setting where one can sit and enjoy a beverage or simply relax and enjoy the night.

At the entrance inside the house, Martinez painted the concrete fireplace and surrounding wall gray. "It unifies the fireplace, wall and the polished concrete floors. It's an unusual place for a fireplace, but that was where the builder put it. However, it serves the

living room, which serves many different functions. The wenge-wood table can accommodate six diners who can be seated comfortably on chairs upholstered with plain linen fabric, the same fabric used on the sofa in the living room section of the grand room. A round, low-pile wool rug under the table unifies the setting. Behind the dining room setting, Martinez placed two leather wing chairs and a painting on an easel in front of the atelier.

The very contemporary living room, where two Erte paintings hang over the sofa has an inviting appeal, especially at night when candles, the fireplace and lamps are lit. "The two barrel chairs came from an English men's club," Martinez said, adding he is always on

**"If you live on the water, you have to have an outstanding area in the back of your house. You want a 'breezy' feeling, a place to entertain, to relax, swim and enjoy dining alfresco."**

same purpose as if it was in the living room; it provides coziness to the entire living area."

In an interesting creative touch, Martinez placed a large, full-length mirror against a wall in the dining room which opens up the room even more than without the mirror. The crystal chandelier above the dining table adds a sparkle to this area of the grand liv-

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The very contemporary living room, where two Erte paintings hang over the sofa has an inviting appeal, especially at night when candles, the fireplace and lamps are lit. "The two barrel chairs came from an English men's club," Martinez said, adding he is always on

the lookout for unusual furnishings that he keeps until he finds a place for it for either his clients or himself.

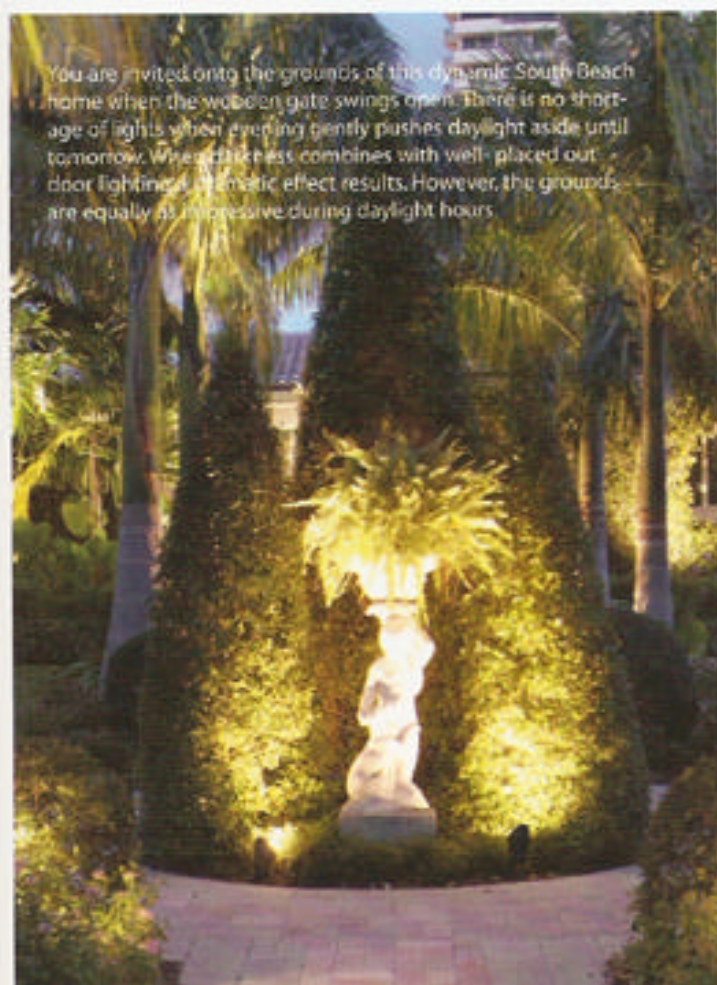
Martinez chose a commercial berber carpet on top of the polished concrete floor to unifying the sofa and chairs.

Concerning bedrooms, he said, "A bed doesn't have to be centered on a wall, and night tables do not have to mimic each other.





A magnificent chandelier from the Czech Republic hangs above the wenge-wood dining table. The "lean to the wall" mirror reflects part of the living room. "Where is it written that a mirror always has to be hung on the wall?" the designer asked. "Mirrors play an important role when planning a room layout," he added.



You are invited onto the grounds of this dynamic South Beach home when the wobbler gate swings open. There is no shortage of lights when evening gently pushes daylight aside until tomorrow. When darkness combines with well-placed outdoor lighting, a dramatic effect results. However, the grounds are equally as impressive during daylight hours.



The elegant master bedroom evokes a simple sophistication that would please the master of any domain.



It's hard to imagine that this innovative headboard was once a seating bench in a restaurant. It helps turn the master bedroom into a warm, inviting room. Animal print pillows add a lusty contrast to the otherwise sedate master bedroom.



There's nothing wrong with having non-matching night tables and different styled lamps on each side of the bed," He pointed out how he successfully adapted this design style in one of the guest bedrooms.

Martinez often placed pillows on the floor, on beds, chairs and sofas to add an inviting, casual touch. Since his dog, Bruno, shares the home, Martinez used washable fabrics on many furnishings and pillows.

It's hard to believe the headboard in the master bedroom was originally a bench that came from a restaurant. "I removed the seat and reupholstered the bench in a different fabric and it became the focal point in this bedroom.

"This is an eclectic room. The side tables are different, one is round with a white marble top, the other is mahogany with a desk lamp.

"I like to use animal trims," he said, referring to the footstool and pillow on the wing chair. "They are always in fashion and a very good touch," the designer said. The low-pile wool carpet contrasts nicely with the dark wood-wenge wood floor.

As interesting and inviting as the front lawn and the interior is, the back of the house is where "glamour" enters the conversation.

"If you live on the water, you have to have an outstanding area in the back of your house," Martinez said. "You want a 'breezy' feeling, a place to entertain, to relax, swim and enjoy dining alfresco. I think the back area of the house accomplishes all of this. It is where we do most of our entertainment. Many times our guests come in their boat instead of driving here."

The comfortable patio begs for people to relax and be casual. The oversized chairs upholstered in Sunbrella fabric, which holds up so well in all kinds of weather. The outdoor area rug is a synthetic fiber meant for outdoor use.

"I don't recommend using sisal rugs if they are placed in an area where they can get wet," he said.

A home where the interior and exterior blend so well is a testimony to Martin Martinez's ability to take what was an ordinary water-front home and turn it into an extraordinary comfortable setting, where anyone would be happy to live. ■