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Cristina Macias Graves, Ivette Arango Interiors,
Miami, FL
EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE Ralph Portuondo,
Portuondo Perotti Architects, Miami, FL
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE Phillip Chapelle,
Phillip Chapelle Design Company, Miami, FL
BUILDER Mike Murphy, Coastal Construction Group, Inc.,
Miami, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Robert Parsley,
Geomantic Designs, Inc., Miami, FL
TEXT Christine Davis
PHOTOGRAPHY Barry Grossman,
Weston, FL

AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN

A VISION OF EUROPEAN SPLENDOR

This Timeless Estate And Serene Peninsula Create The
Perfect Marriage For A Sophisticated Coral Gables Family

A well-appointed lawn and a shade tree highlighted
with a sculpture by Colombian artist Fernando
Botero add allure to the front of this grand estate.



FOR HOMEOWNERS MIGUEL and Constance Fernandez it took a better part of their 10-year marriage to complete the construction on this 40,000-square-foot home in Coral Gables, Fla., located on a seven-acre peninsula with views of Biscayne Bay and the Miami skyline. The couple finally settled into the Italian Mediterranean-style, 9-bedroom, 16-bath residence three years ago. "We were always aware that the project was out there, but then all of a sudden, we were just a year out from living in the house," Constance says. "At that point, we were traveling and thought we should be downsizing," she says. "But after we moved in I looked at Miguel and thought — I really like this place — I think we could make it work."

The project proceeded relatively smoothly thanks to a clear vision, a solid plan and the teamwork of interior designer Ivette Arango with project manager Cristina Macias Graves, and architects Ralph Portuondo and Phillip Chapelle. "My husband was the visionary," Constance says. "He counted on me for the details and we relied on our team of consultants for their expertise."

With construction still underway, Arango acquired antiques and designed custom pieces storing them for later use, while the couple compiled their Latin art and rare book collections. "Knowing that we would have ample space for artwork, we started to

LEFT: The stylish living room features a William Switzer cabinet that regally rests beneath artwork by Cuban artist Victor Manuel. A stunning Schonbeck crystal chandelier illuminates a conversation grouping that pairs Arango's custom-designed sofa with light-bronze silk club chairs.



Architectural detailing prevails in the formal dining room, where walnut wainscoting on the wall backs a limestone fireplace. Overhead, sparkling Baccarat crystal chandeliers suspend with elegance from a sculptural molded ceiling.

“We have seven landscaped acres with tennis courts, a boat house and a pool house — we need two golf carts just to get around,” homeowner Constance Fernandez says.



collect more significant and larger pieces,” the wife says. “My husband also began acquiring antique leather-bound books for the new library.” The pieces came together due to careful planning. “The home really feels like it belongs on this site, and since we had the furnishings, artwork and accessories ready, we were able to install everything within three weeks,” Arango says.

Even with its grand scale, the residence feels welcoming with unique architectural details and warm finishes. “Divided into a formal side and a family side,” each room in the home has its own distinct character,” the designer says.

ABOVE: The impressive two-story main library houses the husband’s prized collection of original and first-edition antique leather-bound books, and offers views of Biscayne Bay from the light-filled office area. Beneath fine furnishings, marble lines a walnut-wood floor patterned in herringbone.



Stepping inside the sophisticated living room, custom sofas designed by Arango are covered in a blue-gray and brown woolen paisley offset by soft accent pillows edged with sable-hued fringe. Twin club chairs wrapped in burnt-gold silk form a conversation grouping opposite matching armchairs clad in a bronze silk that flank two glass-topped cocktail tables. Wood paneling and a stained caramel-and-cream-coffered ceiling add distinct architectural detailing as French doors open to stunning views of Biscayne Bay.

In the formal dining room, the focal point is an oversized table comprised of inlay wood that centers dining chairs dressed in a rust-colored brocade, all custom designed by Arango. Antique mirrors reflect light cast throughout the space by magnificent Baccarat crystal chandeliers that exude elegance.

"The two-story main library is breathtaking," Arango says. The husband's desk in the adjacent bay is bathed in light from windows that lend spectacular views and is

ABOVE: The wife's office is fashioned with a custom-designed desk and swivel chairs trimmed in tassels by JAB. With a sideway glance from the well-appointed desk, artwork by Cuban artist Victor Manuel can be viewed.

RIGHT: In the breakfast area, dining chairs cushioned in a blue pattern by Corragio Textiles add a touch of color opposite the butler's pantry, where cabinetry designed by Chapelle lends extra storage.



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“Landscape architect Robert Parsley created a beautiful design by anchoring palm trees at each corner of the pool,” Arango says. Here, garden and water views can be enjoyed from every angle.



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illuminated overhead by a chandelier from Nulco. Walnut-wood flooring grounds the space in a distinctive herringbone pattern.

Elegance continues in the wife’s office furnished with a stylish desk and pull-up chairs in a light rust color edged with tassels custom designed by JAB. “My little office is my epicenter,” Constance says. “It’s cozy and I have everything I need here to plan my events.” Books on art, fashion and antique cars fill the niche shelving behind the desk.

Transitioning to the breakfast area, the relaxed atmosphere is perfect for casual family meals. The adjacent butler’s pantry functions as a workstation for entertaining. Ivette Arango’s custom mahogany table topped with a Lazy Susan is surrounded by hand-painted chairs

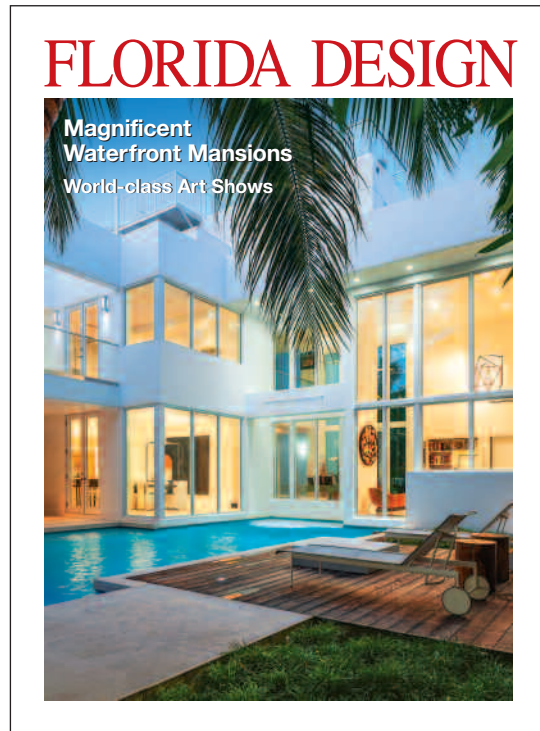
covered in a woven fabric by Corragio. Outfitted in paneling and stained cabinetry in light cream, both spaces are grounded by Crema Marfil and emperador marble flooring.

A graceful stairway steps down from the loggia to the Olympic-sized pool and surroundings that lend serenity and sophistication to the property. Brown Jordan chaises draped in Sunbrella offer the perfect spot for relaxation. Time spent lounging, bicycling, boating or romping with their four dogs fill this family’s days. “We enjoy the pool and pool house in particular, where we entertain friends and enjoy pizzas that we make in our own brick oven,” Constance says.

The beauty of this manse and its enchanting grounds are picture perfect. “This home is just what we need — it’s a special place — it allows us to bring our family together,” the owners say.

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SOURCES

Front Exterior
Half-wall - Coastal Construction Group, Inc., Miami, FL
Sculpture - Owners' Collection
Living Room
Sofas, armchairs, cocktail tables, occasional tables, accessories, lamps and flooring - Custom designed by Ivette Arango Interiors, Inc., Miami, FL
Accent pillow fabrics - Corragio Textiles, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Console table - William Switzer, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Urn, candlesticks, artwork and area rug - Owners' Collection
French doors and arc - Custom designed by Tischler Und Sohn, Stamford, CT
Doors, door arc and paneling - Custom designed by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Wall paneling, ceiling treatment and moldings - Custom designed by Phillip Chapelle Interior Design Company, Miami, FL
Ceiling treatment and moldings fabricated by Hyde Park Mouldings, Hauppauge, NY
Chandelier - Schonbeck, Farrey's, Miami, FL
Flooring fabricated by Domino Floor Company, Inc., Miami, FL
Dining Room
Dining table and dining chairs, vases, mirrors, window treatment, fireplace, mantle, wainscoting and flooring - Custom designed by Ivette Arango Interiors, Inc., Miami, FL
Fireplace and mantle fabricated by Custom Firebox Design, Inc., Miami, FL
Chair and drapery fabrics - JAB, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Window treatment fabricated by South Florida Window Design, Davie, FL
Window arc - Custom designed by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Artwork and statue - Owners' Collection
Ceiling treatment and moldings - Custom designed by Phillip Chapelle Design, Miami, FL
Fabricated by Hyde Park Mouldings, Hauppauge, NY
Wall covering - Stroheim & Romann, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Wainscoting fabricated by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Flooring fabricated by Amtech Industries, Miami, FL
Library/Office
Desk, desk chair, armchairs, occasional table and window treatment - Custom designed by Ivette Arango Interiors, Inc., Miami, FL

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Shelving and curio cabinet - Custom designed by Phillip Chapelle Design Company, Miami, FL
Shelving, arches, window treatment, window arc and curio cabinet fabricated by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Artwork, accessories and area rug - Owners' Collection

Chandelier - Nulco Lighting, ELK Group International, Nesquehoning, PA
Flooring - Domino Floor Company, Inc., Miami, FL
Wife's Office
Sofa, desk, desk chair, chairs, accessories, window treatment and flooring - Custom designed by Ivette Arango Interiors, Inc., Miami, FL
Artwork and area rug - Owners' Collection

Tassels on chairs - JAB, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Shelving and niches - Custom designed by Phillip Chapelle Design Company, Miami, FL
Shelving, niches, window treatment and arc fabricated by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Chandelier - Schonbeck, Farrey's, Miami, FL

Flooring fabricated by Amtech Industries, Inc., Miami, FL
Breakfast Area/Butler's Pantry
Cabinetry, island and curio cabinet - Custom designed by Phillip Chapelle Design, Miami, FL
Dining table, dining chairs, countertops, accessories, Lazy Susan, window treatment and flooring - Custom designed by Ivette Arango Interiors, Inc., Miami, FL
Dining chair cushion fabric - Corragio Textiles, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Countertops, cabinetry glass and flooring fabricated by Amtech Industries, Inc., Miami, FL
Chandeliers in kitchen and butler's pantry - Farrey's, Miami, FL
Tableware and plate collection - Owners' Collection
Cabinetry, island, curio cabinet, window treatment and arcs fabricated by Merritt Woodwork, Mentor, OH
Wall covering - Stroheim & Romann, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Pool/Patio
Pool and stairway - Custom designed by Portuondo Perotti Architects, Miami, FL
Fabricated by Coastal Construction, Inc., Miami, FL
Lounge chairs - Brown Jordan, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Cushion fabric and accent pillow fabric - Sunbrella, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Cushioned chair and occasional table - Ivette Arango Interior Design, Inc., Miami, FL
Planter - Robert Parsley, Geomantic Design, Miami, FL
Flooring - Piedras International, West Miami, FL
Throughout
Arches - Custom designed by Portuondo Perotti Architects, Miami, FL
Fabricated by Coastal Construction Group, Inc., Miami, FL
Floral - Emilio Robba, Miami, FL ♦

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