



PHOTO: ROBIN HILL

ALL ABOUT:
Living Spaces

If there's one room in the house that most embraces a homeowner's personality, it's the living room. This is where choices such as bold color and crazy patterns can come out to play and where a homeowner's love of antiques, modern furniture or artwork are as welcome in the space as a close friend. Here, we look at the innovative ways designers are using accessories and statement furniture to create a customized style that's both relaxing and inviting for family members and guests alike.

Architect Barry Klein and designer Ellen Klein, the husband-and-wife duo behind the modern reimagining of this 1930s-era Miami Beach home, used the original ceiling panels in the living room to dictate the color and print palette of the oversize space. Formidable art, like Madeln Company's *Light Source 2*, which peeks in through the archway beyond, completes the look.

To maximize the views in this Miami Beach penthouse, interior designer Deborah Wecselman opted for a mostly white palette and relied on clever furniture placement, instead of window-blocking walls, to create a variety of spaces with different functions within the open floor plan—from conversation and lounging areas to a more formal dining space.



Above: Designers Fanny Haim, Carolina Gutierrez and Susana Stolear used soothing neutral hues and dreamy blues to define this waterfront living room in Golden Beach that is equal parts sophisticated and cozy. "The intention for this house was to be casual," explains Haim. "Instead of having a formal anything, it is all usable. There isn't a single room you can't touch or live in."

Left: To achieve a bright and airy South Florida vacation retreat for New York natives, designer Jackie Armour had to think beyond linen and sisal—knocking down a number of interior walls throughout the residence's first floor to craft a wide-open living room with plantation shutters that bring the tropics to mind.

This Miami Beach living room by designer Luciana Fragali gets its carefree coastal look from a fitting inspiration: beach houses in Brazil. "The owners wanted a home that would recall those designs," says Fragali, "a house that would be both contemporary and cozy." Thanks to a chic, boxy coffee table, a comfortable sofa and plum-hued chairs, all by Artefacto, this family gathering spot is all that and more.



THIS PAGE: FRAGALI ROOM: PHOTO: MARK ROSKAMAS, OPPOSITE: HINOJOSA HEADSHOT: NICK GARCIA, SUGERMAN AND LOOR HEADSHOT: CARLOS DOME NECH



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Luciana Fragali,
Carola Hinojosa,
Pepe Calderin,
Brett Sugerman
and Giselle Loor

LIVING LARGE

When designing a living space, comfort is paramount—through fabrics and furnishings and especially space planning and functionality. But the architecture of a space and the use of direct, indirect and ambient lighting to create a mood play just as important of a role. Here, a few of our favorite designers discuss the rules to fashioning the perfect living area.

Luciana Fragali: The clients of this home (shown) were looking for something elegant yet cozy and understated. The combination between organic and modern pieces created this beautiful room in which the dominant colors are deep purple and lavender. The homeowners have three boys, so even though they wanted an elegant house, they were concerned about their kids being able to feel comfortable and run free around it. The mood we aimed for was a home that would entertain their friends but at the same time make people feel comfortable enough to transit in any room, touch anything and not have off-limit spaces.

Carola Hinojosa: Home is where you can throw yourself on a sofa that is deceptively comfortable and unwind in a luxuriously relaxed environment. We want our clients to feel that this is the only place they can imagine being in. Beyond that, the most important area of our design is anchoring a room with beautiful architectural millwork that highlights the geometry of the space. Geometry helps us to create a sense of order in design. We also like to use rugs with graphic patterns, organic materials, subdued colors and, of course, art. Every space needs a beautiful piece of art.

Pepe Calderin: There are many factors that affect and serve as our point of

inspiration: architecture, lifestyle, client preference and comfort. We like to have not only a beautiful space but also one that carries great positive energy so that our client feels at ease and rejuvenated. It's also very important to have a strong architectural aspect and the use of textures. I always prefer a neutral background and then add colors through art pieces and accessories. And the right lighting is the best way to achieve the right mood and is one of my key treatments. If you have a strong architectural backdrop and the right lighting, everything else will fall into place.

Brett Sugerman and Giselle Loor: Setting the mood in a space is dependent upon combining elements to stimulate the senses. Lighting is so important—both natural and designed—but so is the right balance of materials. We use a lot of rich woods, stone and lush-textured fabrics to impart a sense of luxury and repose, and we depend upon sleek finishes like glass, lacquer, steel and leather to energize and refresh. We also like to layer our lighting designs to create interest and flexibility, mixing direct, indirect, ambient and accent lighting from the ceiling, walls and floor. We also frequently integrate lighting into our custom millwork, both for a functional and purely decorative effect.



This sleek Coral Gables gathering spot, designed by Lourdes Fernandez-Grattan, is both living room and gallery, with great contemporary art displayed alongside a number of sculptural furniture pieces, such as a Frank Gehry stool for Vitra, Barcelona chairs from Knoll, Christian Liaigre sconces and an industrial-style coffee table by Carlo Scarpa.



LOURDES FERNANDEZ-GRATTAN

Designer

In your mind, what makes a great living space? The living room is often the most appreciated area of a house, and our best furniture pieces, accessories and art usually end up there. For my own space (shown), I mixed personal and unique elements. Surrounding yourself with mementos from travels, or that chair or table you couldn't live without, yields spaces that you want to enjoy.

And what about furniture placement? When arranging the furniture layout for my living room I needed to respect the fireplace, as that ultimately dictates the direction of the seating. I enjoy symmetrical layouts, and having the fireplace in the center of the room flanked by identical alcoves could not have served the space better.

Tell us how you create just the right mix. My practice of working with neutral fabrics in varied textures gives my spaces a relaxing and inviting feel without looking dated. Creating this kind of backdrop allows the unexpected bold piece or accent color to pop. In this particular case, these two French gilded lounge chairs hold their own among all the modern items in the rest of the room.