

New York Cottages and Gardens

SPECIAL ISSUE!

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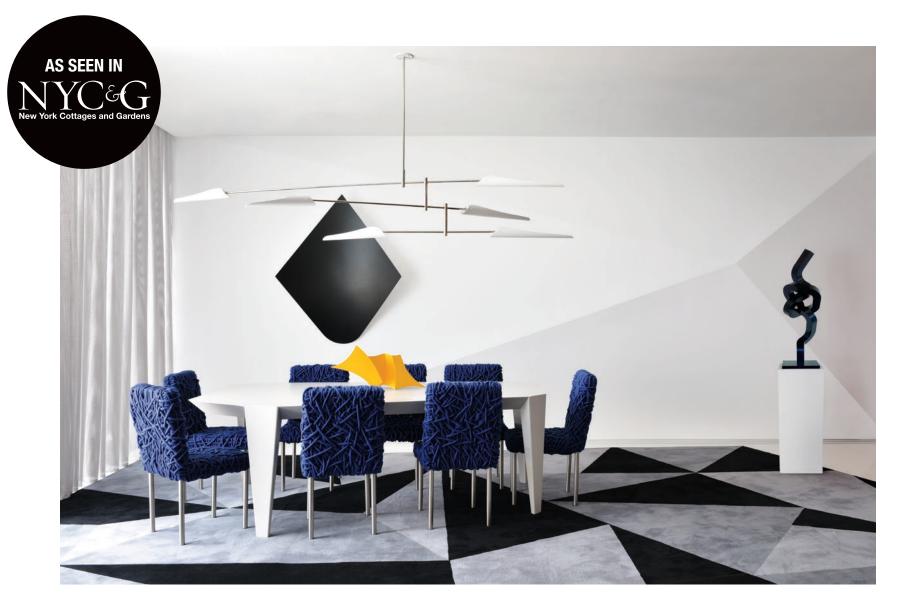
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FORECAST

In Miami, Sanchez+Coleman Studio puts some sizzle into a formerly humdrum condo

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN HAYDEN



ometimes a little change can go a long way. Three years ago, interior designer Christopher Coleman and his longtime partner, Venezuelan architect-turned-fashion-designer Angel Sanchez, traded in the chaos of New York City for a more laid-back life in Miami. "I decided I was done with New York, and Miami was an easy

transition because we already had an apartment there," Coleman recounts. The couple set up shop in a small building north of Miami's Design District, the first floor dedicated to Sanchez's evening wear and bridal lines, and the second to their newly established interiors business. (Coleman ran his own firm for 25 years in New York before persuading Sanchez to get back

In Living Color The living room (ABOVE) is furnished with an Edra sofa, chairs from Knoll, a coffee table from Matter, and a rug from Tsar Carpets. Cappellini's Trez chair holds court in a corner (RIGHT). See Resources.



Blue Not

A rotating work by Manuel Merida hangs on a back-painted glass wall in the kitchen, which features white lacquer cabinetry and Corian countertops. See Resources.

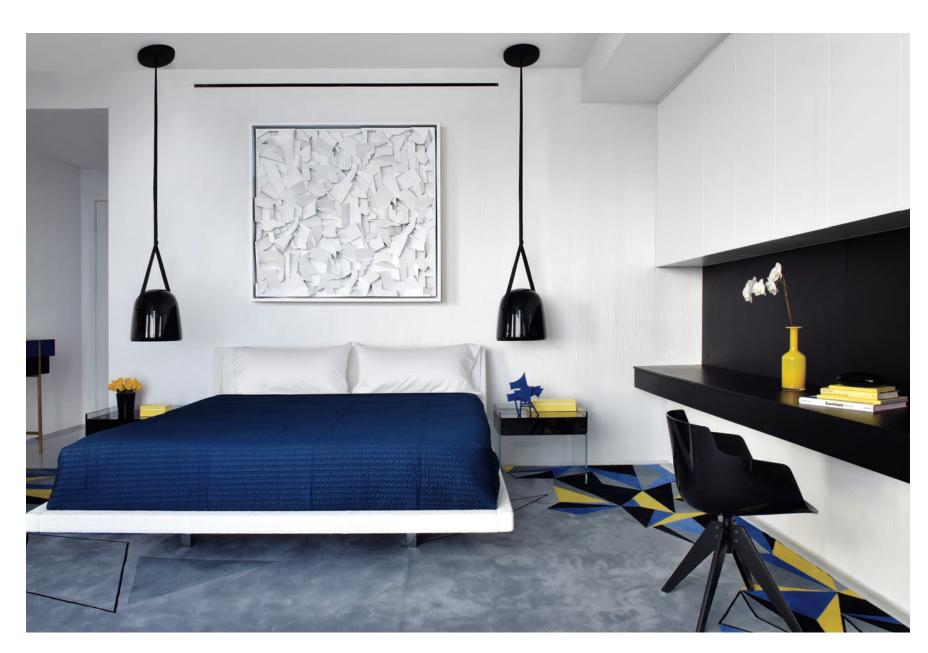


"We started collaborating after some of my fashion clients bought apartments and hired Chris to decorate them," says Sanchez. "I fell in love with architecture all over again"

to his architecture roots and join forces with him.) "We started collaborating after some of my fashion clients bought apartments and hired Chris to decorate them," explains Sanchez. "I never thought I'd go back to architecture, but I fell in love with it all over again." Coleman, who describes his design philosophy as "modern, colorful, and bold, with a sense of humor and whimsy," never takes any job too seriously—perhaps a nod to his salad days, when he decorated children's rooms.

Coleman's penchant for fun comes full circle in the project featured on these pages, a wildly vibrant condo in Miami's Sunny Isles. The clients, a couple with two teenagers, hired him and Sanchez to revamp their new 3,000-square-foot three-bedroom abode after attending a dinner party at an apartment the pair had designed. And while this water-view unit was impressive, it needed work if its interiors were to be as impactful as the expansive ocean vistas from its three terraces.

The first task: adding interest and dimension to the main living space—a basic white box—by rebuilding the walls to give them a faceted 3-D effect. "The clients wanted something clean, so we changed up the architecture and made the walls large works of art," says Sanchez. "We took the idea of angles and ran with it," Coleman



adds, "starting with the walls and repeating the theme in the rugs, the living room sofa, the dining table, and the kitchen island."

The architectural concept didn't come without its challenges, though. "The angles gobbled up a lot of space," explains Coleman. "Usually, furnishings anchor a wall, but in this case, all of them had to float. We also had to figure out how to install appliances in an oddly shaped kitchen island and hang a TV on an irregular wall."

A single color story energizes the entire residence. "Everything in Miami tends to be decorated white," says Coleman, a primary-colors proponent who devised a vivid scheme of bright blue and yellow playing off black and white. (The decorator loves wall coverings, but realized that they wouldn't work on the living room's faceted walls.) Contemporary artworks in the same tones add to the drama, from a motorized blue circle by Manuel Merida (it rotates on a back-painted glass wall in the kitchen) to the black acrylic-on-fiberglass wall sculpture by Matthew Hawtin in the dining area to Kazumi Yoshida's white painted-wood piece in the master bedroom. Now art-filled and artful, this formerly ordinary apartment has suddenly become a masterwork of its own. *****





Striking Settings

A custom rug by Tai Ping anchors the master bedroom (OPPOSITE TOP AND THIS PAGE), where hanging light fixtures from Property flank an AllModern bed and artwork by Kazumi Yoshida. A blue wall sculpture by Matthew Hawtin and a console from the Future Perfect activate a corner. (OPPOSITE воттом) The son's bedroom walls are sheathed in Milton Glaser's Dot Matrix print for Flavor Paper, which plays off a patterned rug from Liora Manné. The chair is from Modloft and the bed coverings are from ABC Carpet & Home. See Resources.