

FAMILY LIVING MIAMI STYLE

Designer Jenny Carter Transforms An Oceanfront Condo Into A Chic Yet Fun Environment That Perfectly Suits Her Sophisticated Clients And Their Four Children

INTERIOR DESIGN Jenny Carter, K2 Design Group, Inc., Bonita Springs, FL
TEXT De Schofield
PHOTOGRAPHY Kim Sargent, Palm Beach Gardens, FL



WHEN A NATIVE-MIAMI COUPLE SOUGHT A vacation retreat for their family of six, their search led to the exclusive One Bal Harbour building and a 6,000-square-foot apartment that combined two units. "This apartment met every criterion in terms of size, location, amenities and view," says interior designer Jenny Carter, whose long-standing relationship with her clients spans over a decade.

ABOVE: A pair of colorful mosaic tile water features leads the way into the grand salon. Overhead, an intricate, stepped ceiling treatment with fiber optic lighting emulates a wave pattern that recalls the outdoor view.



The elevator entry's custom cabinetry in a tomato red high-gloss finish pops against artist Ed Koehler's white coral installation featuring backlit aluminum branches clad in pearlescent resin. A striped area rug from Emma Gardner Design sits over limestone flooring.



Supple white leather covers both the living area's deep-seated sofa from Casa Italia and dining chairs set around Draener's marble table from Carriage House. Ceiling recesses house light fixtures from Brand Van Egmond that feature tiny xenon lamps.

This project marks Carter's third collaboration with the couple, whom she describes as "married best friends, philanthropists and great parents." Carter designed their primary residence in Washington, D.C., and is currently overseeing a total renovation of their home in Jerusalem, Israel. For this project, as well as the others, the designer's familiarity with her clients' lifestyle demands and aesthetic preferences provided the groundwork for the decor — a practical space designed for ultimate comfort and family enjoyment. Many of the original room partitions were demolished to open up the space as

Carter reconfigured nearly every inch throughout the four-bedroom unit, conducting a "forensic" investigation that yielded approximately 200 square feet of additional, previously unusable, footage. "They wanted modern, they wanted Miami and they wanted fun," she says. "The resulting style is pure urban beach chic ... truly Miami."

The decor scheme unfolds with a sense of drama, starting in the elevator entry with a custom-designed art installation of white "coral" branches anchored by cabinetry in a bright red polyester finish that provides handy

storage for the family's beach gear. Hand-selected Lagos Blue limestone from Portugal continues into the grand salon, where floor-to-ceiling water features in a colorful floral pattern stand in counterpoint to the nearly all-white furnishings that reside in the combined living and dining space, cleverly delineated by twin recessed ceilings. Here, panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway are uninterrupted by the room's low-slung leather furniture.


Characterized by the designer as the family's in-home sports bar, the combined home theater/media center fit with multiple flat screen TVs, game room and lounge features a Miami Dolphins palette of bright turquoise and orange. "This room didn't exist before the renovation," Carter says. "We created the space from an original hallway and some closet space." Being adjacent to the master suite required outfitting this entire room with acoustical wall compositions, coverings and carpeting to isolate the sound.

The all-white palette of the grand salon returns in the master bedroom. "This room is the essence of the quintessential, restful bedroom

RIGHT: Set into the game room's padded vinyl wall covering, a bar counter is lined with acrylic barstools from Loewenstein. Pindler & Pindler fabric covers a custom banquette and chairs, and echoes the hue of the carpeting.



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The master bedroom's bed nestles between custom cabinetry that mimics the padding of the leather bench. Kravet's luxurious metallic fabric covers the bed and draperies, while lighting from Fine Art Lamps adds a decorative touch to the bedside tables.

palette," Carter says. "No jarring color, just texture and finishes for interest." An area rug featuring a koi fish motif rendered in muted tones of chocolate, silver and beige anchors the sleeping area, where a contemporary bed with padded leather headboard faces a wall of glass. White opulence continues in the master bath, where countertops of Valley Gold Colorado marble coalesce with white oak cabinetry finished in a shimmering silver-toned stain and walls clad in pewter-toned wall covering culminate in a "champagne bubbles" ceiling.

The designer attests that this particular apartment truly embodies the family's young, fun, high-energy vibe. "This is a very sophisticated, world-traveling family," she says. "But once their lives touch down at MIA, and by the time they reach their home, boots and scarves are replaced with bathing suits and flip flops."

BELOW: A showstopper chandelier-like light fixture with floating crystals lends a magical theme in the master bath, where the new glass-enclosed shower and freestanding Kohler tub stand open to the view. The tub sits directly below a soffit that fills the tub from the ceiling. An adjacent ceiling recess is wrapped in Porcelanosa tiles, which continue on the wall.

