

# HOME DESIGN SHOWCASE

Whether your interest in design is categorized as mild admiration, all-consuming obsession or somewhere in between, South Florida continues to be an ever-flourishing mecca of inspiration and infinite possibility. Here among the pages of our annual Home & Design edition, we bring you the best and brightest minds in the industry—from top interior designers to expert home builders, revered landscape geniuses to skilled fabricators, as well as purveyors of drool-worthy home goods—who share tips, tricks and trends to accompany you along the creative path to luxury living. We invite you to look, learn and, most importantly, enjoy. May the compilation move you to realize the home of your dreams!

BY ROBIN HODES





# TIPS OF THE TRADE

There is no opinion more trusted on what's hot in design than that of interior designers. Here, 10 prominent local designers offer advice on how to stay ahead of the design curve.

## 1 GO BOLD OR GO HOME

Guimar Urbina of KIS Interior Design is passionate about analyzing trends and believes color is rising to the next level. According to Urbina, the tendency in the past to layer neutral tones is now being counteracted, as bold, bright hues are courageously incorporated into her designs. "It's time to make a statement!" she says. 444 Brickell Ave., Suite 804, Miami; 786.762.2675; [kisinteriordesign.com](http://kisinteriordesign.com)



Oceana Bal Harbour living room by KIS Interior Design

## 2 KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

Interior designers are often required to "think outside the box." This comes naturally to Katia Bates of Innovative Creations. "My personality is attracted to things outside the norm," she says. "If I do not think outside the box, my clients would all end up with the same conventional design as everyone else." Bates encourages her clients to embrace challenges. Once, she took a cocktail table that was out of scale for a sitting room, and suspended it from the ceiling instead! A fan of repurposing objects, Bates and her husband, Tom, manufacture unique coffee tables with bases made from the engines of luxury cars. 1437 NE Fourth Ave., Fort Lauderdale; 954.565.4333; [innovativecreationsusa.com](http://innovativecreationsusa.com)



Living room by Innovative Creations with custom Maserati engine table by Tom Bates Design; commissioned for client in Colorado

## ACT NATURAL

Elizabeth Ghia of Elizabeth Ghia Interiors encourages the use of natural materials wherever possible. Cotton, linen and silk are natural fibers that, in her experience, tend to get less dirty than polyesters and have a far superior feel. "If there's a wrinkle in a linen curtain, well...then you know it's real linen, and that in my opinion makes it more luxurious," she says. 917.628.3391; [elizabethghia.com](http://elizabethghia.com)



Miami living room by Elizabeth Ghia Interiors

## TECH THE WALLS

Partners Jay Britto and David Charette of Britto Charette find inspiration everywhere around them. Not surprisingly, in today's modern society, technology plays a significant role in their designs. "I predict more tech influences and innovations in wall treatments," states Charette. "We're using the latest materials to create really powerful and unique designs for our clients," Britto adds. 310 NW 26th St., Suite A, Miami; 305.640.5005; [brittocharette.com](http://brittocharette.com)



Pompano Beach bedroom by Britto Charette



## GET INTO THE MIX

Blending patterns can be daunting, but the reward is worth the risk. "Understanding how to mix and mingle fabrics has a lot to do with color," says Lori Deeds of **Kemble Interiors**, who is well-versed in color theory and understanding how colors complement one another, regardless of the pattern. To avoid clashing, Deeds recommends using similar patterns (i.e., stripes in varying sizes) with alternate patterns (such as a mini-print or large-scale floral). "Incorporating a pattern on the ceiling that subsequently reflects on the furnishings and flooring will contribute to a well-thought-out, finished space," she adds. *294 Hibiscus Ave., Palm Beach; 561.659.5556; kembleinteriors.com*



Bedroom by Kemble Interiors

## LIGHT IT UP

Under the direction of Alizee Brion, the international architecture and interior design studio **Light on White** recently expanded to Miami, and the name itself speaks volumes about what's presently most important when it comes to design. "Lighting is having a moment right now, moving from a supporting role to starring," articulates Brion, who believes a statement light—even a single bulb desk lamp—can be the focal point of a design scheme. *1674 Meridian Ave., Third Floor, Miami Beach; 305.866.0835; lightonwhite.com*

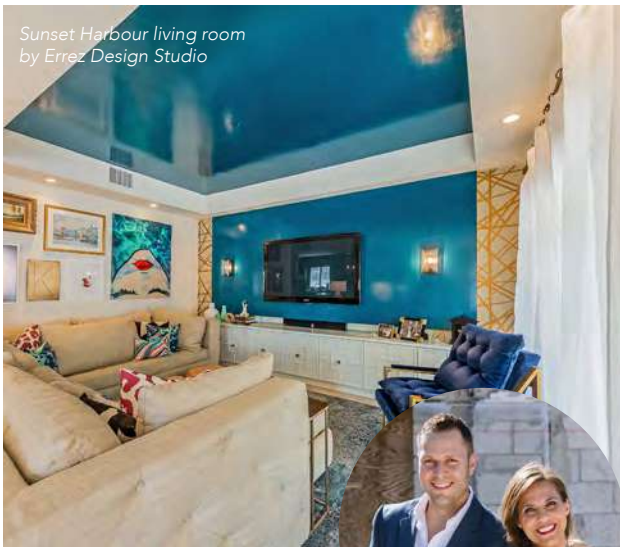


South Beach residence closet by Light on White



South Beach residence bedroom by Light on White

Sunset Harbour living room by Errez Design Studio

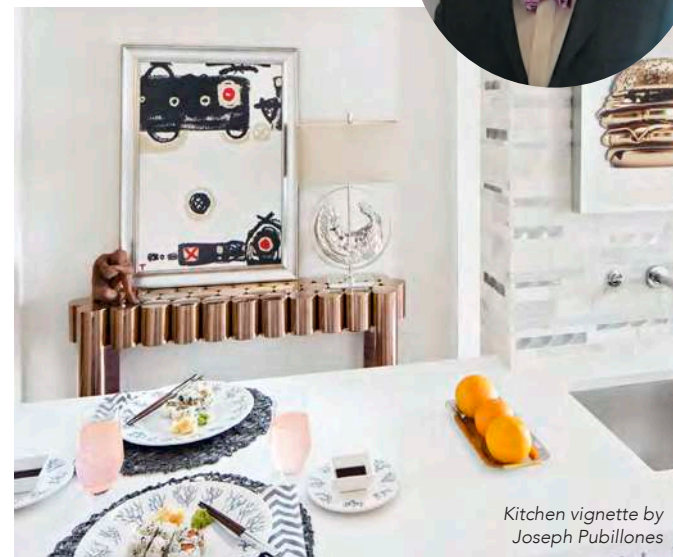
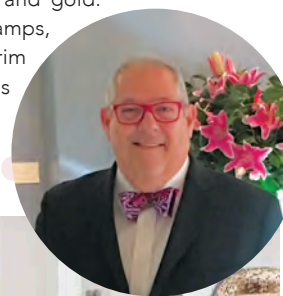


## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Husband-and-wife design duo Katie and Ruben Gutierrez, who together are **Errez Design Studio**, coined the term "biographical design" because they believe the best spaces tell the story of the people who live and work there. Their joint goal is to make the client feel at home and in control of their own design. "Use your favorite experiences, memories, heirlooms—or anything that speaks to you—to create a space that reflects it all," says Ruben. *95 Merrick Way, Third Floor, Coral Gables; 305.504.8818; errezdesign.com*

## USE YOUR METAL

Metallic finishes, when woven into any color scheme, add shine and interest to the space. Designer **Joseph Pubillones** loves how metallics pick up light and bounce it off other items in the room, creating a dramatic, unexpected effect. "The key is to achieve visual balance," suggests Pubillones, who unflinchingly intermingles metals like copper, silver and gold. "For example, a pair of chrome table lamps, a gold table accessory and copper trim on a pillow all work in accord. This is the recipe for chic." *44 Coconut Row, #B416, Palm Beach; 561.655.1717; josephpubillones.com*



Kitchen vignette by Joseph Pubillones



Dining room by Perla Lichi

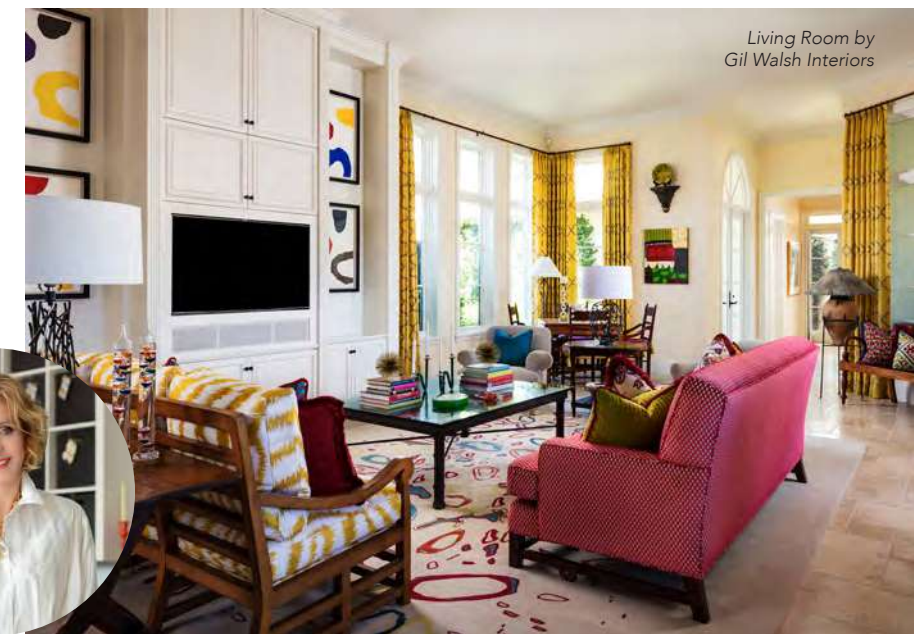
## EXPLORE GRAY AREAS

Perla Lichi is perhaps best appreciated for her versatility. She has traveled the globe, designing everything from cottages to royal palaces. As for trends, she acknowledges that the gray/white look is still going strong. Lichi recently completed a unit in Fort Lauderdale's posh L'Hermitage to rave reviews, where she expertly showcased that ever-popular palette, implementing it in a style she likes to call, "modern fusion." *3304 NE 33rd St., Fort Lauderdale; 954.726.0899; perlalichi.com*



## SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS

With over 40 years in the industry and leading more than \$200 million in design work, Gil Walsh of **Gil Walsh Interiors** has proven she is fearless when it comes to embracing color. "The unabashed use of color is one of the key success factors in bringing a design vision to life," she says. She further hammers the point home in her recently published book, *Gil Walsh Interiors: A Case for Color*. *433 Northwood Road, West Palm Beach; 561.932.0631; gilwalsh.com*



Living Room by Gil Walsh Interiors