COMMAND CENTRAL
17 PAGES OF BOLD KITCHENS & BATHROOMS ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA
FLORENSE, SNAIDERO, EGGERSMANN, ANN SACKS, STONE FOREST, ORNARE & MORE

PLUS
DREAM HOMES BY SDH STUDIO, MONROE SHERMAN & DUNAGAN DIVERIO
MIAMI STYLE: THE LATEST FROM BAXTER, ROCHE BOBOIS, LUXURY LIVING GROUP & VONDOM
CONTROVERSIAL LE CORBUSIER: THE CREATOR OF FAMOUS CHAIRS DID IT HIS WAY
FEATURES

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ROCKS HARBOR

MALE DROP

The owner of a Deco bachelor pad wants his guests to feel as comfortable as he is.

By Jil Alyman Menichini

Architecture & Design by SOM Studios
Photography by Robin Hill
As a gritty man cave, the way of the Neanderthal, one modern gentleman in South Florida envisioned a masculine space that spoke to his practicality and playfulness when he commissioned a 6,000-square-foot streamlined palace in Boca Harbour. Dreaming of fun-free environments both inside and out, the young former Midwesterner relied on the talents of architectural designer Stephanie Halphen of SDH Studio in Miami. "The challenge was to make it warm and cozy but cutting-edge," Halphen recalls. "He wanted a contemporary house that felt warm and inviting where he would be comfortable entertaining."

"I love a modern/contemporary house, but I felt most houses of that style are cold and impractical," the homeowner explains. "You're afraid to touch or use anything. And if one thing is out of place, the house looks dirty. Stephanie understood what I was looking for." Halphen instinctively knew the home should reflect the spaciousness of a loft, yet offer intimate gathering areas throughout, all pulled together with the use of natural materials, like wood, stone and glass. Custom wood doors, a generous glass balcony and stone facades matching the driveway hint at the main atrium inside, where guests enter into a sunlit-hued double-height living space. Above, bridges connect the second-floor rooms, while directly ahead is a soothing view of a canal leading to the Intracoastal. "The canal gives a Zen feeling as if the water runs inside the home," Halphen explains.

Then there's the pièce de résistance — a spool court in the center of the first-floor space — the homeowner's informal invitation for guests to quickly let loose and relax. An edge metal and wood pool table from Hurricane Custom Billiards. "My favorite piece in the house is the pool table," the homeowner says. "Beyond that it is really hard to choose a favorite. There is a beautiful large fan in my room that I love, my office has a retro-looking Arminite desk and chair from Restoration Hardware,
and I have an old movie production spotlight in my living room.” Aside from the custom pool table, the homeowner’s mother, who happens to be Wellington-based interior designer Helen Haman, sourced all the furnishings.

Working within a palette of white, gray and brown, the interior architect and the designer managed to work in soft neutrals, including large-format porcelain tile, stainless steel railings, ipe-clad ceilings, and even river rocks hiding under stairs near the entry. Hallen called on Mia Appliances for stainless steel Wolf and Sub-Zero kitchen workhorses and NiraCucina to design complementary kitchen and bathroom cabinets that look polished but would withstand a fair amount of active use—not unlike the rest of the house. “The owner wanted something ‘bulletproof’ for when he entertained,” Hallen explains.

The homeowner also requested a traffic flow that would allow her to enjoy hosting. “This layout really allows me to have an eye on everything and be able to relax as well,” he says. As guests typically tend to congregate in the kitchen, Hallen created openings so they can move easily to the living room. From there, large telescoping glass doors provide a direct view of and access to the pool and barbecue area, while the family
The modern, earthy setting in this master bathroom features marble countertops, a soaking tub, and a large mirror. The room leads directly to the pool deck. Halphen designed the landscape, complete with a Jet Ski launch and outdoor seating area, and the pool, with a freshwater lagoon and a spa, was a dream come true. The view from the spa is stunning, with the ocean and clouds visible in the distance.

Unfortunately, the homeowner's friends from Chicago are quick to visit and stay at all hours, so he and Halphen were keen to accommodate long-term stays. Even with five bedrooms and six bathrooms, even when the crew leaves daily, the house is filled with friends and family.

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Perhaps the most specific feature in the master suite is the walk-in closet, which offers ample storage space for all of Halphen’s clothing and accessories. The closet is designed to be both functional and stylish, with plenty of space for shoes, clothes, and other items.

In his office, with its personalized aviation-themed furnishings from Restoration Hardware, Halphen designed the space to be a perfect blend of comfort and functionality. The office features large windows that allow natural light to flood the space, creating a calm and peaceful atmosphere. The desk is made from solid wood, and the chair is upholstered in leather, providing a comfortable place to work and relax. The office is decorated with various aviation-themed items, including model planes and books on aviation history. Overall, the office is a perfect reflection of Halphen’s passion for aviation.