

# HARMONY IN ACTION

A PHENOMENAL DESIGN  
TEAM COLLABORATES ON THE  
CREATION OF A NEW HOME  
WHEN ONE YOUNG FAMILY  
OPTS FOR SLEEK PRACTICALITY

Where is it written that too many cooks must spoil the stew? In the case of two prestigious architecture and design firms, an independent interior designer, and a family of five, the “stew” involved the creation of a brand-new family home in the elegant and established town of Golden Beach, Fla. But despite many parties’ involvement, the final result is as wonderful as each of them had hoped it to be.

“I spent many hours gazing at designs and finished houses searching for the exact contemporary approach that would work for my growing family,” owner Patricia Wexler says. And she found two architects whose spare approach, clean lines and understanding of the indoor/outdoor life the family leads seemed to fit the bill perfectly.

Without hesitation, architect and designer Stephanie Halfen teamed with architect Lucas D’Adamo Baumann from Argentina. With Halfen coordinating the project and interpreting the homeowners’ desires, the

**RIGHT:** A series of “volumes” with vertical elements make up the contemporary exterior of this new home in an older neighborhood. With two architectural firms, and a designer working in harmony, the owners’ dream turned into reality — a home with room to grow.

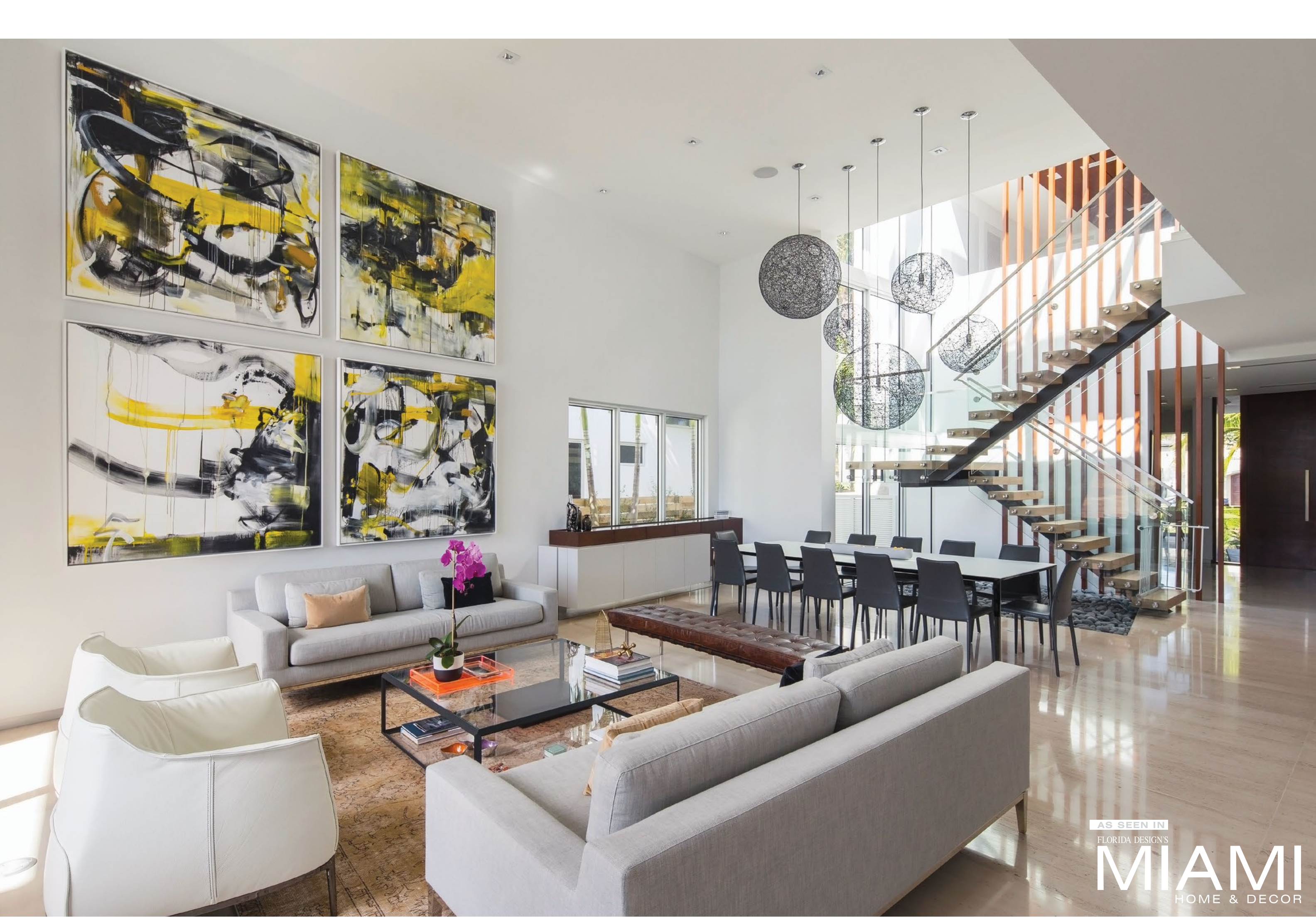
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN BY STEPHANIE HALFEN,  
SDH STUDIO ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN,  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL  
ARCHITECTURE BY LUCAS D’ADAMO BAUMANN,  
OON ARCHITECTURE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA  
FURNITURE SELECTION BY ADRIANA GRAUER, AGSIA DESIGN  
GROUP, AVENTURA, FL  
BUILDER RICARDO HALFEN, TREO CONSTRUCTION LLC,  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY MERCEDES PORCARI,  
EXOTICSCAPE, KEY BISCAYNE, FL  
TEXT BY MARINA BROWN  
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AS SEEN IN

FLORIDA DESIGN'S

MIAMI  
HOME & DECOR





“WE COULD HAVE GONE VERY SMALL OR VERY LARGE WITH THE WALL ART, BUT OPTED FOR FOUR DRAMATIC ART PANELS BY VICKY BARRANQUET,” ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER STEPHANIE HALFEN SAYS.

two firms designed this 5,000-square-foot home filled with texture and light; a perfect residence for little people to grow up.

Though the property was facing an expansive view of a canal and beyond, Golden Beach, the lot’s pie-shape and proximity to the neighbors’ dwellings was a challenge. A waterfront focus and unobtrusive privacy walls solved the problem.

Inside, the creative architects continued the thematic vertical play of aluminum slats seen on the front’s elevation with the use of poured concrete and metallic slats in the stunning stairway entry. Rising even beyond the living room’s 15-foot-high ceiling, the stairway’s glass wall soars overhead into its own skylight, leaving the white oak treads and the glass balustrades floating magically in the light.

Halfen also worked closely with interior designer Adriana Grauer to select the furnishings throughout. In the living room lined with a wall of glass, the design team opted for sleek, low-lying furnishings that do not interrupt the outside view or the selection of art. “We could have gone very small or very large for the wall art, but opted for four dramatic art panels by Vicky Barranquet,” Halfen says. Nearby, the

**LEFT:** Restoration Hardware’s low-lying sofas join a leather bench from Regina Andrew in the great room. Above the dining table from Molteni&C, chandeliers by Moooi are transparent lattices until lit, then glowing spherical stars.

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Plush leather-clad armchairs from Poltrona Frau square off with Molteni&C's wide, glass-topped cocktail table in the living area. Tractless doors covered in original art slide open to the kitchen and family room.

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WITH LIGHT FROM THE FRONT, BACK AND OVERHEAD, THE LIVING AREA'S EXPANSE IS FILLED WITH LIFE, AS A CHILD'S ARTISTRY BECOMES FABULOUS ABSTRACT ORIGINALS THROUGH THE MAGIC OF ARTIST ALEX TURCO.

interplay of the dining ensemble's legs and the vertical thrusts of the bronzed slats leave the view from the entry through to the water unobstructed.

Normally, a house filled with children will have their various accomplishments on display. Yet it is rare that a three-year-old's artistry will be blown up and exhibited with as much success as that of the owners' offspring, whose tiny sketch was turned into functional art by Alex Turco. With but a little shove, the living area's doors



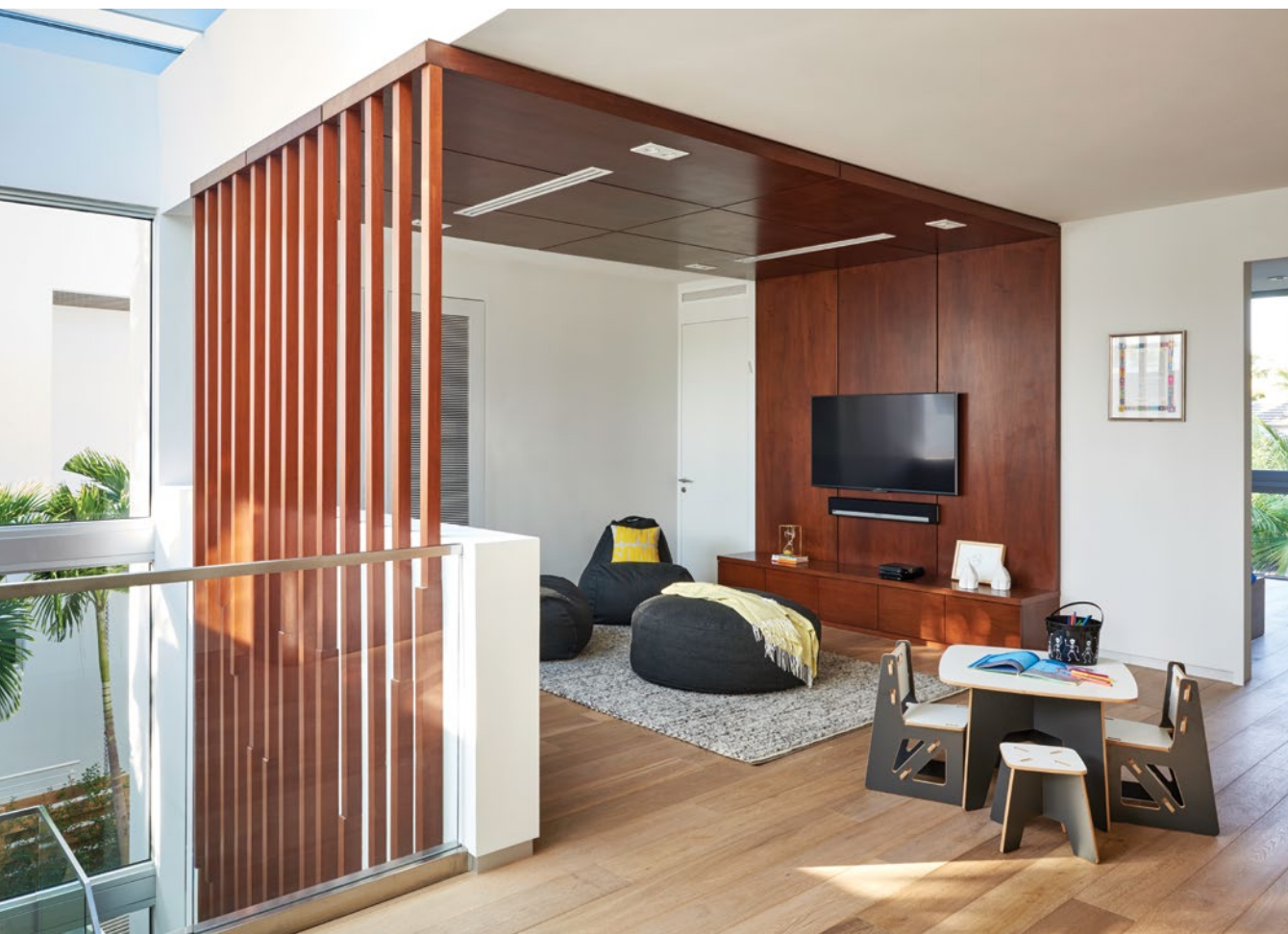
covered with the child's aluminum reproduction become fabulous abstract originals that slide open to reveal the kitchen and family room beyond.

With sleek kitchen cabinetry from Poggenpohl, a monochromatic palette continues until the playful pop of color in the family room. Bonaldo's table and chairs are light enough for little hands to move near a family friendly banquette.

With four bedrooms upstairs, the owners wanted a place for little folks to play, an intimate space just for them. Games, homework and cuddle time all occur inside what appears as a mahogany playhouse.

As if stacking dice, the architects have given a narrow lot depth and height by adjusting the arrangement of those die. The entire master suite sits like a voluminous cube atop another. An overhanging square is topped by a rectangular terrace, and along facades, shadow-box structure gives dimension to windows and doors.

With the same South American sensibilities as her client, Halfen understood not only her cultural tastes, but also the needs of her growing family. "I see my children maybe having a first kiss on the balcony, or receiving a graduation bouquet," Wexler says. "This is the house for us for a long, long time."



**ABOVE:** Though a children's play area for now, one day the owner sees the mahogany wood-covered nook as a place for study and thought. West Elm's colorful throw and a plush area rug from Restoration Hardware add a touch of warmth. The door inside leads to a rooftop terrace ... open now only under supervision.



Geometry prevails in the cozy kitchen and family room, where Poggenpohl's cube cabinetry and banquette join Bonaldo's table and side chairs from Addison House. Nearby, cocktail modules by Moroso take center stage, while Missoni's theatrical throw and Surya's woven area rug add a burst of color.





The master bedroom, with its exquisite paneled mahogany unit designed by Agsia and crafted by South Millwork Corporation, expands towards a private balcony and dazzling skyline beyond.

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**SOURCES**

**LIVING AREA**

Sofas - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL  
Fabric - Perennials, David Sutherland  
Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL  
White lounge chairs - Poltrona Frau Group, Miami, FL  
Bench - Regina Andrew Design, Riverview, MI  
Cocktail table - Molteni&C, Modus, MDD, Miami, FL  
Orange and purple abstract artwork - Alex Turco Art Designer, MDD, Miami, FL  
Yellow and black artwork and area rug - Owners' Collection

**DINING AREA**

Dining table - Molteni&C, Modus, MDD, Miami, FL  
Dining chairs - Bonaldo, Addison House, Aventura, FL  
Sideboard - Custom designed by Agsia Design Group, North Miami Beach, FL  
Fabricated by Artec Custom Wood, Miami, FL  
Pendant light fixtures - Moooi, Lumens Light + Living, Sacramento, CA

**STAIRWAY**

Stairway fabricated by Ambiance Interiors Manufacturing Corp., Miami, FL

**KITCHEN**

Cabinetry and banquette - Poggenpohl US, Inc., Doral, FL  
Countertops - Fine Surfaces and More, Miami, FL  
Hood and double ovens - Wolf, Ferguson, Miami, FL  
Table - Bonaldo, [www.deplain.com](http://www.deplain.com)  
Side chairs - Bonaldo, Addison House, Aventura, FL

**FAMILY ROOM**

Sofa - Living Divani, Luminaire, Coral Gables, FL  
Yellow accent pillow fabric - Crate&Barrel, Aventura, FL  
Throw on sofa - Missoni, Addison House, Aventura, FL  
Cocktail tables - Moroso, [www.hivemodern.com](http://www.hivemodern.com)  
Area rug - Surya, Atlanta, GA

**PLAY AREA**

Table, chairs, lounge chairs and center ottoman - Owners' Collection

Throw on ottoman - West Elm, Hallandale Beach, FL  
Wood wall and ceiling treatment fabricated by South Millwork Corp., Miami, FL  
Area rug - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL  
**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Bed - Design Within Reach, MDD, Miami, FL  
Wood wall unit fabricated by South Millwork Corp., Miami, FL  
Balcony chairs - Restoration Hardware, Miami, FL  
**MASTER BATH**  
Vanity - MiaCucina, Aventura, FL  
Mirrors - M & J Mirrors and Glass, Miami, FL  
Wall covering and flooring - New Stone Age, Inc., Miami, FL  
**PATIO**  
Sofa - Clima Outdoor, Miami, FL  
Fabric - Sunbrella, Glen Raven, NC  
Lounge chairs - Paola Lenti, [www.deplain.com](http://www.deplain.com)  
Cocktail table - Anima Domus, North Miami, FL **M**

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Tucked beneath a mahogany wrapped sun-shelter, a sofa from Clima Outdoor and Paola Lenti's lounge chairs set the stage for open-air entertainment. Fruit punch served on an Anima Domus cocktail table is perfect for all occasions.

**RIGHT:** Little color is needed in a master bath when surface, form and function are preeminent. The black porcelain wall from New Stone Age accents the polish of MiaCucina's vanity with a convenient shelf for linens nestled below.

