ONE TALENTED HUSBAND AND WIFE DESIGN TEAM CREATES A FAMILY HOME ON BAY HARBOR ISLANDS THAT CELEBRATES AN IDYLLIC, TROPICAL MODERN LIFESTYLE

POISED ON A GENEROUS CORNER LOT in Bay Harbor Islands — a vibrant community separated from the mainland by Biscayne Bay — this stunning home naturally transcends the divide between inside and out. Architect and interior designer Stephanie Halfen along with her husband, builder Ricardo Halfen and his team, created this 6,900-square-foot home to celebrate indoor-outdoor living in tropical modern style.

“What I love about architecture is that it allows us to build our vision of our ideal world. Our designs are meant to ignite all of our senses and reconnect us with the most raw and authentic part of ourselves.”

STEPHANIE HALFEN

ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER BY

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White stucco frames walls of glass that wrap the exterior of the home. “Because this property sits on a corner lot, it allowed for more open space and sun exposure,” Ricardo says. “This meant we had to be very mindful of the quality and craftsmanship of all the varied materials we used for the exterior facade. It also meant we needed attractive landscapes with varied sight lines to create an element of privacy.”

A breezy tropical style balanced with a sleek modern edge seamlessly flows from the facade to an interior presentation that is at once contemporary and livable. Stephanie chose an earth-tone palette paired with stone, wood, and other natural materials.
“The house is designed for a family that likes to entertain frequently both inside and out,” builder Ricardo Halfen says. “I love the look and feel of this home — the materials are tropical yet modern and durable.”

to bring warmth and elegance to the overall design that provides a stage for the homeowner’s choice of accents. An expansive, open floor plan was adopted to make everyday living extremely comfortable for an entire family while providing the perfect setup for both small gatherings and large-scale entertaining.

“The challenge was to make this home feel stunning, and at the same time warm and extremely comfortable,” Stephanie says. “The entry has an oversized ‘floating’ solid wood door surrounded by glass that opens to a double-height foyer.” Designed like an art piece, the stairway instantly becomes the main focal point in the space. “There are many things I love about this project, but the stairway is definitely one of my favorites,” she says. “The graceful silhouette is truly captivating.”

Natural light flows in through walls of glass that line the living area’s open floor plan. Low-profile contemporary sofas pair with a translucent glass cocktail table to give the space a sense of visual weightlessness along with an inviting ethereal vibe. Mirroring that same sleek sophistication, the dining area connects visually to the breezy outdoor spaces.

The kitchen is the heart of the home and designed to be both private and comfortable. Strategically placed to feel semi-integrated with the main social areas while lending some

above left: Cattelan Italia’s modern, glass-topped table defines the dining area, where clean-lined, upholstered chairs from Addison House seat guests comfortably. Above the walnut sideboard, a contemporary painting from SDH Studio Art gives a colorful nod to the pool and surrounding indigenous landscaping beyond.

above and right: Sleek and minimalist in style, the kitchen is outfitted with Mia Cucina’s cabinetry topped in clean, white quartz and an island shaped of Neolith white porcelain from Fine Surfaces. Wolf’s stainless steel hood and double ovens give a modern edge to complete the culinary space.
“Taking advantage of the home’s location, the outdoor area offers a generous backyard, an inviting pool and spacious exterior living spaces,” architect and interior designer Stephanie Halfen says.

Outside, indigenous tropical foliage fills the yard, where an expansive covered patio leads to the pool area. “There is a wonderful seamless transition between the interior and the exterior of this home, and it gives the modern family unparalleled options,” the designer says. “It offers the perfect blend of functionality and beauty.”

Sources

Front exterior
- Front door - Door Galore, Miami, FL
- Wall sconces - Modern Forms, Brand Lighting, Miami, FL
- Balcony railing - Ambiance Interiors, Miami, FL

Entry
- Console and mirror - Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Stairway and railing fabricated by Ambiance Interiors, Miami, FL

Living area
- Sofas - Pianca, Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Cocktail table - Sovet Italia, Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Candelabras on cocktail table - Accent Decor, Norcross, GA
- Area rug - Addison House, Aventura, FL

Dining area
- Dining table and sideboard - Cattelan Italia, Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Dining chairs - Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Centerpiece - Accent Decor, Norcross, GA
- Wood ring sculpture - allmodern.com
- Artwork above sideboard - SDH Studio Art, North Miami Beach, FL

Kitchen
- Cabinetry and island - Mia Cucina, Aventura, FL
- Countertops - Neolith, Fine Surfaces, Miami, FL
- Hood, cooktop and double ovens - Wolf, Mia Cucina Appliances, Aventura, FL

Outdoor area
- Pool - Regency Pools, Miami, FL
- Chaise lounges - Addison House, Aventura, FL
- Grill - Coyote Outdoor Living, Inc., Carrollton, TX

Throughout
- Recessed lighting - WAC Lighting, Ignite Concepts, Miami, FL
- Flooring - Opustone, Miami, FL

On view from the moment the front door opens, the pool and patio area are specifically designed to accentuate vistas of the tropical surroundings created by landscape architect Chris Eaves of Landscapes by Design. Comfortable chaise lounges from Addison House recline poolside, while an outdoor cooking station from Coyote Grill provides the perfect venue for alfresco entertaining.

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