

# Bay Harbor Bliss

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

AS SEEN IN  
MIAMI EDITION

FLORIDA DESIGN

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LEFT: Within the scenic community of Bay Harbor Islands, this breathtaking home exudes tropical modern style. Clad in a contrast of stone, stucco and wood, the front exterior is accented with a solid wood door from Door Galore, sleek balcony railings from Ambiance Interiors, and Modern Forms wall sconces from Brand Lighting.

RIGHT: Filled with natural light and featuring gorgeous views of the tropical landscape beyond, the sweeping foyer reveals a magnificent stairway that sets the tone for the grand proportions of the home. A contemporary console table and mirror, both from Addison House, bring an air of modern elegance.

STEPHANIE HALFEN

*“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.”*



*POISED ON A GENEROUS CORNER LOT* in Bay Harbor Islands — a vibrant community separated from the mainland by Biscayne Bay — this stunning home naturally transverse 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.

“This house was designed for a family that enjoys outdoor living and the intimacy of family life, but at the same time loves to entertain,” Stephanie says. “Taking advantage of the lot’s lush greenery and blurring the lines between the interior and the exterior became our number one design goal.”



*“The stairway is one of the home’s most beautiful features,” architect and interior designer Stephanie Halfen says. “It is incredibly delicate with such a sensual outline that it truly becomes a work of art.”*



RIGHT: Floor-to-ceiling glass doors corner the open floor plan of the living area to blur the lines between indoors and out. A pair of low-profile, tufted sofas from Pianca provide comfortable seating around a striking Sovet Italia cocktail table accented with glass candelabras from Accent Decor. A trio of glass planters color the space with shades of pink orchids.

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.”



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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.



privacy, the kitchen enjoys a play of windows that frames an expanse of bright white cabinetry and allows for added views of the greenery outside. Dark stained cabinetry brings a richness to the space while creating a striking contrast to the white porcelain island and lustrous quartz countertops.

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.”



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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SOURCES

**FRONT EXTERIOR**

Front door - Door Galore, Miami, FL

Wall sconces - Modern Forms, Brand Lighting, Miami, FL

Balcony railings - 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

**PATIO/POOL 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