





## TRIPLE PLAY

WRITTEN BY ELISA CHEMAYNE AGOSTINHO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE COTT

THEY SAY PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF, AND IN THE CASE OF ONE FAMILY'S SEARCH FOR THE PERFECT HOME, THEY WERE RIGHT. "We looked for months," recalls Carla, an energetic mother of three. "But of all the houses we saw, we couldn't find one that fit." Discouraged yet determined, she and her husband Ricardo, Mexican expats relocating to the area in order to be closer to family that had settled nearby, continued the hunt. Until the day they went to see just one more house, a Tuscan-style structure with classical details located in the idyllic waterfront community of Gables Estates, an exclusive enclave in Coral Gables.

"We walked in and I thought, *finally*," says Carla. The home, with its family-friendly layout, expansive square footage and just-steps-away access to Biscayne Bay, was exactly what the couple was looking for. "It was as if we had selected the lot and designed the house ourselves," she muses. The home's architecture and symmetry were a draw too, says Ricardo. "It was everything we wanted."

Designed by Miami-based architect Ramon Pacheco, AIA, principal of Ramon Pacheco & Associates, Architect and Planner, "the house incorporates many Tuscan elements, such as the shutters, the barrel tile, and the distressed stucco on the walls," explains Pacheco. "But it is also very classical in detail—probably the most classical house I've ever done—given the overall symmetry, the use of all the columns, and the colonnade."



### STYLE SELECTION

With spaced nailhead trim, exposed wood frame, and upholstered seating, this refined chair brings a touch of sophistication to any interior. *Salon Chair, price available to the trade; christiangrevstadcollection.com*

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Carola Hinojosa, Hinojosa Design Studio

**ARCHITECTURE** Ramon Pacheco, AIA, Ramon Pacheco & Associates, Architect and Planner

**HOME BUILDER** Edmundo Aldrey, Aldrey Planning & Construction Co., Inc.

**BEDROOMS** 8 | **BATHROOMS** 9 | **SQUARE FEET** 12,000





**ART SELECTION**

A lithograph of Pablo Picasso's *Le Clown* ushers guests into the house.

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The architect further defined his design with two axes, one north-south, the other east-west, and the house gracefully unfurls from its centrally located foyer and dramatic double staircase to all four points. Rooms open up one unto the other, and mirror each other from across galleys and hallways creating a kaleidoscope effect. That sense of interconnectivity announces itself immediately upon arrival. "The front door is perfectly aligned with the

rear door; when you walk inside you can see straight through the entire house to the infinity edge pool and the water cascading toward the canal beyond," says Pacheco. "It's spectacular." Pincrest-based builder Edmundo Aldrey of Aldrey Planning & Construction Co., Inc., agrees: "It's one of the things I like most about the house."





**FIRST IMPRESSIONS**  
In the foyer, an Audrey Daybed by Kevin Cherry covered in gray suede lounges next to a white marble table by Odegard. Lagos blue and beige limestone tile forms a checkerboard pattern across the floor.





**SILVER STREAK**

A set of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Burmese Shan sculptures watch over Studio H sofas and Dessin Fournir chairs in the living room. *Cuarto de Paso*, by Peruvian artist Fernando Szyszlo, hangs above the Crema Maya marble fireplace.









**TABLE MATTERS**

The light fixtures in the dining room were custom designed by Alison Berger + Classworks. Sheer Donghia fabric filters the natural light that floods the room; a silk and wool rug from Kalá Looms defines the area.





**STYLE SELECTION**

This functional and sophisticated table is an intelligent blend of American black walnut and titanium steel. *DT-133 Dining/Conference Table, \$6,600 to the trade; antoinepraulx.com*



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But while the home's new owners were enchanted by its Old World scope and layout, they had something else in mind entirely for the interiors. "We wanted something more modern," says Ricardo. Designer Carola Hinojosa, of Hinojosa Design Studio in Miami, was the only person he and his wife considered calling. "We knew she had done the house before, and we liked her work," says Carla. In fact, her and Ricardo's project would be Hinojosa's third interpretation for the space, having completed the interiors for both the home's previous owners. "I know the place inside out," says Hinojosa, who says she went in knowing her final incarnation would be her greatest. "For such a classical house it has a wonderfully contemporary feel, and I wanted to honor that."





**ON THE WATERFRONT**

Teak sofas and chairs by David Sutherland upholstered in Perennials fabric comfortably accommodate friendly gatherings and family reunions on the rear terrace. A glass tabletop by Alene Lewis, Inc., rests on cast stone bases, also by David Sutherland.









#### A SEPARATE PIECE

Baker and Donghia furniture and fixtures—and Donghia fabrics in muted shades of taupe and aqua—fill the wife's study and sitting room area. "It's my favorite space," she says. "I really enjoy being there."

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The designer's first step was to paint the dark wood paneling found in all the main rooms and hallways a crisp, sparkling white. "It gave the house a fresh, much more modern look, and allowed us to use the entry's gray-blue checkerboard floor as a secondary color scheme throughout," she says. After that, "Carla and Ricardo gave me the freedom to create," says Hinojosa. Confirms Ricardo: "We basically gave her *carte blanche*."

In the dining room, the designer chose a Joseph Jeup table with a rosewood top and chairs by A. Rudin; a buff-colored silk and wool rug from Kalá Looms covers the Brazilian cherry floor. The living room holds







**SUITE SPOT**

The homeowners' request for a high, upholstered headboard was answered with a piece from Donghia, where the bedside tables were also found. The bedding is from Carlotta's Fine Linens in Miami; the bench was custom-designed by designer Carola Hinojosa.









**DOUBLE ORDER**

Architect Ramon Pacheco accentuated the home's rear façade with a colonnade of double columns, carved from stone quarried in the Yucatán Peninsula. Windows and French doors are from Sabana Windows in Coral Gables.





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**CHOCOLATE KISSED**

Holly Hunt fabric hugs the cozy A. Rudin sofa in the family room; accent pillows from NiBa Home up the comfort quotient. Side chairs are by David Sutherland; desk chairs by Barbara Barry for Baker.







#### STYLE SELECTION

Modernize outdoor space with this contemporary chaise, which features a polished stainless steel frame and a resin weave adjustable back. *Key West Lounger, \$4,363 to the trade; walterswicker.com*



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silvery sofas by Studio H, zebra-striped padded benches by Kerry Joyce, and a pair of Dessin Fournir leather upholstered mahogany chairs with pewter nailhead trim, all forming an intimate circle around a sleek Christian Liaigre cocktail table. The family room, where the children do their schoolwork, contains an oversized A. Rudin sofa upholstered in a chocolate brown Holly Hunt fabric, side chairs by David Sutherland, and desk chairs by Barbara Barry for Baker.

The minimalist palette continues in the kitchen, with creamy Viking cabinets, white Venatino Bianco marble countertops, silver-wrapped light fixtures from Vaughan and pale grass cloth-clad walls, and in the master suite, where shades of granite, slate and smoke mix with white, beige and gold. Throughout, the comfortable yet elegant furnishings were selected with Carla and Ricardo's lifestyle in mind. "They love to entertain, but they're a couple with young children, so their house had to feel like a home," says Hinojosa. "I wanted it to have a more casual vibe." She appears to have hit the right note. "The house is perfect for us," says Carla. "It has everything we need; no more, no less. I know that we will be here for many, many years to come." **L**







**TEAK PERFORMANCE**  
Forged iron lanterns illuminate the beamed rear terrace, while a light walnut travertine floor blends seamlessly with its Tuscan-style columns. "The terrace is like another family room," says the husband. "It's one of my favorite spots."