

DESIGN IMITATES ART

A VAST ARRAY OF PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE SETS THE TONE FOR A MINIMALIST, ECLECTIC ENVIRONMENT THAT BEAUTIFULLY HOUSES AN IMPRESSIVE ART COLLECTION, WHILE ALSO BEING HOME TO ITS OWNER

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When it came time to create this showplace, where the homeowner, an avid art collector, could not only display his treasure trove, but would also call home, designer Carlos Polo knew it would require an understated backdrop to keep the art at the forefront. The 4,800-square-foot home in Harbor Islands, a gated community along the Intracoastal in Hollywood, Fla., was to be the homeowner's primary residence, but creature comforts were not what occupied his mind. "The most significant aspect for the client was the art," Polo says. "There is a lot of important sculpture and artwork that needed a setting that would both accommodate the collection and make it look its best." So tuned-in was Polo to the importance of the art that, in numerous instances, he allowed it to guide his design.

Polo outlined his approach instantly. He would keep consistent throughout, in terms of theme and coloration, sticking with a few basic principles that would lead the eye to the artwork rather than distract from it. "My idea was to plan the lighting so that

RIGHT: Clad in simple white wool, a pair of aligned sofas and three swivel armchairs shaped in different characters — Aki, Biki and Canta — all by Cassina, manage to hold their own in the living room filled with captivating sculptural forms and bold works of art.





"I WORK IN THE CONTEMPORARY STYLE," DESIGNER CARLOS POLO SAYS OF HIS MINIMALIST INTERIOR SCHEMES. "BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE SUCH VARIED PIECES TO PLAY WITH THAT ALLOW ME TO CREATE UNIQUELY ECLECTIC ENVIRONMENTS."



each piece of art would be a focal point," Polo says. Channeling his lighting design expertise, he angled halogen lights to shine just so. Polo chose a neutrality of palette — selecting similar lines and fabrics for the furnishings throughout — so that the feeling from room to room would be an effortless flow rather than a jarring transition or sudden mood change.

Still, the time for reinvention did eventually come, in terms of the space itself. To create interest in the main living area, Polo infused texture with a ModularArts floating wall made from gypsum, which, aside from breaking the monotony of the narrow rectangular space, allowed for a separate dining and living room (shown left). Here, the movement in the curvaceous, full-figure tightrope walker lends itself to the serpentine, almost water-like effect of the wall.

ABOVE: Beneath the dining room's pair of chrome and glass chandeliers by AXO, Polo centered the stunning Saporti Italia table with wrap-around, white leather and chrome chairs designed by Philippe Starck.

The study is no exception when it comes to art, as configured wood laminate shelving by Alivar displays a grouping of the homeowner's important pieces, including one by Dali. A crescent-shaped Ayala Serfaty light fixture floats above a streamlined desk and classic Herman Miller chairs upholstered in white leather.

Throughout the space, design not only imitates art, but accommodates it as well. A monolithic stone pedestal — remarkable both in sheer size and unexpected choice of material — acts as functional art in support of Agustín Cárdenas' bronze sculpture. "You cannot imagine how heavy this sculpture is," Polo says. "We had to create something that could support its weight." The behemoth stone block on which it rests was specifically engineered for the occasion. And though the designer momentarily strays from neutrality with a wall painted navy blue — he never underestimates the importance of luxurious tactile surfaces, such as the beige silk area rug that grounds the social grouping centered with three attached glass cocktail tables by Cassina. But ultimately, it's the color and spark of Alexander Calder's "Double Gong" mobile that draws the eyes up and around the space.

Ever consistent in recognizing the inevitable importance of the art, the designer creates an architectural detail entirely inspired by one particular piece. Jorge Seguí's bronze sculpture appears to "float" in the niche Polo built for drama in the dining room. A pair of chrome and glass chandeliers hangs in tandem above the dining table designed by Saporiti Italia.

Throughout the remainder of the home, Polo wears his lighting designer hat, illuminating an assemblage of objects d'art in the study with a crescent-shaped fixture by Israeli designer Ayala Serfaty that Polo describes as "strange and wonderful — itself a piece of art." And in the family room, the famed "Arco" lamp is positioned to shine down over the center of the space. Here, as throughout, special attention is paid to individually lighting each sculpture or painting, so that every piece is treated not only as an important work of art, but also, as an integral part of the overall design.



The ever-popular "Arco" floor lamp lights the set in the family room, where Polo chose powder blue to add a peaceful softness in complementary contrast to the dark-stained woods of the intentionally Zen-like cocktail table and sofa with surround from Addison House.



SOURCES

LIVING ROOM

Sofas, chairs and cocktail tables - Cassina, Campanello, Miami, FL
Sculpture, artwork and Calder mobile - Owner's Collection
Vases on cocktail table - Tiffany & Co., Bal Harbour, FL
Stone pedestal - Urban Stoneworks, Miami, FL
Navy blue wall covering - Ralph Lauren Home, Miller Paint Co., Aventura, FL
Textured wall - ModularArts, Inc., Seattle, WA
Area rug - Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

DINING ROOM

Dining table - Siporiti Italia, Campanello, Miami, FL
Chairs - Cassina, Campanello, Miami, FL
Candelabra and candleholder - Drade, Miami, FL
Pedestal - Myo Home, Miami, FL
Bust on pedestal, bronze sculpture in niche and area rug - Owner's Collection

Light fixture - AXD, YLighting, Walnut Creek, CA

STUDY

Desk, chairs and shelving - Alvar, Addison House, Aventura, FL
Pedestal - Myo Home, Miami, FL
Sculpture and accessories - Owner's Collection
Light fixture - Aqua Creations USA, NYDC, New York, NY
Brown wall covering - Ralph Lauren Home, Miller Paint Co., Aventura, FL

FAMILY ROOM

Sofa and cocktail table - Misura Erme, Addison House, Aventura, FL
Sculpture and accessories - Owner's Collection
Pedestal - Myo Home, Miami, FL
Arco floor lamp - YLighting, Walnut Creek, CA
Area rug - Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

THROUGHOUT

Recessed lighting - WAC Lighting, Famey's Wholesale Hardware Co., Inc., Miami, FL