



Carlos Polo Interior and Lighting Design

Florida

A childhood in Columbia, a lighting education in Italy, and interior design studies in the sultry climes of South Florida have kept Carlos Polo a very busy man. At his home studio in Clearwater, he designs multi-faceted contemporary masterpieces. The music plays and the wine flows while he works—a passionate work style for a passionate man who values chemistry, a true connection with the homeowners he works with, above all. The formula works; his projects in interiors and lighting design have made him a hot commodity in locales from Harbor Island to the under-the-radar vineyards of Southern California. And no matter who the client is, he always starts with the same question: Why do you think you need a designer? If the answer is simple and true, then the rest is just details.

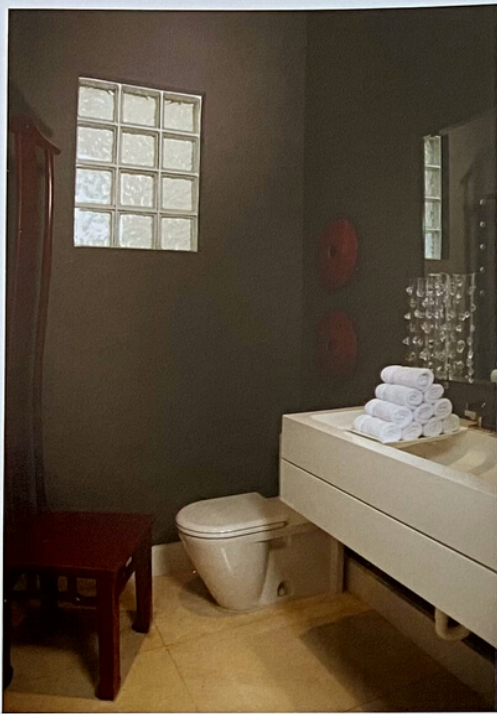
Left: It was important to shine a spotlight on the Tampa home's architecture while retaining the simplicity of the space. I started by creating a horizontal pattern in the focal wall, leaving gaps between the sheetrock panels. The horizontal visual planes continue along exterior windows, where sheer panels maintain the pattern and stay true to the homeowner's minimalist style.
Photograph by Frank Baptie



Above: Sleek black cabinets accented with stainless steel appliances create a minimalist effect. Grey tile adds to the two-toned palette while setting the kitchen apart from the hallway.

Facing Page: I created simple lines in the living area by placing a long glass table parallel to the crisp white couch and chairs, sitting it on a runner-style carpet. The navy blue wall accents the room, creating a focal point for the futuristic-inspired artwork.
Photographs by Daniel Newcomb

"Simplicity has a powerful effect." *Carlos Polo*



"Building is one thing, but interior design is art. And for art, you have to have chemistry." *Carlos Polo*



Above: The original jumble of green shag carpet, cabin timbers, and heavy stone was worlds away from the owner's contemporary vision. We both knew that if we played up the home's strengths, namely the views of lush trees and the lake, we would be able to transform it into a contemporary retreat where he could throw stylish parties or just have a cocktail in the afternoons and look out upon the lake.
Photograph by Clark Dugger

Right: I fell in love with these 1950s-style Ann Sacks tiles at first sight; pairing them with the green glass vanity made both elements even more spectacular. The large-scale French floor tile is elegance personified.
Photograph by Clark Dugger

Facing Page Top: In such a simple powder room, it's important to accent the space with touches of color. I chose a magenta chair and wall plates to add a splash against the graphite walls. By contrast, main elements that initially appear simple, like the Italian commode, are actually beautiful works of design. Its simple profile adds much needed sophistication in an unlikely place.
Photograph by Daniel Newcomb

Facing Page Bottom: The dining room wall is accented with gold cut outs that I then filled with striking white pottery. A modern, cubic chandelier acts as a sculpture, mimicked by the pieces atop the table.
Photograph by Daniel Newcomb

