

# FLORIDA DESIGN

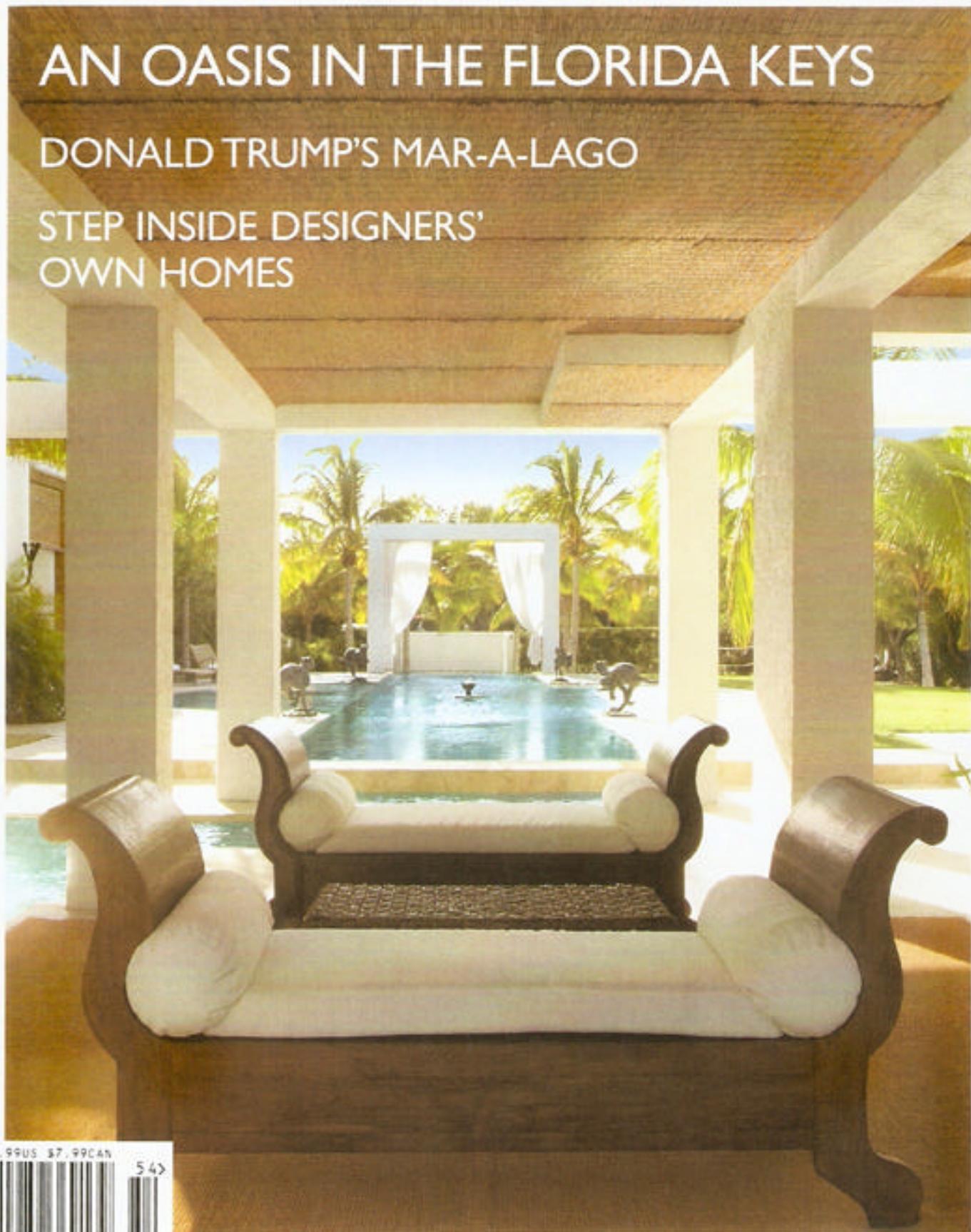
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## AN OASIS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

### DONALD TRUMP'S MAR-A-LAGO

### STEP INSIDE DESIGNERS' OWN HOMES



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## AN OASIS IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

*This Private Retreat On The Atlantic Ocean  
Indulges The Senses With Its Exotic Mystique*

INTERIOR DESIGN

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ABOVE and BELOW: Striking architectural features and a beachfront setting on the Atlantic Ocean distinguish this Key Largo retreat. An Indian architectural element and mythical creatures grace the pool area, while a desk and chair turn the beach into an outdoor office.



The owner of this waterfront home in Key Biscayne gave Carola Hinojosa and Juan Poggi one directive when he retained them to design his house: make it contemporary but not stark. After that, the designers had carte blanche to revamp the dated interior with a chic yet gracious look.

When the designers began the project, their first order of business called for painting the colorful walls a shade of white except in the bar and dining areas. Then the duo selected a blend

of furnishings — some new and streamlined, some antique and textured — to strike the right balance between the invitingly warm and cool modern environment the owner envisioned. Hinojosa and Poggi made only minor changes in the foyer, where curved walls with lit



ABOVE: Striking architectural features and a beachfront setting on the Atlantic Ocean distinguish this Key Largo retreat. The outdoor living area faces a square arch with billowing draperies.

LOCATED WHERE THE FLORIDA Keys begins, Key Largo is just a 60-minute drive from Miami International Airport, but for a couple who bought a beach house there, it's in a land far, far away. Boasting a magnificent waterfront setting on the Atlantic Ocean, this private retreat indulges the senses with its exotic mystique.

"We wanted to create a unique place like a spa that provided an escape from city life, so we named our home 'The Oasis,'" the owners say.

The couple bought the property knowing they would have to gut and rebuild the house. Renovations were already under way when they retained Martín Martínez to finish the interior design. Familiar with Martínez's innovative design approach, the owners asked him to incorporate their personal collections into the serene aesthetic they desired.

"We planned to use accessories, works of art and pieces of furniture that we had acquired from overseas," the owners say. "We called on Martín to continue the magic we had started."



ABOVE and BELOW: A sofa table in the living area, above top, displays the owners' sculpture of a gymnast. In the dining area, below, the dark finish of the table and chairs contrasts with the bamboo flooring. On the facing page, white



To conjure up the mood of a spa, Martinez looked to the home's setting for inspiration. "The Oasis' location on the beach is very commanding. I felt the interior should be minimally decorated for the environment to play a vital part in the decor of every room," Martinez says. "I started my design from the outside and brought it inside, keeping all the elements very simple."

He also took into consideration the owners' theme for the outdoor areas: "Water, Wind and Fire." Water and fire symbolically appear in the form of torches in the pool and on an impressive Indian architectural element next to the pool. At the farthest end of the pool, a towering square arch with billowing white draperies alludes to the wind.

From this arch, the pool flows to meet — and surround — the outdoor living area. Here, the home's support columns symmetrically frame a pair of romantic day beds. "The straw ceiling captures the Asian look they wanted in this area, and the sisal area rug echoes the color of the ceiling," Martinez notes.

For the main living areas on the second level, the owners wanted a neutral palette that would allow the colors of the ocean, sand and sky to take precedence. "The outdoors is the masterpiece, and I didn't want the inside to take anything away from that fact," Martinez says.

Throughout the living and dining areas, honey-toned bamboo flooring contrasts with dark





*Photographs from the owners' travels abroad inspired the artwork that marks the entry to the studio. California artist Sandy Young etched bits and pieces of the photographs into glass to create the three collages. An art chair nestles the space at the end of the hallway.*



ABOVE: A dark chocolate-brown leather sofa, white leather ottomans, African zebra-skin accent pillows and a Texas cowhide area rug give the studio a decidedly masculine feel. Near the window, a Brazilian desk and chair complement the color scheme.

pieces, such as the bamboo-and-wenge wood sofa table in the living area, and table and chairs in the dining area. A mix of coconut shells gives the table and chairs their unique pattern.

In the living area, white silk seating gathers around two coconut-shell cocktail tables. Leather Moroccan pendants radiate an exotic glow, while votives light up a series of square niches above the living area.

Three works of art mark the entry to the studio, where a dark chocolate-brown leather sofa pairs with white leather ottomans. African zebraskin accent pillows and a Texas cowhide area rug instill the space with a “call of the wild” feel.

On the third level, Martinez imbues the master bedroom with an aura of ancient mysticism. White sheer draperies surround the headboard, creating a “privacy wall” between the bed, antechamber and meditation area. Fabric made of natural fibers wraps the bed and accent pillows, while leopard print covers more pillows. Silk Venetian pendants hang above the bed, further emphasizing the mystical mood.

In the master bath, Asian minimalism prevails. Clear glass bowls rest on top of the vanity, above which simple sconces flank the mirror.

The owners were very involved in the renovation, which took four years to complete. “We wanted to create an oasis that dramatized the elements of water, wind and fire in the environment while displaying the art and shared humanity of different cultures,” the



*IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, WHITE SHEER DRAPERIES ENCLOSE THE HEADBOARD, CREATING A PRIVACY WALL FOR THE ANTECHAMBER AND MEDITATION AREA. VENETIAN SILK PENDANTS ADD TO THE ROOM'S MYSTIQUE.*

BELOW: Wrapped in marble, the master bath exudes an Asian sensibility. Clear-glass bowls top the vanity.





ABOVE: The meditation area comprises a Venetian-style mirror, a wenge-wood



*The "Water, Wind and Fire" theme of the outdoor living areas is clearly visible at night. Torches burn in the pool and on the Indian architectural element, and draperies flutter in the breeze.*



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