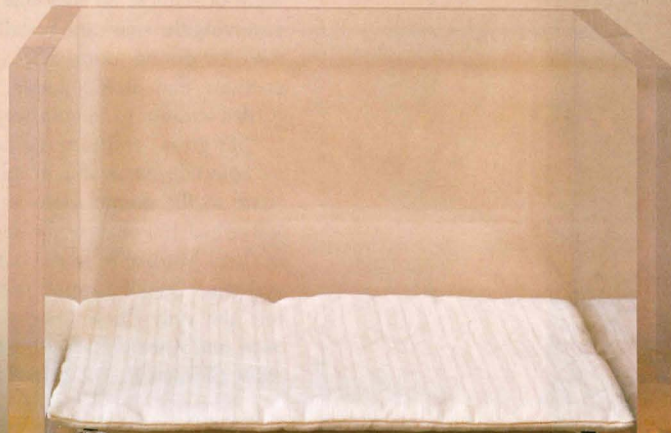


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beach-side bliss

A contemporary take on coastal living fuses the best of established designers with some young blood

It is not unusual for an interior design project to begin with an empty shell of a home. And it isn't out of the ordinary for the project to have a generous budget. But throw in almost complete creative control, and that is an enviable situation indeed ➤













Such was the case when interior designer Lisa Kanning of Worth Interiors took on this 26th-floor, ocean-side condominium in Aventura, Florida's tony Atlantic One tower. The east-facing space was nothing but walls and windows, and with few restrictions, Kanning was unusually free to follow her instincts. The cool-palette tranquility that resulted from Kanning's musings softened and added texture to the clean, hard modernist lines, and placed great pieces from young, fresh talent next to contemporary design stalwarts, such as Philippe Starck and Antonio Citterio.

Like any good designer, Kanning allowed the space and its environs to have their say too.

"What you see out the windows is all sun, sky, water and treetops, and I wanted the interior to be an extension of that view," says Kanning. "I envisioned a contemporary look because this space just seemed to dictate that. When you take away some of the hard edges of modern design, it can be tranquil and serene, and that's how I wanted this to feel."

The idea of waterfront serenity in the modern vernacular was in part inspiration from Kanning's recent trip to New York's International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF). "I saw a lot of great things by designers like Kenneth Cobonpue and Antoine Proulx," she recalls. "I usually walk out of the furniture fair with three or four things that I just really want to use, and this project was the opportunity for me to do that."

The home's 2,600 square feet provided the chance to use more than just a few exciting pieces. In the entryway, a Richard Mishaan Lucite chair sits below a white lacquered coral scone, a scene that Kanning particularly likes for its sculptural quality. To the left, a Veyko stainless steel "floating" buffet augments a vignette with two rattan Kenneth Cobonpue chairs. Blue-gray upholstery covers many of the home's pieces, including low-backed Maxalto dining chairs, an Antoine Proulx daybed and the family room's Barbara Barry scoop chairs. Though chosen for their impressive designs, these pieces also sit close to the ground, leaving plenty of room for the panoramic views.

A cool color scheme was selected for the residence, with Spanish Grisan azul limestone floors and taupe-gray Venetian plaster on the walls. "Usually my designs have neutral backgrounds, accented by color," says Kanning. "In this instance,





there was a fair amount of gray, green and blue tones already present, so I didn't want to bring any other color into prominence. White became my accent color because it served that purpose." Throughout the space, touches of white—the leather ottoman, coral sconce and living room lamp bases—lend to the airy atmosphere. But the pièce de résistance is the undulating die-cut screen in the master bedroom. "The screen was my great white accent for this room," Kanning says of the pinwheel-patterned backdrop, another find at the ICFE. "I really wanted to give people something to talk about in each room—something that would make them say, 'Wow!'" Kanning recalls.

In the living area, Filipino designer Cobonpue's Yin and Yang rattan chairs were unusual enough to fit the bill. "This is such a unique style in natural materials," Kanning explains. "The open weave means that you can have a very squared-off shape without the density of a club chair.

The guest bedroom's signature piece, a dark abaca Voyage bed, also by Cobonpue, gives the distinct impression of an Everglades airboat. "Having seen the bed and seen the space," Kanning recalls, "I knew they had to go together. I placed it in the bay window by the water view, exactly opposite where it would normally have gone. I broke the mold because I had this fabulous piece that just reminded me of a boat."

Kanning also relied on textural elements throughout. "Often modern design is all about sleekness. But I'm a firm believer in texture in any kind of design, so I mixed it all up." Gleaming Philippe Starck Lucite chairs and the family room's gloss-white-and-chrome Antonio Citterio table sit alongside grasscloth wall coverings. In the larger seating area, a patchwork cowhide rug accompanies a luminous cotton Capellini floor lamp, sculpted "coral" floor lamp, and glass-and-chrome coffee tables.

Reflecting on the design, Kanning notes, "I don't do one particular style, but there is always a kind of cleaner sensibility that defines my work and this is one of my favorite projects. I'm so pleased with the outcome." And rightfully so. It is the thoughtful modern touches and smooth transitions from the outside in that make this Atlantic home positively pacific ■ *Lisa Kanning, Worth Interiors, PO Box 3309, Palm Beach, FL 561.655.1101; PO Box 3534, Avon, CO 970.949.9794*



