

HOME DESIGN SHOWCASE

Whether your interest in design is categorized as mild admiration, all-consuming obsession or somewhere in between, South Florida continues to be an ever-flourishing mecca of inspiration and infinite possibility. Here among the pages of our annual Home & Design edition, we bring you the best and brightest minds in the industry—from top interior designers to expert home builders, revered landscape geniuses to skilled fabricators, as well as purveyors of drool-worthy home goods—who share tips, tricks and trends to accompany you along the creative path to luxury living. We invite you to look, learn and, most importantly, enjoy. May the compilation move you to realize the home of your dreams!

BY ROBIN HODES



TIPS OF THE TRADE

There is no opinion more trusted on what's hot in design than that of interior designers. Here, 10 prominent local designers offer advice on how to stay ahead of the design curve.

1 GO BOLD OR GO HOME

Guimar Urbina of KIS Interior Design is passionate about analyzing trends and believes color is rising to the next level. According to Urbina, the tendency in the past to layer neutral tones is now being counteracted, as bold, bright hues are courageously incorporated into her designs. "It's time to make a statement!" she says. 444 Brickell Ave., Suite 804, Miami; 786.762.2675; kisinteriordesign.com



Oceana Bal Harbour living room by KIS Interior Design

2 KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

Interior designers are often required to "think outside the box." This comes naturally to Katia Bates of Innovative Creations. "My personality is attracted to things outside the norm," she says. "If I do not think outside the box, my clients would all end up with the same conventional design as everyone else." Bates encourages her clients to embrace challenges. Once, she took a cocktail table that was out of scale for a sitting room, and suspended it from the ceiling instead! A fan of repurposing objects, Bates and her husband, Tom, manufacture unique coffee tables with bases made from the engines of luxury cars. 1437 NE Fourth Ave., Fort Lauderdale; 954.565.4333; innovativecreationsusa.com



Living room by Innovative Creations with custom Maserati engine table by Tom Bates Design; commissioned for client in Colorado



Miami living room by Elizabeth Ghia Interiors



3 ACT NATURAL

Elizabeth Ghia of Elizabeth Ghia Interiors encourages the use of natural materials wherever possible. Cotton, linen and silk are natural fibers that, in her experience, tend to get less dirty than polyesters and have a far superior feel. "If there's a wrinkle in a linen curtain, well...then you know it's real linen, and that in my opinion makes it more luxurious," she says. 917.628.3391; elizabethghia.com



Pompano Beach bedroom by Britto Charette



4 TECH THE WALLS

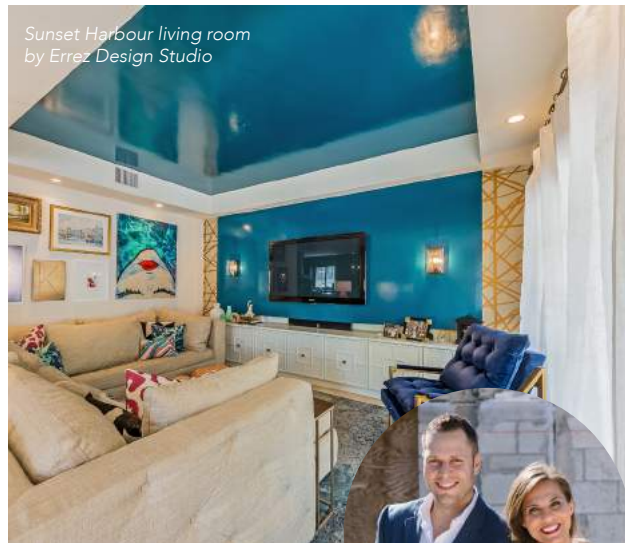
Partners Jay Britto and David Charette of Britto Charette find inspiration everywhere around them. Not surprisingly, in today's modern society, technology plays a significant role in their designs. "I predict more tech influences and innovations in wall treatments," states Charette. "We're using the latest materials to create really powerful and unique designs for our clients," Britto adds. 310 NW 26th St., Suite A, Miami; 305.640.5005; brittocharette.com

GET INTO THE MIX

Blending patterns can be daunting, but the reward is worth the risk. "Understanding how to mix and mingle fabrics has a lot to do with color," says Lori Deeds of **Kemble Interiors**, who is well-versed in color theory and understanding how colors complement one another, regardless of the pattern. To avoid clashing, Deeds recommends using similar patterns (i.e., stripes in varying sizes) with alternate patterns (such as a mini-print or large-scale floral). "Incorporating a pattern on the ceiling that subsequently reflects on the furnishings and flooring will contribute to a well-thought-out, finished space," she adds. 294 Hibiscus Ave., Palm Beach; 561.659.5556; kembleinteriors.com



Bedroom by Kemble Interiors



Sunset Harbour living room by Errez Design Studio



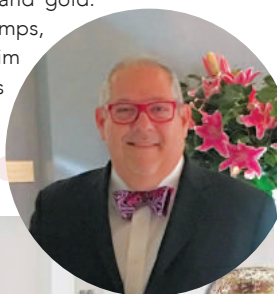
MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Husband-and-wife design duo Katie and Ruben Gutierrez, who together are **Errez Design Studio**, coined the term "biographical design" because they believe the best spaces tell the story of the people who live and work there. Their joint goal is to make the client feel at home and in control of their own design. "Use your favorite experiences, memories, heirlooms—or anything that speaks to you—to create a space that reflects it all," says Ruben. 95 Merrick Way, Third Floor, Coral Gables; 305.504.8818; errezdesign.com

USE YOUR METAL

Metallic finishes, when woven into any color scheme, add shine and interest to the space. Designer **Joseph Pubillones** loves how metallics pick up light and bounce it off other items in the room, creating a dramatic, unexpected effect. "The key is to achieve visual balance," suggests Pubillones, who unflinchingly intermingles metals like copper, silver and gold.

"For example, a pair of chrome table lamps, a gold table accessory and copper trim on a pillow all work in accord. This is the recipe for chic." 44 Coconut Row, #B416, Palm Beach; 561.655.1717; josephpubillones.com



Kitchen vignette by Joseph Pubillones

LIGHT IT UP

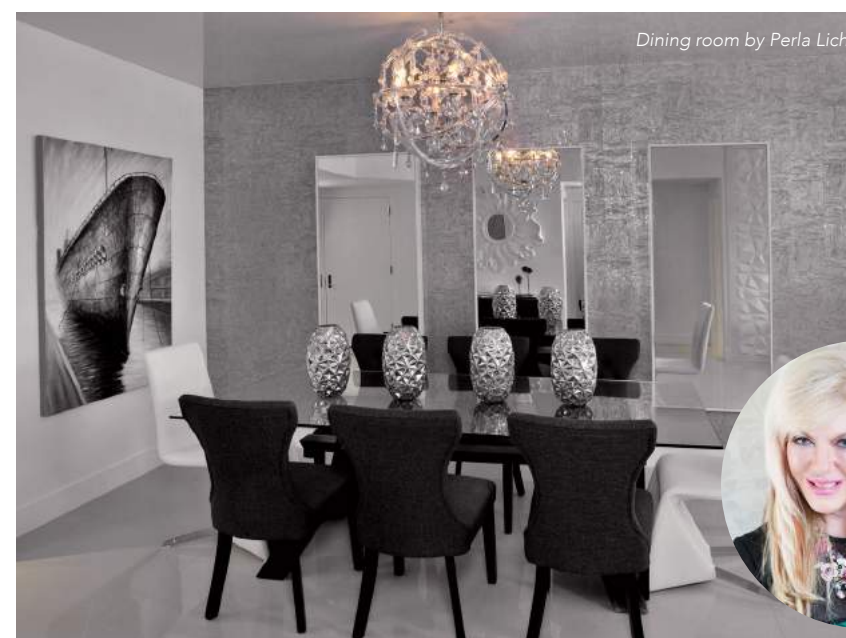
Under the direction of Alizee Brion, the international architecture and interior design studio **Light on White** recently expanded to Miami, and the name itself speaks volumes about what's presently most important when it comes to design. "Lighting is having a moment right now, moving from a supporting role to starring," articulates Brion, who believes a statement light—even a single bulb desk lamp—can be the focal point of a design scheme. 1674 Meridian Ave., Third Floor, Miami Beach; 305.866.0835; lightonwhite.com



South Beach residence closet by Light on White



South Beach residence bedroom by Light on White



Dining room by Perla Lichi

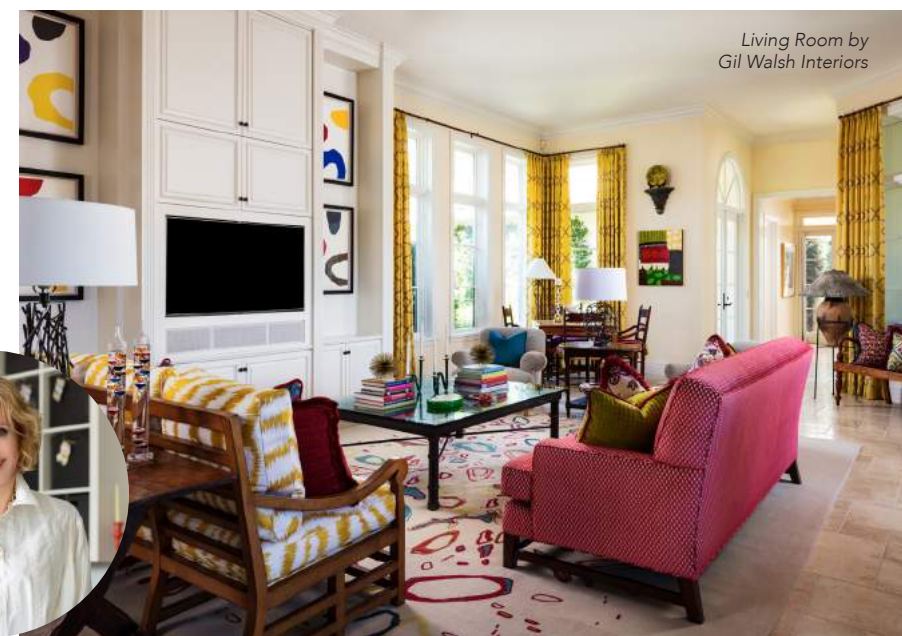


EXPLORE GRAY AREAS

Perla Lichi is perhaps best appreciated for her versatility. She has traveled the globe, designing everything from cottages to royal palaces. As for trends, she acknowledges that the gray/white look is still going strong. Lichi recently completed a unit in Fort Lauderdale's posh L'Hermitage to rave reviews, where she expertly showcased that ever-popular palette, implementing it in a style she likes to call, "modern fusion." 3304 NE 33rd St., Fort Lauderdale; 954.726.0899; perlalichi.com

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS

With over 40 years in the industry and leading more than \$200 million in design work, Gil Walsh of **Gil Walsh Interiors** has proven she is fearless when it comes to embracing color. "The unabashed use of color is one of the key success factors in bringing a design vision to life," she says. She further hammers the point home in her recently published book, *Gil Walsh Interiors: A Case for Color*. 433 Northwood Road, West Palm Beach; 561.932.0631; gilwalsh.com



Living Room by Gil Walsh Interiors

A CUT ABOVE

Aficionados of state-of-the-art culinary solutions will easily succumb to the allure of Italian kitchen master **MiaCucina's** newly remodeled Aventura showroom—one of three convenient South Florida locations. Among the many provocative designs to be discovered there is EGO, a customized kitchen island that implements the “Cut” project, a research-based initiative that looks to international, genre-crossing trends and interprets them with new forms and functions. EGO's concept is pure form, with surfaces layered in various materials, from a precious outer covering of aged raw oak to a heart of Lasa Bianco marble. Visually enthralling, EGO is one perfectly unified piece featuring precise 45-degree angles for a single compact element. 20385 Biscayne Blvd., Aventura, 305.792.9494; 105/107 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, 305.444.7383; 8975 NW 25th St., Doral, 305.792.9494; miacucina.com

The Cut EGO island from MiaCucina



KEEP QUIET

Minotticucine's principles—visual silence, objective beauty and trend beyond trends—have introduced minimalism into kitchen design, pushing boundaries and elevating the form to the highest echelon. Focused on the belief that innovation requires subtraction, Minotticucine practices the philosophy that “silence is golden,” removing anything that disrupts the quiet it aims to portray. The Progetto Inca kitchen is as stunning as it is practical, with refined materials such as Statuario Altissimo and Versilys marbles, tall units and a worktop hidden behind doors so that a single perimetric line visually connects the elements. 4100 N. Miami Ave., #103, Miami; 305.573.4872; minotticucinemiami.com

Minotticucine's Progetto Inca kitchen



Kitchen by Canam Cabinet Corp

WHITE IS ALWAYS RIGHT

In today's kitchens, white cabinetry tends to be the most desirable hue for prospective home buyers, according to **Canam Cabinet Corp**, which provides exquisite, locally made custom cabinets for residential and commercial projects. Using state-of-the-art materials such as lacquers, plastic laminate, foils, stainless steel and quartz, Canam's experts combine creativity and craftsmanship to build exceptional cabinet designs to fit any lifestyle. Whether it is a soft, traditional white surrounded by a richly toned wood, or a stark white blended with charcoal glass, white cabinetry is a surefire pairing to manifest modern elegance. 2880 NW Boca Raton Blvd., Boca Raton; 561.750.3177; canamcabinet.com



The Galley workstation from Miller's Fine Hardware

PREP LIKE A PRO

Miller's Fine Hardware recently added The Galley to its two Palm Beach County showrooms. The super-cool, functional, professional-grade workstation was invented by an award-winning designer whose vision was to engineer a central space where a variety of kitchen tasks could be accomplished neatly and logically. “One can prep, cook, serve and clean up all in one place,” says Vicki Pfeil, the showrooms' owner. “People love the entire concept, its flexibility and just how cleverly it makes kitchen spaces operate.” 226 Center St., Suites 2-5, Jupiter, 561.746.4800; 501 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 561.837.9090; millershardware.com

IMAGES COURTESY MILLER'S FINE HARDWARE, CANAM CABINET CORP, MIACUCINA

COOKED TO PERFECTION

Whether it's steam or gas you choose for your food prep, a state-of-the-art appliance is the means to a delicious end. Also, it doesn't hurt if the domestic device adds a cupful of chic and a dash of style to your kitchen.



Thermador 60-inch Pro Grand Range oven from Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery

As homeowners look for ways to incorporate fresh foods and healthy meals into their daily routine, the popularity of cooking with steam is on the rise. Thermador's 60-inch Pro Grand Range with a steam oven, available at **Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery**, is as attractive as it is beneficial. Cooking with it preserves many of the nutrients in ingredients that are typically lost through traditional cooking methods. Steaming also facilitates a more flavorful result, because the food only absorbs the amount of moisture needed to cook, so there is less chance of it drying out. 4119 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, 305.507.6221; 990 S. Rogers Circle, Suite 12, Boca Raton, 561.997.8735; 1750 Old Okeechobee Road, West Palm Beach, 561.697.3434; ferguson.com

Capturing the Italian spirit in which design, food, beauty and passion are the cornerstones of culture, **Foster Milano** offers products built for fashion as well as functionality. The brand's Cucinotta Range 4 Burner comes with a four-burner range top, a Foster Milano oven and four convenient accessory drawers. It's a fully integrated solution where the powerful burners provide more than 25 percent energy savings without compromising on efficiency. 6001 N. Powerline Road, Fort Lauderdale; 954.489.9009; foster-us.com

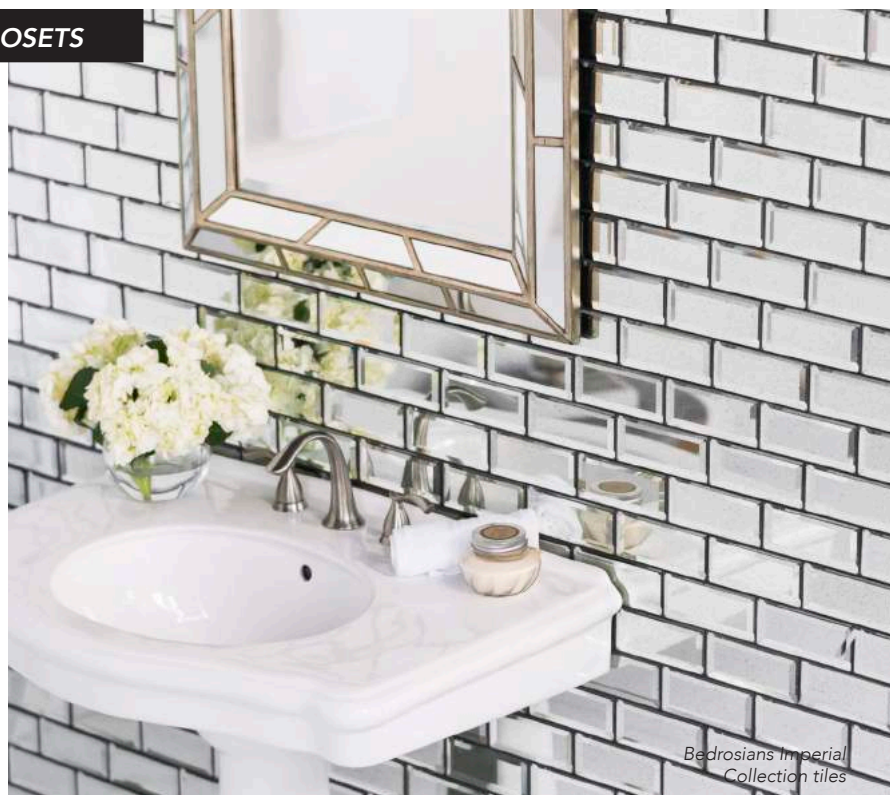


Foster Milano Cucinotta Range 4 Burner

IMAGES COURTESY MINOTTICUCINE, FERGUSON, FOSTER MILANO

TIME TO REFLECT

The bath suite has always been one of the most desirable places in the home to unwind and let go of the day. When the space has been appointed with sumptuous materials, the experience is that much more heightened. For 70 years, **Bedrosians** has offered a wide selection of materials for every style and budget, making it one of the largest independent porcelain tile and stone importers and distributors in the U.S. The Imperial Collection, shown here, features antiqued mirror glass tiles that bring shine, elegant glamour and dramatic flair to your bathroom walls. 9200 NW 25th St., Miami, 305.594.0472; 1901 W. Sample Road, Deerfield Beach, 954.917.8002; bedrosians.com



Bedrosians Imperial Collection tiles



Bathroom counter by Precious Surfaces

BATHED IN LUXURY

For over 30 years, **Precious Surfaces** has specialized in exotic natural finishes for the architectural and interior design industries. Jaime Perczek, president and senior designer, always keeps an eye out to discover mood-enhancing textures that are perfect for countertops and other decorative elements. "Each material we use has a different flavor," he explains. "These flavors impact each client differently, so we offer selections—such as semiprecious stones, onyx, crystal, gold or silver leaf—to align with their vision and taste."

In the bath, Perczek recommends something visually unexpected, like a vanity made of mother-of-pearl shells, to add vibration and life to the environment while at the same time, imparting a sense of soothing quality. "What is most important is that the client should be stirred by their own artistic living space," he says. "If they feel comfortable and inspired by their own creation, they will feel happy and self-assured." 1855 Griffin Road, DCOTA Suite C-172; 954.925.0701; preciousurfaces.com

Alessandro La Spada Harmony Wellness Collection from Visionnaire



ANGULAR APPROACH

Visionnaire, the world-class luxury Italian brand known for its unique designs and aristocratic flair, has forayed into the bath realm. Continuing the dialogue between art and design, which has long been a part of the company's DNA, the Harmony Wellness collection, designed by Alessandro La Spada, sees the bath basin from its own singular perspective. Semi-architectural volumes are characterized by the interplay of diagonal engravings, which soften the side and front marble doors and add interest to the mirror. The metal structure of this luxe console gives a lighter dimension to the weightier marble body, for perfect balance and bravura. 2063 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; 786.577.4370; visionnaire-home.com



Closet by Italkraft for The Fairchild Coconut Grove



Closet by Italkraft for Missoni Bala

IMAGINE THAT

Italians have a knack for taking the commonplace and turning it into something extraordinary. When it comes to imaginative closet design, **Italkraft** does just that.

About the Company: Italkraft's expertise has been established through years of experience offering elegant and efficient home solutions for kitchens, closets, bathrooms and more, coupled with exceptional customer service. Headquartered in Miami, with showrooms in Panama and Italy, the company strives to provide discerning clientele with Italian closet cabinetry at the pinnacle of style and sophistication.

High-Profile Projects: Italkraft is an exclusive partner to the Related Group's real estate developments and has been part of notable projects such as SLS Brickell, 1 Hotel & Homes South Beach and the upcoming One Thousand Museum by the late Zaha Hadid.

The Forefront of Innovation: Italkraft continually works directly with product manufacturers, which allows it to introduce new materials to the market ahead of schedule, in some cases up to two years before they are available.

Bells and Whistles: Matte lacquers and suedes, LED sensor lighting, translucent drawers, fume-smoked glass...If it's luxurious, it comes with the territory.

2900 NW 77th Court, Miami; 305.406.1301; italkraft.com

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Closets are no longer an afterthought; they are an integral part of any space, now with a range of finishes, textures and configurations to assure that purpose meets panache. Here, Miami's **California Closets** outlines the steps its designers take to create personalized, functional and beautiful closets that are intended to be flaunted rather than concealed.

DESIGN CONSULTATION: Your custom closet starts with a free in-home consultation. At this first meeting, an expert design consultant will measure your space, take inventory of your belongings and listen closely to understand your needs and ideas.

COLLABORATION: Once equipped with your design requirements, California Closets creates a virtual model using its proprietary 3-D software. This demonstrates how the closet will actually look and function in your space.

CUSTOM CRAFTING: Your design is sent to one of California Closets' local manufacturing centers, where the finest materials sourced from North America and Europe are employed to create your system components.

INSTALLATION: Your system will be installed with white-glove service, coordinated to your own convenient timeline. Before getting started, installers will prep your walls and floors so that they are protected. And they won't leave until the new closet system is clean and ready for use.

FOLLOW UP: After installation, California Closets will follow up to make sure all of your needs have been met. Experts will always be available to adjust and evolve your closet system to suit your changing requirements.

900 Park Centre Blvd., Suite 476, Miami Gardens; 305.623.8282; californiaclosets.com



Wardrobe by California Closets



Waterfront villa landscape
by Fernando Wong



GREEN THUMB

Fernando Wong, one of the most sought-after landscape architects in the industry, has a roster of world-class projects that includes Four Seasons Hotel at the Surf Club, the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami and the upcoming Four Seasons Private Residences Fort Lauderdale. We had the good fortune of picking his brain for a moment, and are pleased to share his words of wisdom.

What is important to remember when contemplating your landscape design? Keep an open mind. It's OK to be eager to do amazing things, but beauty is subjective, and you can learn from others' perception of beauty. There is a lot to learn from other disciplines, especially when a talented team of experts is working together on a project.

How do interior design and architecture play into landscape design and landscape architecture? I try to create an architectural vision with vegetation: Lawn, sand or hardscape elements are the foundation. If I have a large green canopy, that becomes my ceiling. I build walls with hedge materials. Then colors and forms become my accents and accessories, like decorating a room.

What do you suggest if your landscape aspirations exceed your budget? Even if a client doesn't have the means to do everything all at once, we can pace the implementation of the garden with planting. We just plan ahead, and dream big for the future!

1504 Bay Road, #2705, Miami Beach, 305.604.0003;
Palm Beach, 561.515.0213; fernandowonggold.com



Patio by Luxapatio

GIVE YOUR PATIO A FACE-LIFT

Many homeowners dedicate time, effort and funds to updating their interiors, but the exterior environment is sometimes overlooked. However, if you approach your backyard as an extension of your home, it makes sense that no renovation or remodel is complete without refreshing the patio. Felipe Londono of **Luxapatio**, a premier outdoor living company specializing in custom backyard spaces, offers these pointers:

RENOVATE POOL AND PAVERS: People tend to shy away from pool renovations because they can be a huge and costly undertaking. But with a simple fix, like darkening the finish of the plaster, you can achieve an updated look with minimal investment.

EXAMINE SHADING OPTIONS: We utilize aluminum pergolas, retractable roof systems and louver groove systems which let in air and light. These are all functional and give a modern look. Some can even be operated from your smartphone.

CONTEMPORIZE YOUR OUTDOOR KITCHEN: An extended bar, as commonly found in an indoor kitchen, has a modern appeal. I suggest stuccoing to match the house or using tiles in modish gray and white finishes. Smart cooking appliances also really take it to that "tech-y" level.

RETHINK GRASS: Green walls or vertical gardens are very "in." You can use artificial grass, which looks nice and no upkeep is necessary. Or, combine grass with hardscape—like placing strips of grass in between the slabs of the ground treatment.

3305 NW 79th Ave., Miami; 305.477.5141; luxapatio.com

IMAGES COURTESY FERNANDO WONG, LUXAPATIO

IMAGES COURTESY REEF TROPICAL POOL & LANDSCAPE, AQUA FIRE PIT, URBAN DESIGN SOUTH



Pool by Reef Tropical
Pool and Landscape



Fire features by
Aqua Fire Pit

ALL FIRED UP

Nothing is more captivating than a roaring flame. Here, James Russell, president and CEO of **Aqua Fire Pit**, addresses the subjects that come to mind when considering adding a fire pit to your outdoor environment.

DESIGN: We can design anything. We have one particular fire feature where the gas comes up through the water to create a fire-on-water effect. We also manufacture our own concrete fire bowls here in South Florida. This saves our clients a lot of money in shipping costs.

SAFETY: By code, all fire pits and outdoor fire features should be 10 feet away from a roof enclosure. We believe in installing every fire pit and fire feature with safety devices that prevent the flame from blowing out.

MAINTENANCE: We service fire pits and fire features, even if another company performed the original installation. We love a challenge!

954.708.7041; aquafirepit.com

THE WORTH OF WATER

Nowhere are swimming pools more adored than here in South Florida. But turning a hole in the ground into a majestic oasis is going to cost you. Those who are ruminating over this exciting, yet labor-intensive, undertaking might be wondering: How much?

According to Claude Kershner III, CEO and founder of **Reef Tropical Pool and Landscape**, the answer depends on a variety of factors. As a baseline, a 12-by-24-foot pool with no spa and a 3- to 5-foot depth will cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000. That price includes things like permit expediting, engineered plans, excavation work, form and framing, steel placement, plumbing, concrete, equipment placement and connections, basic finish with waterline tile and a few months of maintenance. More elaborate equals more expensive, and spending upwards of \$500,000 is hardly out of the question.

But just think of what you're gaining. As Kershner points out, the swimming pool is the centerpiece of any outdoor area. Sunsets, private yachts, golf courses—all are duplicated in the reflective value of the water. Also, a pool placed at the same level as your living room substantially expands the perceived space. Talk about getting your money's worth.

1A Barracuda Lane, Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo;
305.367.2005; reeftropical.com

IT'S ELEMENTARY

There are many facets that comprise an outdoor environment. To ensure success, hiring an expert is always best. "Every client is different, so I try to incorporate their lifestyle into my design," explains Rafael Batalla, owner of **Urban Design South**. Batalla agrees that the more enlightened the client, the better the outcome. Hence, he helps break it down by defining the basic elements of landscape design.

WATER: This element adds movement to a design and can also appeal to the sense of sound due to the soothing effect of trickling or flowing water.

FIRE: A very visual element that can add warmth, movement and a place to gather. A fire feature in a pool can really bring about the "wow" factor.

TEXTURE: The element of texture is achieved by mixing hard and softscape materials. Different plants add varietal textures. You can also impart texture with materials such as rocks, wood, concrete...even coquina shells.

MOOD: The element of mood, as driven by lighting, is one of the most important parts of outdoor design. Light creates drama and romance, and allows you to appreciate a space at night.

BALANCE: This element takes into consideration your "usable space." Do you need chaises for sunbathing, dining areas shaded by a parasol? The balance is defined by the program at hand, and furniture placement is key.

561.749.0342; udsla.com



Backyard by Urban
Design South

UNCOMMON GROUND

Flooring can single-handedly make or break a design, so it's important to choose wisely. Charles Urso, owner and founder of **Marble of the World**, personally travels the globe to obtain the most unique array of exotic stone sources that can be found. Here, he satisfies our curiosity about all things flooring.

What materials are designers and clients requesting these days? White marbles are still the rage, as are very large-format marble and porcelain tiles.

Speaking of format, what is the current trend? The homeowners we serve have a sizable budget. Their homes range from \$1.5 million to \$75 million, which, naturally, means they reach 5,000 square feet—or much grander. Large formatting conveys the look of giant slabs of stone, resulting in a more continual effect uninterrupted by lines.

What are some recent technological advancements in flooring? There is a tremendous amount of porcelain that imitates natural stones and wood. Today's

porcelains resemble wood planks so closely, it's hard to tell the difference. For man-made products, we only deal with Italian goods for their superlative quality and elevated level of design.

With indoor-outdoor living being so prevalent in South Florida, how do you suggest blending the two together? Products with a smoother finish meant for interiors often have a coefficient, which is the same product, but it is designed for outdoors with a slightly rougher finish. The pairing of the two blurs the line between indoors and out.

What else do you have on hand that's unique? We just started with a line of terrazzo. Instead of grinding and flattening rocks as it was done in the past, they now make a large-format tile, which eliminates the need for that arduous process. The design world is always looking for the new and different, and terrazzo is really catching on. It's a nice look that's very much in keeping with the contemporary trend. And it comes in an astonishing assortment of colorways.

4185 NW 77th Ave., Miami, 305.592.8850; 6001 Powerline Road, Fort Lauderdale, 954.745.9700; marbleoftheworld.com



Dakota collection large-format porcelain "wood" tiles from Marble of the World

THEY'RE SO TRANSPARENT

Treating today's windows takes special knowhow and a proficiency in controlling light so that the room is appropriately brightened or darkened as the setting and mood dictate. **Total Window** is the ultimate destination for innovative, custom window furnishings, from shades to draperies, panels and exterior shading—as well as labor-saving full motorization. The company also provides solutions for balancing light and managing privacy issues throughout the home. Total Window is a purveyor of the total sum of your window needs. With guidance, your windows will reach their highest potential. 1249 Stirling Road, Suite 15, Dania Beach; 954.921.0109; totalwindow.com



Windows/shades by Total Window



721 Buttonwood, Bay Point, Miami; interiors by Inês Martins; windows by Vitri Design Build + Glass

BRAVING THE STORM

Global conditions are changing, with hurricanes becoming more prevalent each year. Designer, builder and glass contractor **Vitri Design Build + Glass** has an answer that is both effectual and appealing. "The storefront system is a robust, high-performance, impact-resistant solution," says Jose Arenas, owner and president of Vitri. Architects worldwide implement this system to lend a modern look to their designs while helping homeowners protect their investments. It's a symmetrical structure of glass that can soar to 14 feet, eliminating the need for shutters or cement to stay safe. 1720 NW 23rd St., Miami; 305.767.2262; vitricorp.com



Flooring by Fantini Mosaici

ISN'T IT GRAND?

You don't need to live in a palace to feel like you do! **Fantini Mosaici** recently opened a showroom in the Miami Design District, thus unlocking the gateway to the infinite flooring designs that can be achieved with the centuries-old process of assembling small fragments of stone and glass into decorative works of art. Fantini's artisans travel the world to install the elements they've hand-produced in Milan, bestowing upon each client a majestic floor design that is truly the only one of its kind. 4800 NE Second Ave., Miami; 305.572.0990; fantinimosaici.com



Flooring by Fantini Mosaici

OPEN AND SHUT

Designers, architects, contractors and savvy homeowners know that doors are as much a crucial design element as any, which is why **ITALdoors** consistently offers custom products that meet the highest of expectations. A precise, perfect fit minus the need for adjustment, an abbreviated lead time on in-stock items and the finest Italian-manufactured goods are all part of the package. Featured here are decor wall panels by the gifted Laurameroni, available in different carved wood finishes and adaptable to several environments and layouts. It's merely one of ITALdoors' generous ranges of over 300 artistically refined options from which to choose. Conveniently, an inclusive bundle, which comes standard with all purchases, consists of door panel, frame, hinges, lock, handle and privacy latch. ITALdoors opens the mind to unlimited possibility, and shuts out any needless hassle. 17852 State Highway 9, Miami; 800.615.3667; italdoors.it



Laurameroni wall panels from ITALdoors



BUILDING IN BUDGET

Blowing your budget can really put a damper on developing your dream home. Daniel Reedy, founder and owner of **Onshore Construction & Development**, a premier custom home builder in Palm Beach County, advises that to stay on budget, you must find an experienced, qualified builder as early in the process as possible. "The advantage a builder brings is the comprehensive knowledge to consider the whole picture of what is required at all stages of the project," says Reedy. He warns that if a builder comes in too late, logistical changes must be made, which can halt progress, create delays and result in potential added charges. "Onshore has a team in place that takes a creative and comprehensive approach to doing just this," Reedy adds. "From consulting during the buying phase with Realtors and reviewing plans with architects, to selecting materials with our in-house interior designer, we guide clients through the total process." 938 N. Old Dixie Highway, Jupiter; 561.744.8331; onshorejupiter.com



PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS

Those who invest in a smart home are looking for two things: efficiency and simplicity. The systems might be complex, but they are specifically programmed to be effortless to use, so you can control your equipment at the push of a button, from anywhere in the world. So, when do you bring an A/V specialist into the fold? The answer is as early as possible, according to Jennifer Yosowitz, COO and VP of **Audio One**, one of the largest and most awarded A/V firms in the U.S., offering world-class design and installation in smart home automation, customized audiovisual elements, motorized shades, IMAX Private Theatres, access control systems and Crestron programming. "The wiring and planning that is involved in home automation is as critical as the electrical, and must be planned in the very early building stages, ideally when design decisions are being made," she says. Waiting too long could result in costly refabricating, or having to make alternate choices that are less ideal than if you'd planned ahead. 35 SW 12th Ave., Suite 101, Dania Beach; 305.945.1230 954.843.2837; audio-one.com

IMAGES COURTESY ONSHORE CONSTRUCTION, AUDIO ONE



TAKING THE "Mc" OUT OF "McMODERN"

Max Strang is the founding principal and president of **[STRANG]**, a Florida-based architectural firm well known for its environmental Modernist designs. He is hardly bashful when it comes to his feelings on how the brilliance of Modernism can be diminished when executed poorly. "For every great modern home, there are many unfortunate failed attempts," he says. "I recently learned of the term 'McModern' to describe the new style-du-jour." To avoid this, Strang's first piece of advice is to hire a qualified architect: "Great architecture can be delivered for any budget, but don't skimp on the creative design process." Here are a few tips for doing modern right: **1)** Stucco should be white. **Period.** **2)** Keep the geometry clean and simple. **3)** Bring a pool close to the house. **4)** Consider your outdoor spaces with the same energy as your inside spaces. **5)** Nothing fake. 3326 Mary St., Third Floor, Coconut Grove, 305.373.4990; strangarchitecture.com



STAYING FOCUSED

Anyone who has an instinct for design knows that creating a focal point upraises the visual effect of a space, adding intrigue and interest, as well as other benefits. So how does this translate into architecture? Carlos J. Bravo of **UrvanX**, a diversified, full-service architecture firm with vast experience creating exquisite custom residences and commercial properties, weighs in.

Why is it necessary to establish a focal point in architecture? Architecture is a language. As in any language, emphasis is given to more important subjects or to give clearer definition of an object's meaning. The focal point is essential to bring the user a distinct understanding of the structure. It provides a clear and organized space, using balance and proportion as tools to convey those sentiments. The volumes in the composition of our Miami Beach project,

Fourteen 14, clearly define living spaces versus circulation spaces, while providing a balance along the façades.

What is an effective way to create a focal point on a home's exterior? Take the portico, for example. As the main entrance of a residence, it is given importance by added height, special treatment of the openings or larger light fixtures—or a combination of all these things. The eye is drawn to this area and immediately recognized for what it is: the exterior focal point of the residence.

What about an interior focal point? In earlier times, the hearth was the center of the home, providing warmth to its inhabitants and a place to prepare food. Today, fireplaces remain great focal points for living areas, as they still serve as the warm gathering space for the family.

4981 SW 74th Court, Miami; 786.615.2943; urvanx.com



KEEPING YOUR COOL

If there's one thing we can all agree on: We love the tropics, but we aren't quite as fond of the humidity. It's not only unpleasant, but it can damage your property. Nikolas Arvanitopoulos, president of **Arvani Building Works**, a Florida certified general contractor specializing in new construction, renovation and remodeling of luxury residential and commercial projects, offers the following advice on how to build a home that outsmarts humidity and promotes optimal comfort.

THE PROBLEM: As the sun heats your roof tiles, a vented attic designed with fiberglass R-30 insulation gets extremely hot. When the air-conditioning starts working inside the house, hot attic air "bleeds" through any small openings, such as electrical sockets. The moment that hot air touches the cold drywall or other cold surfaces, it causes condensation. When that insulation touches anywhere on the A/C ducts, it immediately causes "sweating," which drips on the ceiling drywall and starts the creation of mold. Some unfortunate owners don't realize this until the mold buildup is threatening their health, potentially leading to serious illness.

THE SOLUTION: "Ask your architect to design an environmentally friendly project that prevents the buildup of humidity and mold in the interior spaces of your home," Arvanitopoulos says. "The best solution I know of is an unvented attic, insulated with Icynene foam, preferably closed-cell. By eliminating the roof vents system, and by insulating the roof with Icynene-sprayed foam on the underside of the roof sheathing, as well as the exterior of the house from ground floor to where the wall insulation meets the roof, the entire home will be well-insulated, saving a significant amount on cooling costs and completely protecting your home from humidity and mold."

10800 SW 78th Ave., Miami; 786.452.7151; arvanibwllc.com

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Some of our favorite home furnishings and accessories.

SUMPTUOUS SOFAS

It's one of the first and most significant purchases you make for your home—not to mention one of the most frequently utilized pieces. Sofas are where we relax and gather, so they of course need to be comfortable, but as a focal point of your living space, style is also a factor.

The bold and geometric silhouette of **Kelly Wearstler's** Sunset sofa, shown here in coral velvet, features gently sloping arms and a high seat rail. The hardwood frame is double-doweled and glued, with eight-way hand-tied springs for both longevity and performance. *\$14,985; kellywearstler.com*



Luxury Living Group develops, produces and distributes furniture collections for some of the world's most celebrated brands. One of them, **Fendi Casa**, presents the Palmer sofa by French designer Toan Nguyen. It is the culmination of more than 25 hours of meticulous workmanship, when every inch of stitching, shaping and wrapping was done lovingly by hand. *\$28,600; 50 NE 39th St., Miami; 305.438.1660; luxurylivinggroup.com*

THE THRILL OF THE CHAISE

Even if you're just lounging around, might as well do so with flair. Two leading luxury outdoor furnishing brands make it possible to make a style statement while doing absolutely nothing at all.



Brown Jordan debuts the Parkway Sling collection designed by John Caldwell, featuring modern lines and exclusive Versatex mesh. *Price upon request; 3625 NE Second Ave., Miami; 305.573.1946; brownjordan.com*



Dedon's MBRACE daybed's cushioned body is quilted, resulting in a lounge chair equivalent of a warm hug. It consists of Dedon fiber woven over an aluminum frame, with a base of premium teak. *Price upon request; 1855 Griffin Road, DCOTA Suite C-120, Dania Beach; 954.299.0651; dedon.delen*

REST ASSURED

Everyone wants a good night's sleep, but you can get a better one knowing you're surrounded by luxury, with beds and bedding that are natural, hassle-free and even functional.



Robb & Stucky presents the Palma bed by **Bernhardt Interiors**, which features white oak veneers in a rustic gray finish with a hand-woven abaca headboard and footboard in a light gray wash. *\$3,899; 1353 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton; 561.931.2700; robbstuckyintl.com*



Globaltex Fine Linens' nautical six-piece bedding set is made of 100 percent Turkish cotton sateen and is produced free of any chemicals. With a luscious 600 thread count, these premium linens get softer with every wash. *\$399; 7245 NE Fourth Ave., Suite 105, Miami; 305.751.2343; globaltexusa.com*

HAVE A SEAT

Take a load off in style, in one of these design-forward interpretations of this essential furniture item.



Anima Domus' Concept chair offers contemporary, minimal lines that are both soft and inviting. *Price upon request; Miami, 305.576.9088; Aventura, 305.705.9975; animadomus.com*



MiaCucina has expanded its offerings to home furnishings. **Kristalia's** Elephant chair has a shell made of polyurethane injection, a resilient, lightweight material, and the reinforced rib around the backrest is comparable to the sturdy spine of an elephant, hence its name. *Price upon request; Aventura, 305.792.9494; Coral Gables, 305.444.7383; Doral, 305.792.9494; miacucina.com*



Loosely translated from the Italian word meaning "narrow band or strip," **Morada Haute Furniture Boutique's** petite Fascetta chair adds personality and chicness to your dining space. *\$1,790; 3701 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; 305.501.2768; morada-furniture.com*

AS SIMPLE AS THAT

In life, and in design, you can never go wrong with streamlining and sticking to the basics. The tables below are unfettered by extraneous detail, and their quiet simplicity speaks volumes.



The Oro II cocktail table, comprised of wood and steel with a rose-gold finish, is one of a 40-piece collection by **Artefacto** that debuted at Milan Design Week in celebration of the brand's 15-year anniversary. *\$4,704; Aventura, 305.931.9484; Coral Gables, 305.774.0004; Doral, 305.639.9969; artefacto.com*



Minotti's Song coffee table, designed by the illustrious Rodolfo Dordoni, is made entirely of solid brushed ash with a black-painted finish. The top, fabricated of smooth Calacatta marble, resonates with the melody of sleek sophistication. *\$9,600; 3801 NE Second Ave., Miami; 305.306.9300; minottiftl.com*

DESIGN ROYALTY

Imperial Interiors, the exciting luxury lifestyle showroom in Miami, is the next best thing to a direct flight to Italy. The showroom presents three leading Italian interior design houses—Roberto Cavalli Home, Gianfranco Ferré Home and La Murrina Murano—that embody the exquisite craftsmanship, high quality and cutting-edge style that make Italy the reigning champion of fine furniture. Imperial's elegant space showcases these extraordinary designs at their best, and their highly-trained and talented staff is there to assist designers, architects and discerning consumers in obtaining an interior tailored to their particular needs and tastes.

Shown here: Lush velvet Hill sofa by **Gianfranco Ferré Home** in mint cream with original square elements in bronzed brass finish. \$20,935; 12717 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; 786.482.9000; imperialmiami.com



Hill sofa by Gianfranco Ferré Home, available at Imperial Interiors

HOT WIRE

Don't let their delicate frames fool you. Designs with wire are strong on style!



Imperial Interiors presents **Roberto Cavalli Home's** dynamic Cosmopolitan chair, which boasts a wired, gold base and is upholstered in a silk, palm-inspired pattern. Price upon request; 12717 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; 786.482.9000; imperialmiami.com



The Trimini light by **Swarovski**, available at **Farrey's Lighting & Bath**, is a graceful ceiling fixture whose gleaming metal and simple geometric design lends itself to a multitude of compositions of sparkling light. \$7,395; Coconut Grove, 305.445.2244; North Miami, 305.947.5451; farreys.com



For **Roche Bobois**, Marina Declarey and Solange Yates of Atelier Yade explore hollow spaces with the artfully arched Arcade screen, finished in smooth black steel. \$2,670; Aventura, 305.935.0035; Coral Gables, 305.444.1017; Palm Beach, 561.835.4982; roche-bobois.com

STEP LIVELY

Karim Rashid is one of the most prolific industrial designers of his generation. A veritable living legend, his designs include luxury goods, furniture, lighting, brand identity, packaging and surface design. For Netherlands brand **Carpet Sign**, he created the Kardinal rug, one from his 12-piece Lush series, which playfully uses spirited colors and bold, biomorphic shapes so prevalent in our digitally-inspired world. Price upon request; carpetsign.nl



IT MAKES SCENTS

Since 2007, **Doctor Aromas** has been dedicated to providing environmental well-being in a revolutionary way: via air-conditioning. Its line of products ensures that spaces will be evenly and efficiently aromatized. Using essential oils and the highest-grade scents, from citrusy to herbal, floral to woody, they add a fragrant finish to any room. Startup kit, \$109.90; refills, \$75; 866.936.7890; doctoraromas.com



PURPLE REIGNS

Enigmatic purples have long been symbolic of artistic brilliance. Pantone's 18-3838 Ultra Violet, the official Color of the Year for 2018, is moody, contemplative and, like the pop culture icons like Prince and David Bowie who brought purple to the forefront, it leaves an indelible impression wherever it goes.

Awash in purple, a decorative table lamp or pillow can easily combine with neutral tones, according to Magita Rojas of **Plume Home Decor**. "No longer a throwback hippie color from the '60s and '70s, ultra violet is seeing a strong comeback in new forms," she says. "It symbolizes peace and harmony. And, after what most would consider a contentious political year, it does not come as a surprise that a shade of purple was selected as the Color of the Year, as purple is the blend of red and blue." 218 Andalusia Ave., Coral Gables; 786.534.9293; plumehomedecor.com



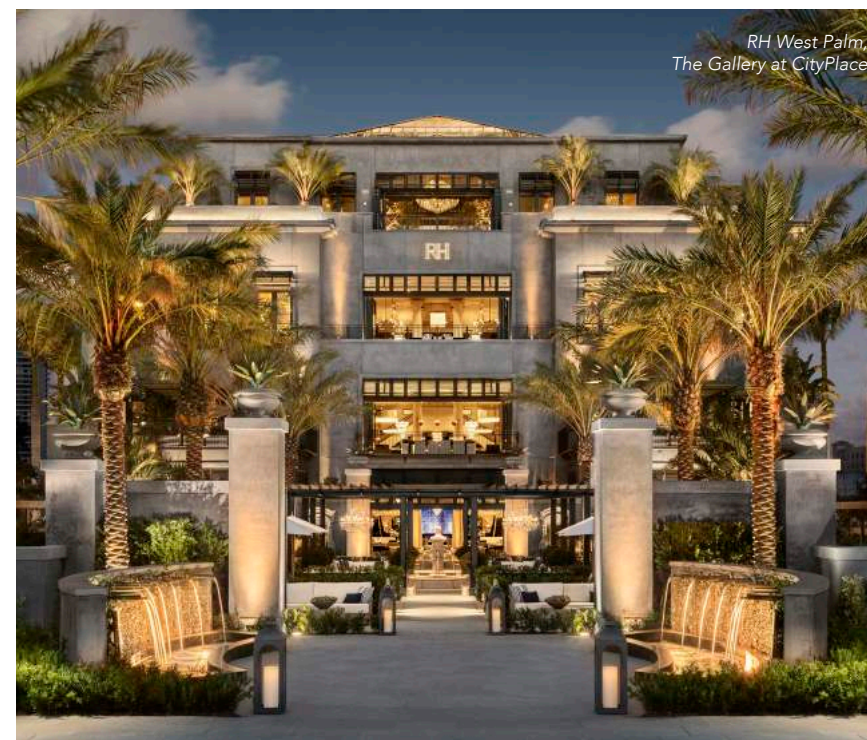
Batik Shibori toss pillow; \$180



Violet geode bookends; \$400



Eden lamp; \$1,200



RH West Palm, The Gallery at CityPlace

PARADISE, FOUND

Restoration Hardware's all-new **RH West Palm, The Gallery at CityPlace** is reimagined as a world-class design studio. This four-story, 80,000-square-foot compound integrates all of RH's businesses into one awe-inspiring setting. Imagine gleaning inspiration from three floors of interior installations and tropical gardens, plus a rooftop restaurant, a wine vault and a barista bar by celebrated restaurateur Brendan Sodikoff.

Trained in the RH design ethos and educated in architecture, interior design and the arts, the RH design team helps clients reinvent their home, one room at a time. "The evolution of our design services positions RH as a leading interior design firm, and demonstrates how our brand can deliver value that transcends just creating and selling products," says RH CEO Gary Friedman. "It's an experience that cannot be replicated online." 560 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach; 561.804.6826; rh.com

ONE-STOP SHOP

Outfitting a new home can feel like a full-time job. Fortunately, there's **Design House 3305**, a one-stop shop staffed with design professionals ready to assist in tackling any project. With four exceptional stores in one—**Italian Kitchen and Bath**, **Luxapatio**, **Impel Appliances** and **Century Wholesale**—Design House 3305 is prepared to manage all phases in the design process with precision, skill and attention to detail. It's all under one roof, so you can take a load off your mind—and tired feet—knowing that you're not only in the good hands, but that all the luxury products for which you've been searching are right at your fingertips. 3305 NW 79th Ave., Doral; 305.599.9000

Italian Kitchen and Bath: Distinguished kitchen and bath products, including sleek vanities, cutting-edge countertops and stylish accessories. 305.770.6525; italiankb.com

Luxapatio: Pools, pergolas and all things in between to create the outdoor setting of your dreams. 305.477.5141; luxapatio.com

Impel Appliances: A leading appliance specialist dealing in today's most coveted luxury brands such as Sub-Zero and Wolf. 305.468.1528; impelamericaplanet.com

Century Wholesale: An array of top brands in the categories of bath, kitchen, appliances, doors, millwork and hardware. 305.261.4731; centurywholesale.us