POMPEII MEETS SOUTH BEACH

One Design Team Creates A Classical Modern Interpretation Of An Ancient Pompeian Residence That Deftly Blurs The Lines Between Inside And Out

INTERIOR DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE
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LEFT: A classic gold-ochre récamier in the living area is flanked by Doric columns, an integral part of classic Pompeii city architecture. A statue of a Greek "Discobolus" holds court in the background near the dining area.



CLASSIC AND SUBLIME, THIS SOUTH BEACH RESIDENCE in Miami, Fla., crafted in the Italianate style by the design team of Earnest Turner and Giovanni Caretti, is also practical and protected from the elements. Together the designers recreated a slice of antiquity — a timeless Pompeian house — climate controlled and equipped with modern conveniences. "My partner Giovanni Caretti and I created a place that is simple, small and completely protected from hurricanes," Turner says. "This layout gives one the sense of being on the water, but without the vulnerability and expense."

With their strong ties to Italy, where they now permanently reside, and love of classical architecture, it is no wonder the design team chose a Pompeii city house design. But the odd contour of the property also "shaped" their decision. For this 2,700-square-foot home surrounded by 20-foot walls of hurricane-proof glass and lofty 13-foot ceilings that mitigate heat, they were curbed, so to speak, by the size of the property. "It's 55 feet deep and 135 feet long," Turner says. "Normally, houses are built the other way, not with all that frontage." In keeping with the traditional building practices on Miami Beach, the lot was considered virtually unbuildable."

ABOVE: In the elegant dining room, 18th-century Genovese armchairs line a Romeo Sozzi dining table set with Richard Ginori Italian tableware, Baccarat crystal and linens from Donghia. On the glass and stone console, an ostrich egg perched upon a silver stand adds eclectic appeal and bestows good fortune.

The entryway table covered in an 18th-century green-and-white marble intarsio is topped with a bronze reproduction of a winged Sphinx.



The living room is an intimate space that seats 10 on comfortable sofas clad in sand-hued ribbed silk by Jim Thompson. Nearby, an occasional table with an antique Guéridon — a gilded-bronze base — is topped with an eye-catching collection of objets d'art.

"Classical houses are the precursors of all forms of architecture," interior designer Earnest Turner says. "To me, everything stems from those."

To overcome this obstacle and maximize use of the land, the designers decided to create two narrow blocks of buildings that flank an oversized pool between them, and are connected by way of covered corridors that are open to the elements. "When you walk through the front door, you are literally outside," Turner says. "The house has a transparency to it with no barrier between the inside and outside."

Inspired by various classical elements, the use of egg-and-dart moldings, crown-coffered ceilings, Doric columns, and ample marble and stone abound throughout this home filled with contemporary pieces, antiques, family heirlooms, collections and gifts. "We like the eclectic look and we used things from every time period," Turner says.

In the stylish living area, colored walls resemble stone and sand. "We didn't use a color palette per se," Turner says. "Everything just goes with everything. We began with a calm base and added pops of color." A Russian Empire récamier, clad in gold-ochre cowhide that the designers refer to as "neutral," is flanked by gilded-wood Adam chairs wrapped in Old World Weavers silk velvet. A cocktail table custom designed by the duo makes a distinct statement covered in stamped-crocodile leather.

Symmetry and scale, proportion and volume reign supreme throughout the home, especially in the elegant dining area. Furnished with those elements in mind, it was created with pieces scaled down to fit the space. Bordered by 18th-century Genovese armchairs upholstered in antiqued rust leather, "the Romeo Sozzi table, for example, does not expand, but does seat 10 comfortably," Turner says.

In the entry hallway, an 18th-century console and a gilded mirror that once belonged to Caretti's grandmother is topped in marble and adorned with carved-wood candelabras. The piece is decorated with a grouping of obelisk and

On view from the elegant pool area, Caretti Turner's custom designed front door entry — constructed of structural elements covered in copper — and a gilded-wood bench from Jerry Pair add classically inspired elements.



sphere marble quarry samples etched in stunning colorations and striations.

A Japanese Coromandel screen provides an intimate backdrop in the main living area, where the designers created warmth with a trio of Sozzi sofas clad in Jim Thompson's silk, along with a Biedermeier roll-front burled-maple secretary and a 19th-century Russian armchair. Lamps derived from Chinese turquoise crackle-glazed jars pop with color.

Bordered by the main living areas, the spectacular custom-designed pool is paneled in frameless glass. Open to the sky, sunlight shines down upon it throughout the day, and serves to energize the interior spaces. "In a Pompeian home, the roof is pitched so that rain water flows down and collects in an open space called the impluvium, which in our case, is the pool," Turner says.

"This home is quite magical and anyone who enters is astounded, "Turner says. "You feel like you are in a garden pavilion all the time, never knowing where the inside ends and the outside begins."

ABOVE: A bronze statue of "The Dancing Faun," visible through the entryway, overlooks the pool. This captivating reproduction of a sculpture found in Pompeii is considered a symbol of good luck and fortune.

SOURCE OPTIONS

SOURCES

Living Room

Récamier, armchairs,
small chair, occasional table,
antique secretary,
candlesticks, draperies,
accessories on cocktail table,
artwork, screen, table lamps
and flooring - Owners' Collection
Armchair cushion fabric
and accent pillow
fabric - Old World Weavers,
New York, NY
Beige sofas - Romeo Sozzi,
Promemoria, Italy
Sofa fabric - Jim Thompson, Inc.,
The Thai Silk Company,
Atlanta, GA
Candlesticks on secretary - Ginori
Doccia, Florence, Italy
Vase on secretary - Tiffany & Co.,
New York, NY
Cocktail table - Custom designed by
Caretti Turner Assoc., Inc.,
Este, Padova, Italy
Fabricated by Romeo Sozzi,
Promemoria, Milan, Italy
Ashtrays on cocktail table - Lalique,
Paris, France
Torchiere floor lamps - Farrey's Lighting,
North Miami, FL
Area rug - Carpet Source, DCOTA,
Dania Beach, FL

Dining Room

Dining table - Romeo Sozzi,
Promemoria, Milan, Italy
Dining chairs, glass and stone
console, bowl, artwork and
candelabrums - Owners' Collection
Ostrich egg on silver stand - Custom
designed by Giovanni Caretti,
Este, Padova, Italy
Tableware - Richard Ginori,
Florence, Italy
Linens - Donghia, Inc., DCOTA,
Dania Beach, FL
Crystal - Baccarat, Inc.,
Edison, NJ
Candlesticks - Restoration Hardware,
Madera, CA
Greek sculpture - Fumagalli & Dossi,
Milan, Italy

Entry

Table, console, mirror, pedestal bowl
and accessories - Owners' Collection

Pool Area

Pool, planters, doorway and
doors - Custom designed by
Caretti Turner Assoc., Inc.,
Este, Padova, Italy
Bench - Jerry Pair & Assoc.,
DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL
Arched molding in doorway and
tray ceiling fabricated by
Fypon, Ltd., Maumee, OH
Pedestal, statue and
chandelier - Owners' Collection

Throughout

Recessed lighting - Lightolier,
Fall River, MA ◆