MIAMI MODERN WITH A SWEDISH TWIST

THIS MAGNIFICENT WATERFRONT ESTATE ON EXCLUSIVE SUNSET ISLAND IN MIAMI BEACH IS FILLED WITH SPARE SOPHISTICATED FURNISHINGS AND ABUNDANT NATURAL LIGHT

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In the living area, two swivel chairs from Donghia in a chocolate hue, a leather daybed from Artefacto and Lucite accent tables from Carriage House are grounded by a geometric area rug that adds texture. Reflected in a floor mirror with an ebonized Mahogany frame, is a stunning courtyard that is designed with tree branches that appear sculpted.

In the elegant dining room, art appears in varied forms. On a dining table created by designer Jiun Ho, a hand-blown glass sculpture makes a sophisticated centerpiece. A framed abstract above an ebony and mirrored buffet is flanked by a pair of windows that come to life like verdant paintings.



When it comes to this glorious Sunset Island waterfront property in Miami Beach, Fla., extraneous elements of design or color are simply not needed. Instead, pared down and functionally perfect were the aesthetics interior designer Sofia Joelsson was after. Unlike most South Florida designers, those aesthetics just happen to come from a Scandinavian perspective, as Joelsson is a native of Sweden. "For me, one of the most important features in any design is light," she says. "I pay special attention to light sources and times of day due to the Nordic's often fleeting illumination throughout the day."

If Scandinavians are light-seekers, so too, were the owners of this 10,300-square-foot, spectacular contemporary gated estate aptly dubbed "Sunset House," with striking views from walls of windows and doors along with architectural elements conceived by renowned architect Kobi Karp and builder Bart Reines. The impeccably designed home features exteriors with soaring columns and rooftops that appear to float, and interiors that offer sophisticated yet livable furnishings. Joelsson was selected to create one room for this former designers' show house that premiered in Miami during Art Week, and soon after, decided to introduce her own clients to the property. Two days later, the couple acquired it and invited her to redesign the entire two-story residence. "I wanted to take advantage

ABOVE: The owners favorite gathering place is the family room, where walls of glass doors open to views of the courtyard, pool and Intracoastal Waterway. The Omnia sectional from Maxalto, and a pair of Sevilla, suede-covered swivel chairs from Holly Hunt are perfectly positioned to capture the striking panorama.



A custom-designed Scavolini kitchen is elegant and spacious enough to host a dinner party yet casual enough for family meals. Leather counter stools pull up to a low-profile sleek white breakfast bar created with clean-lined cabinetry.

IN THE SITTING AREA JUST OFF THE KITCHEN, THE OWNERS CAN EMBRACE THE SURROUNDING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH WALLS OF WINDOWS WHILE SEATED ON LEATHER SWIVEL CHAIRS FROM MAXALTO.



of the home's great volumes of space, its 24-foot ceilings and abundant natural light that floods every corner," the designer says.

The main living area overlooks an arbored courtyard, pool and the Intracoastal Waterway. Joelsson arranged elegant pieces such as a custom serpentine sofa created by famed designer Vladimir Kagan from Ralph Pucci clad in "Soft Cover Summer Light" fabric by Holly Hunt, a teak root table finished in espresso and a shiny, white-lacquered Steinway piano. "The blue of the water, the luxurious foliage, the sculptural trees, and the immense sky ... these provide the color and their own drama," the designer says. Adding some metallic glam, wall sconces finished in dark bronze from Fine Art Lamps are mounted like exclamation points, and an installation designed by Joelsson of scattered sea urchins interspersed with gold and brass "moon" bowls is displayed on an overhead wall.

Sophistication tilts toward Art Deco style in the dining room with "Milano Stonewall" leather and silk-clad chairs from Holly Hunt, and a chandelier that hovers over a thick, glass-topped table with

On view from the central courtyard, a sun bridge, faced underneath in warm and weather-resistant teak, connects to the two wings of the home. In the evening, illuminated trees seem to dance and sway in Miami's gentle breeze while casting shadows on limestone tiles.







ABOVE LEFT: Ascending a dramatic stairway of stainless steel and glass, a bold modern piece from photographer Laurent Badessi's "Skin" series, and a hand-blown Bocci chandlier come into view

ABOVE RIGHT: The guest bedroom is cheered with a four-poster bed adorned with bright yellow linens. A yellow and white wingback chair is perfect for rocking the owners' new grandchild to sleep.

LEFT: Spare yet functional, the clean lines of the master bath's cabinetry and freeform tub mirror the home's exterior. Atop the teak cabinetry, interior designer Sofia Joelsson pops her signature accessory, a whimsical sea urchin.

ebonized walnut legs designed by Michael Taylor. In the corner, a root sculpture is perched on a pedestal and hanging on a wall, the white abstract artwork by Cudesso.

A gray palette dominates in the family room, where even on a cloudy day the space is cheerful when illuminated by natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows. A megalithic sectional from Maxalto in soft charcoal surrounds a custom, oversized double ottoman with a moveable storage cabinet that is perfect for caching books or electronics. Opposite, a pair of suede chairs swivel easily to capture water views.

Mirrors, onyx and chrome lend sparkle to the sleek custom kitchen designed by Scavolini. Here, Joelsson kept cabinetry below waist-level for ease of access, and so that outside views would remain uninterrupted. Eight, ivory leather counter stools from Meridiani surround the large breakfast bar and a wall of mirrors conceals appliances. Just off the kitchen is an intimate sitting area with pool views. The space features ergonomically correct chairs in cognac leather and linen centered by a circular Bradley cocktail ottoman with channel quilting and nail trim detailing.

TWO OUTSTRETCHED
WINGS SEEM TO FLOAT ABOVE
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A 10,000-GALLON KOI POND
BECKONS GUESTS TO STOP AND
REVEL IN ITS SERENE BEAUTY.

Outdoors, a second-story sun bridge with an overhead grid, overlooks a central shaded courtyard with floors tiled in honed limestone. Just steps inside, an Escher-like stairway ascends to the master wing and guest suites. A hand-blown Bocci chandelier illuminates both the steps and a loft with a sitting area.

On to a guest bedroom suite, where metallic details add shine with a stainless steel, four-poster canopy bed and a mirrored bedside table from Cudesso. Trina Turk yellow linens and a shag area rug render this room perfect for catching early morning light.

With views to a private atrium off the master bath, a freeform tub takes center stage flanked by soft teak cabinetry. Nearby, Joelsson adds a whimsical touch with a stool with cupped hands and a porcelain sea urchin. "My pet theme is sea urchins," she says. "I find their shapes endlessly intriguing."

All living areas open to a central courtyard. The addition of teak softens the spare lines of the structure and ties the inner and outer dimensions together.

Outdoors, near the sparkling pool, simple chaise lounges from Miyo offer a comfortable place to relax and commune with nature. A lush landscape of bamboo and palms embrace this elegant residence that is a collaborative masterpiece of architecture and interior design.

LEFT: Near a unique peacock chair that resembles a fan sculpture, the pool shimmers beneath a hazy blue sky. Designed by architect Eiri Ota from Galleria Rossana Orlandi, the artsy chair was acquired recently for the home by interior designer Sofia Joelsson at Art Basel in Miami.