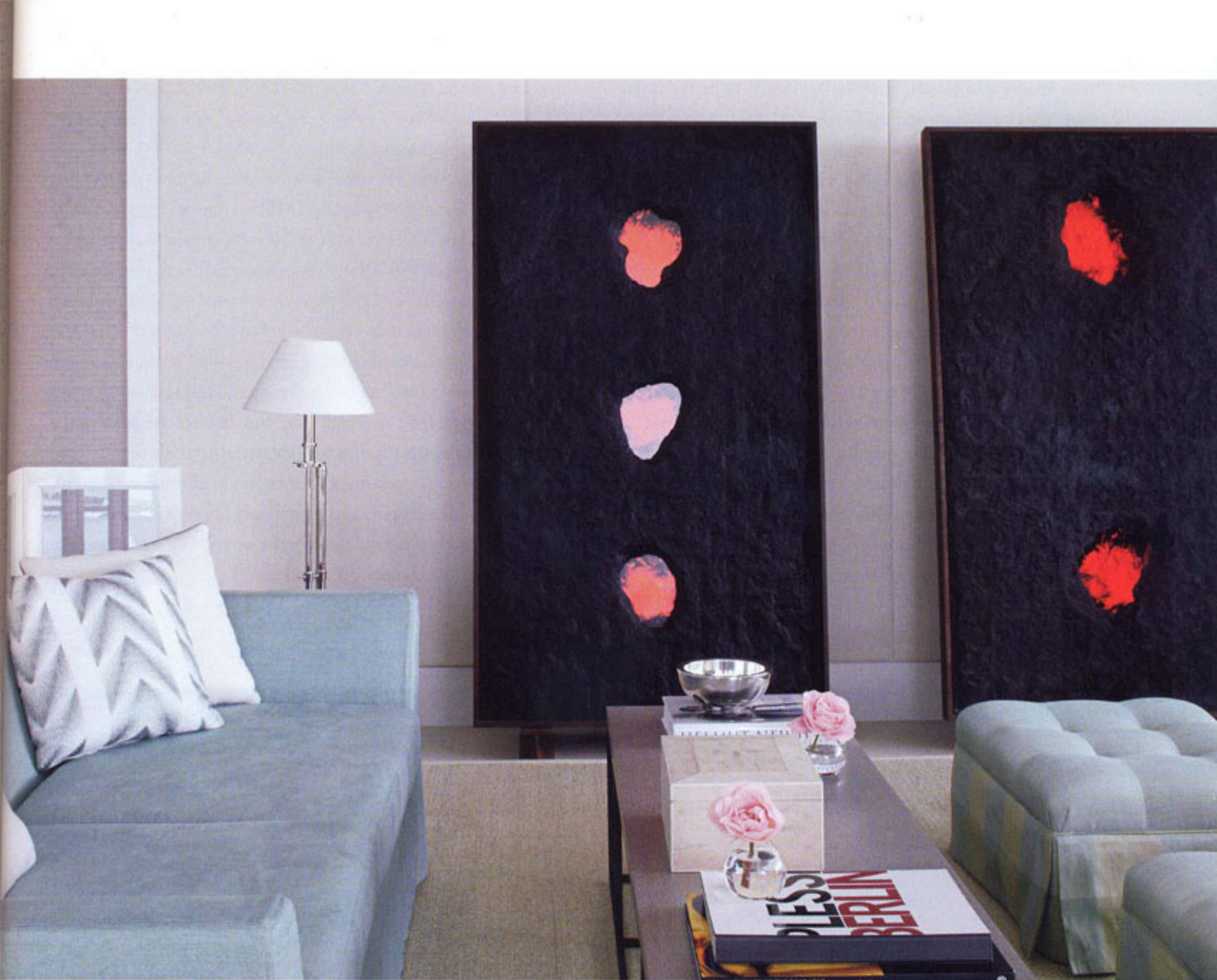


WATER LIGHT AND AIR

AN ART-FILLED MIAMI PIED-À-TERRÉ SOOTHINGLY, STYLISHLY ELEMENTAL.

A polished tole pendant fixture and lacquered white millwork add a subtle sheen. Fixture, Charles Edwards. Custom table. Custom chairs and banquette in Loro Piana linen. Pillows in Manuel Canovas and Baker fabrics. Curtains in Great Plains sheer. Walls in Phillip Jeffries raffia. OPPOSITE: Walls in Manuel Canovas linen. Art, Fabrizio Plessi. OPENING PAGES: Custom sofa and armchair in Loro Piana linen. Custom ottomans in Jim Thompson silks. Custom coffee table, floor lamp, and screen. Art, Antoni Tàpies.



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WHEN AN ART-COLLECTING NEW YORK COUPLE CALLED ON LUIS BUSTAMANTE

to decorate their new oceanfront getaway in a Miami Beach high-rise, it was their second time working with the Madrid-based decorator. Bustamante had designed the couple's Manhattan home and won them over with his sensitivity to art and sublime sense of color. "Luis knows how to create the right frame for a work of art," says the wife. "And he's a genius with light. I've never met anyone who understands it so well."

The owners wanted their Miami Beach perch to be effortless and uncomplicated, though every bit as stylish and tailored as their full-time residence. "I explained to Luis that

this was a vacation home, a place to get together as a family, so the feeling had to be easygoing yet chic. We wanted an apartment that wasn't too precious," explains the wife. Given frequent visits from the couple's four grandchildren, who range in age from two to ten, they were wary of a "don't touch" kind of place. They opted out of a formal dining room, for instance, even though they love to entertain, especially during the social whirl of the Art Basel fair in December. A traditional setup simply felt too uptight. "We love to cook, so most of our life is spent in the kitchen," says the wife. "We wanted a big

eat-in space with lots of room for the family to be together.” A cerused oak table pulled up to a banquette in the airy living room is as formal as mealtime gets. “We translated what we designed for them in New York to the light and context of Florida,” Bustamante explains. “But we made it more relaxed and very easy to clean—stone floors and sisal rugs—so you don’t have to worry about kids messing things up.”

Working with a blank concrete-and-glass canvas, Bustamante created lofty spaces that emphasize dazzling ocean views and showcase the couple’s extensive collection of photography and contemporary art. In the master bedroom, the brilliant blues of a spectacular Robert Motherwell piece influenced the serene palette: graphic ikat prints on pillows and an upholstered bench, and flowing cornflower-hued curtains that break onto the carpet with just the merest hint of puddling.

In fact, much of the home’s clean, monochromatic look has subtle punches of azure and aqua mixed among the dominant

pale grays and whites. “We used cool, fresh colors that bring in a little bit of the sea and are neutral enough to hang art against,” explains the designer. He also cleverly finished interior walls so that they had a sense of texture but didn’t compete with the main attractions. In the living-dining area, walls covered in smoky raffia and nubby cream linen highlight a striking triptych by Italian artist Fabrizio Plessi, composed of digital images of a lava-spewing volcano set into jet-black stone slabs. The panels are so heavy that Bustamante perched them atop iron I-beams resting on the floor. “It’s such a tough contemporary work,” says the designer, “but against the fabric it doesn’t feel so cold.” In the master bedroom, the Motherwell painting hangs against square panels upholstered in white linen, suggesting a softer version of wood coffers. It’s at once casual, elegant, and completely appropriate—exactly what makes this beach escape the easygoing and sophisticated retreat its owners dreamed of. □

An all-white kitchen lets views take center stage. Custom table. Chairs, Raul Carrasco. Custom pendant lamp. OPPOSITE LEFT: Custom sectional in Jim Thompson silk. Occasional table, Abitare. Custom sconce. Art, Michael Laube (left) and Lionel Esteve (right). OPPOSITE RIGHT: Walls in Phillip Jeffries raffia. Art, Marco Tirelli



“THIS IS A VACATION HOME, A PLACE TO GET TOGETHER WITH FAMILY, SO THE FEELING HAD TO BE EASYGOING YET CHIC.”



A striking canvas by Robert Motherwell defines the master bedroom. Custom bed. Custom bench in Gaston y Daniela ikat. Curtains and custom armchair in Loro Piana linen. Custom desk. Walls in Gaston y Daniela linen.