

SHADES OF BLUE

THIS STUNNING ISLAND-STYLE STUDIO FEATURES AEGEAN AZURE AGAINST PURE WHITE, GRACEFUL CURVES, AND CALMING VIEWS OF THE SEA JUST STEPS AWAY

INTERIOR DESIGN BY MICHAEL ROSENTHAL AND PAUL EDWARDS,
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Clad in a Duralée's crisp white cotton, a custom, deep-seated sofa and window bench, designed by interior designer Michael Rosenthal, shape an inviting living area. For extra seating, hand-woven floor cushions pull up to a cocktail table from Jalan Jalan topped with painted-white driftwood.

A POOLSIDE CABANA OFFERS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR GUESTS TO KICK BACK AND RELAX ON THE SOFA FROM SOUTH SEAS TRADING, OR PULL UP A JALAN JALAN STOOL TO ENJOY A REFRESHING AFTERNOON COCKTAIL.



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Interior designer Michael Rosenthal has been involved in retail, commercial and residential design for more than 47 years, but this 737-square-foot studio at The Executive, a 12-story mid-century modern oceanfront condominium in Miami Beach, is one of his favorites. “The building itself is interesting, with a lobby that has multi-patterned terrazzo flooring and Art Deco elements,” he says. A classic, it was designed by B. Robert Swartburg, one of Miami Beach’s most distinctive architects who also designed the famed Delano Hotel. “And the style of this studio is so different, too” Rosenthal says. “It was inspired by a trip our clients took to



The mirrored front door in the foyer hallway reflects the ocean, while stark white custom cabinetry in the kitchen utilizes space-saving features like sliding shelving and doors that are hinged to open and push back to be out of the way. One of a Kind’s hardwood table and Bentwood-style chairs from Grange add an Old World touch in the dining area.

the Greek Islands. The wife fell in love with the all-white look, blue accents and the Old World touches. She wanted to feel like she was on a Greek Island when she walked inside.” Keeping to an all white with deep blue color palette was a first for the design team. “That’s only two colors — if you want to call white a color — and the rule is three in color design,” the designer says. “But we understood the effect and drama she was looking for.” Arches throughout, white plaster over wood, plank flooring finished in white matte, and an open beamed ceiling with pecky cypress contribute to that Old World feel.

Since space planning is MRA Design's forte, every inch has been carefully thought out. "It only took me a couple of passes to come up with a layout that used the space to the fullest, with a kitchen, sleeping and dining areas, as well as a place for their guests to sit," he says.

Cozy and welcoming, a custom bench in front of the windows provides a perfect reading spot, and the sleek white custom sofa was designed to be extra deep, so that guests could nestle back into the cushions and tuck up their legs. The couple collected the striking blue-glass accessories. From Greece and Morocco, they brought back patterned fabric for throw pillows that set up a rhythm of wavy sea-foam throughout the room. The floor cushions, too, are covered in a richly textured, hand-woven blue and white fabric. For another handmade touch, the baskets beneath the bench are crafted of barn wood.

The half wall separating the kitchen is faced with white brick to add texture, while a wood table made in Brazil and Bentwood-style chairs create a nice blend of straight lines and curves.

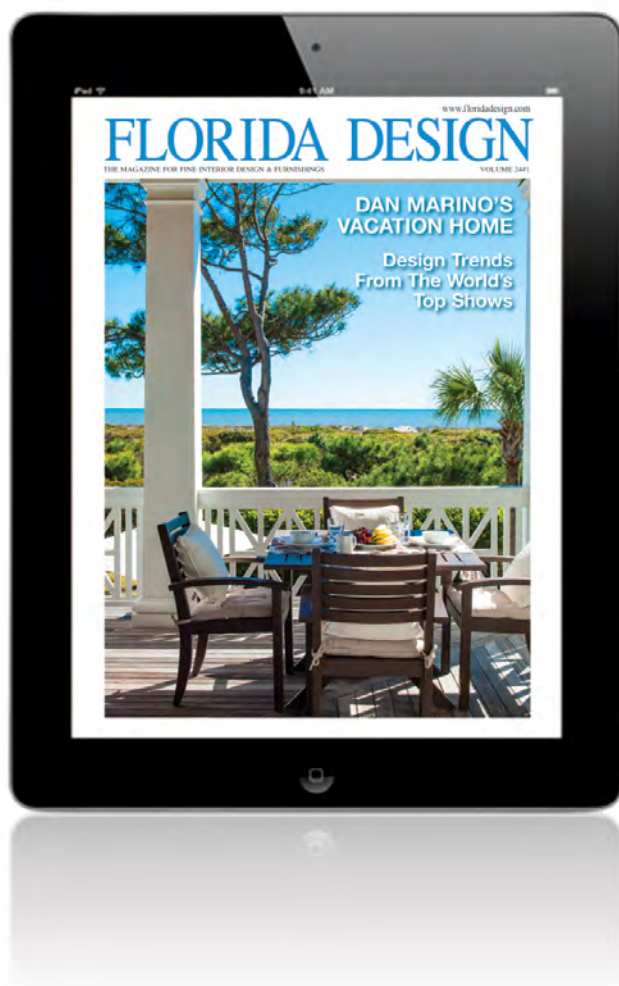
"For the sleeping space, the wife wanted the hanging bed to be an incredible centerpiece," Rosenthal says. "We brought in an engineer because we didn't want to damage the building's structure."

The finished studio met the clients' expectations completely. It's casual, welcoming, relaxing, and an easy place to have people over – all the things his clients wanted, wrapped up in an island-style Greek package. "For me, this project was not work," the designer says. "It was play."

RIGHT: Reminiscent of the Greek island of Mykonos, the studio is awash in a reflective white and punctuated with a startling shade of blue that mimics the sea. A swinging bed serves as the centerpiece of the space. "I had to find someone with nautical experience to weave the top part of the rope to interlace with the brackets," Rosenthal says. "Under the platform, the rope is knotted."



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SOURCES

LIVING AREA

Sofa, window bench, barn wood baskets and cabinetry - Custom designed by MRA Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Sofa frame fabricated by Real Cabinets, Inc., Miami, FL

Cushions fabricated by Gulf Upholstery Mfg., Inc., Miami, FL

Fabric - Durable Fabrics, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Baskets fabricated by Alpha Omega

Construction Services, Brevard, NC

Cabinetry fabricated by Davila Woodwork, Hallandale Beach, FL

Bolster and accent pillows, throw and accessories - Owners' Collection

Floor cushions - Sherry Schreiber, Lakespur Lane Studio, Greenport, NY

Cocktail table and wicker tray - Jalan Jalan, Miami, FL

Wall sconces - Farrey's, North Miami, FL

CABANA

Sofa - South Seas Trading, Miami, FL

Cushion fabric - Showroom 6, Inc., Miami, FL

Wood high-top table and cabinetry - Custom designed by MRA Design, Inc., Miami, FL

High-top table fabricated by Alpha Omega Construction Services, Brevard, NC

Cabinetry fabricated by Davila Woodwork, Hallandale Beach, FL

Countertop - Caesarstone, Miami Granite and Marble Solutions, Inc., Miami, FL

Barstools - Jalan Jalan, Miami, FL

Fan - Farrey's, North Miami, FL

Flooring - Pamsco, Inc., Miami, FL

KITCHEN/DINING AREA

Cabinetry - Custom designed by MRA Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Fabricated by Davila Woodwork, Hallandale, FL

Countertops - Caesarstone, Miami Granite and Marble Solutions, Inc., Miami, FL

Refrigerator - Subzero, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., North Miami Beach, FL

Stove - Viking, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., North Miami Beach, FL

Hood - Best, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., North Miami Beach, FL

Brick wall - Pan American Marble & Stone Company, Miami, FL

Light pendants - Jalan Jalan, Miami, FL

Dining table - One of a Kind, Miami, FL

Chairs - Grange, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Centerpiece vase, blue glass and accessories - Owners' collection

SLEEPING AREA

Bed - Custom designed by MRA Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Fabricated by Davila Woodwork, Hallandale Beach, FL

Bed coverings - ThreadCount, Miami, FL

Bedside chests and mirror - Jalan Jalan, Miami, FL

Bedside wall lamps - Jerry Pair & Assoc., Hollywood, FL

THROUGHOUT

Recessed lighting - Philips Lightolier, SESCO Lighting, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Wood flooring - Endurance Floor Company, Inc., Miami, FL 