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# A Change of Space

A busy couple removed a wall to amplify their new Bay Harbor Islands home.

By Linda Marx

Photography by Daniel Newcomb

SHORTLY AFTER JENNIFER CORREDOR'S interior design clients bought a four-bedroom, three-bath home last year, the couple suffered through a period of buyer's remorse.

While they loved the Bay Harbor Islands location and the 4,000-square-foot, one-story home's potential for beauty and ample entertaining space, they felt the living and dining areas were too restricted and looked very small. They feared they had bought the wrong house. "My clients thought the brown wall separating these spaces from the kitchen created a somber mood and darkness, and they were unhappy after they had bought the house," says Corredor of the J. Design Group in Coral Gables. "So we decided to renovate and tear down the wall to make a galley kitchen."

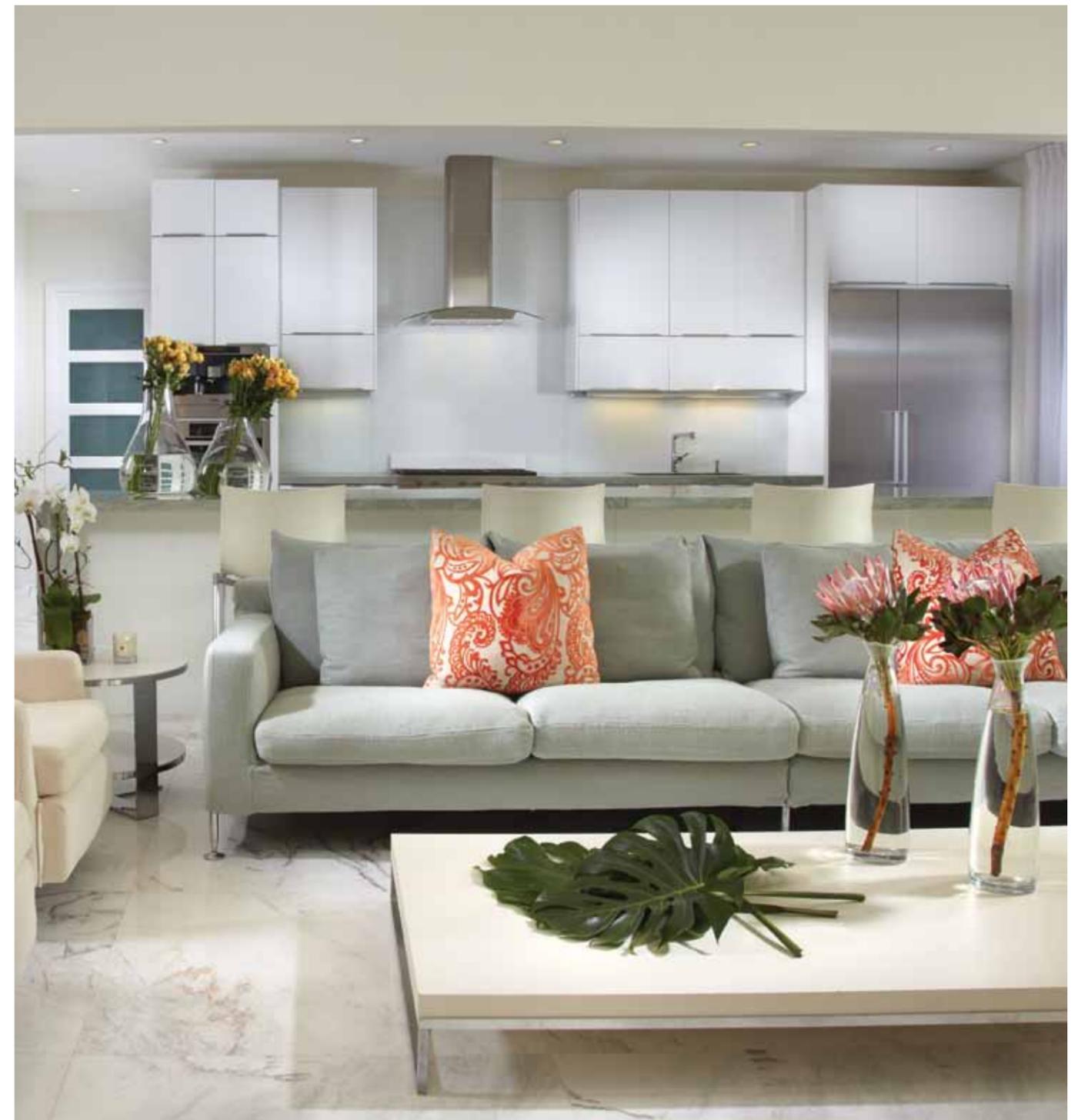
Mathy Garcia Chesnick, a sales director with Cervera Real Estate, and husband Andrew Chesnick, an executive for the new Porsche Design Tower residential project in Sunny Isles, liked the idea of incorporating the kitchen area into the living and dining spaces. Since they have two young children, the couple felt those areas were too narrow for easy, open living.

At first, Corredor was afraid a structural beam could get in the way and impede the restoration process. But after doing research, she learned that problem did not exist, and there was nothing to hinder the project from moving forward. So she collapsed the wall to create one large kitchen, living and dining space. Then she changed the flooring,

A pale green sofa from Luminaire with orange throw pillows in the living room plays off the greens in the visible landscaping. The coffee table is from B&B Italia. The dining room set of carved wood with frosted glass application and the translucent Hope Lamp come from Luminaire. "The family loves to look outside at the pool and yard while dining or enjoying their enlarged living space," says interior designer Jennifer Corredor of J. Design Group.

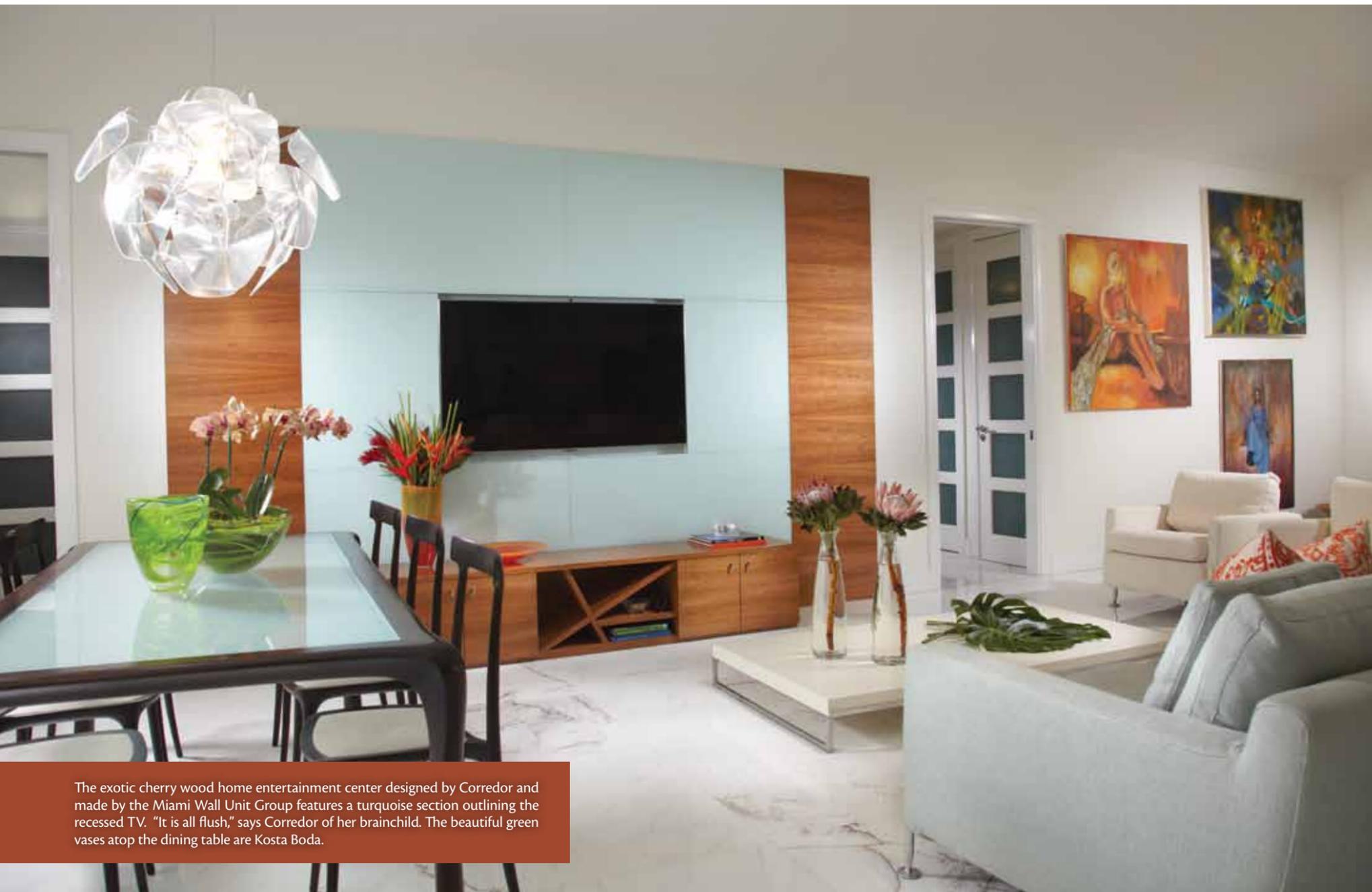


THIS PAGE: Another view of the living room showcases colorful contemporary artwork from homeowner Mathy Garcia Chesnick's private collection. The chairs are upholstered in couture off-white fabric from B&B Italia. OPPOSITE: This living room vignette shows the new open kitchen-galley, which is visible and part of the expanded living room-dining room area.



using 36x36-inch light slabs of gold Bianco marble, replacing the wood that had been there before. This process also enlarged the look of the space, giving it lightness, brightness and zoom. "By eliminating the wall and adding the marble we amplified the new and expanded public area," says Corredor, who is known for optimizing space in creative ways. "And I used sheer white window treatments which further opened things up creating an airy, balmy space. The transformation is astonishing! It looks like a different place."

Part of that transformation included stripping the "awful" brown kitchen cabinets and replacing them with clean-lined, white ones from Italy. She also added a functional island and mint chocolate granite countertops. At one end of the kitchen space, Corredor designed dark wood shelving where Mathy displays her collection of cookbooks. "Mathy cooks a great deal, and they entertain on a regular basis," says Corredor. "The island we created is where she likes to serve the kids breakfast and have family members gather. And when they have



The exotic cherry wood home entertainment center designed by Corredor and made by the Miami Wall Unit Group features a turquoise section outlining the recessed TV. "It is all flush," says Corredor of her brainchild. The beautiful green vases atop the dining table are Kosta Boda.



Throughout the house are splashy canvases from Mathy's personal art collection. She likes to add color to the décor through the art.

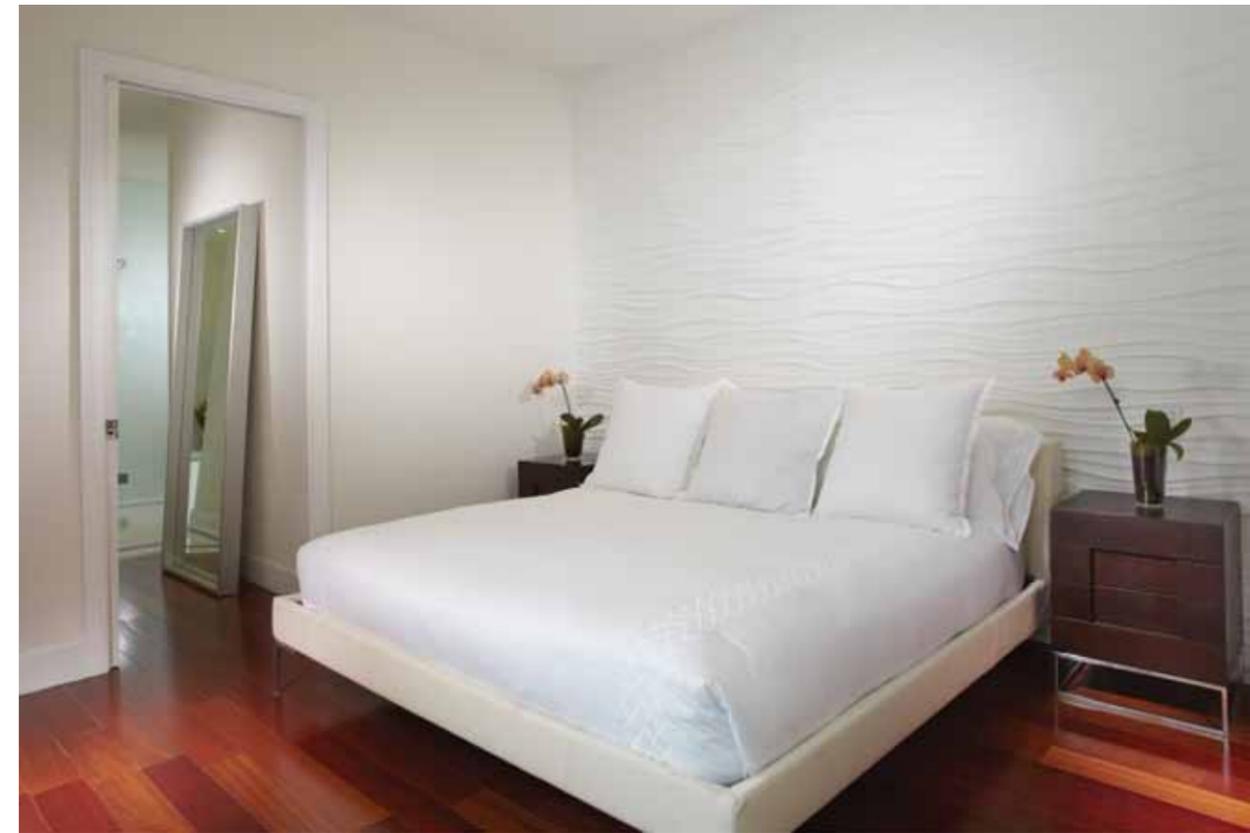
a dinner party, everyone can mill in and out of the kitchen-galley, dining and living areas while able to see everything going on around them. It looks and functions so much better."

Corredor extended the Bianco marble flooring to other open areas of the house, nearly everywhere except for the bedrooms. She also changed the powder room, which is annexed to the kitchen. She applied white linear glass on the walls and added a new white square sink by Hastings. Clean and fresh, the room is reminiscent of a little jewel box.

In the living room, Corredor designed a showpiece wall unit of exotic cherry wood with an aqua center to bring back some warmth

that modernizing naturally strips away. The designer also changed the room's lighting, introducing a new system that eschews a switch. Instead, it works by remote and also dims to create various moods for different social engagements. "The lighting is wonderful and enhances everything else we have done in these open spaces," says Corredor.

The dining room overlooks the pool and yard, with large, floor-to-ceiling window brings the outdoors inside. A chandelier above the dining table is another expression of openness, like the lens of a person's eyeglasses. "We wanted this unusual piece because its sort of translucence takes you outside without ever moving from the room," explains Corredor. "The family members love seeing the yard and pool



ABOVE: Filled with Miele appliances and white Italian-made cabinets with recessed handles, the open kitchen-galley is a favorite gathering place for the couple and their two children. OPPOSITE TOP: The master bedroom with a king-size bed and white linens presents perfect cherry wood floors. "Mathy and Andrew like the room spartan, and it maximizes the space," says Corredor. RIGHT: The master bath is highlighted by frosted green glass and a cherry wood cabinet with double sinks, designed by Corredor. A peek-a-boo window brings the landscaping inside. The floor is pure marble. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The powder room was modernized with a white linear glass wall and pedestal sink executed in a modern square. Sidewalls are pebbled white glass.

from the living and dining space. It's also great for entertaining friends and business associates. They can get a real feel for the subtropical elegance of Miami."

Nearby, the front door was originally brown so she repainted it a sleek lacquered white. This bright consistency helps maintain a constant eye flow from one section of the open areas to another. Everything is visible in the new extended space and creates a bright and inviting atmosphere. "It was important to modernize and update the house without totally changing the character," says Corredor. "We organized everything well and it turned out beautifully, just as we envisioned it."

While nothing on the home's exterior was changed, Corredor worked her magic in the master bedroom by adding panels with a wavelike motif to again bring

elements of the outside in. The room is austere and clean lined, elegant, peaceful and not cluttered with unnecessary furnishings. In the master bath, Corredor removed the existing cabinets and made another large cherry wood cabinet, this time with double sinks for husband and wife. She also added frosted green glass to give a spa-like aura to the spacious room.

Throughout the house are splashy canvases from Mathy's personal art collection. She likes to add color to the decor through the art while the backdrops remain a soothing white. The end result is a divine, refined interior, light, bright and open. "The owners are thrilled, and we were able to complete the renovation in a few months," says Corredor. "Everything turned out how it should be." ■

