

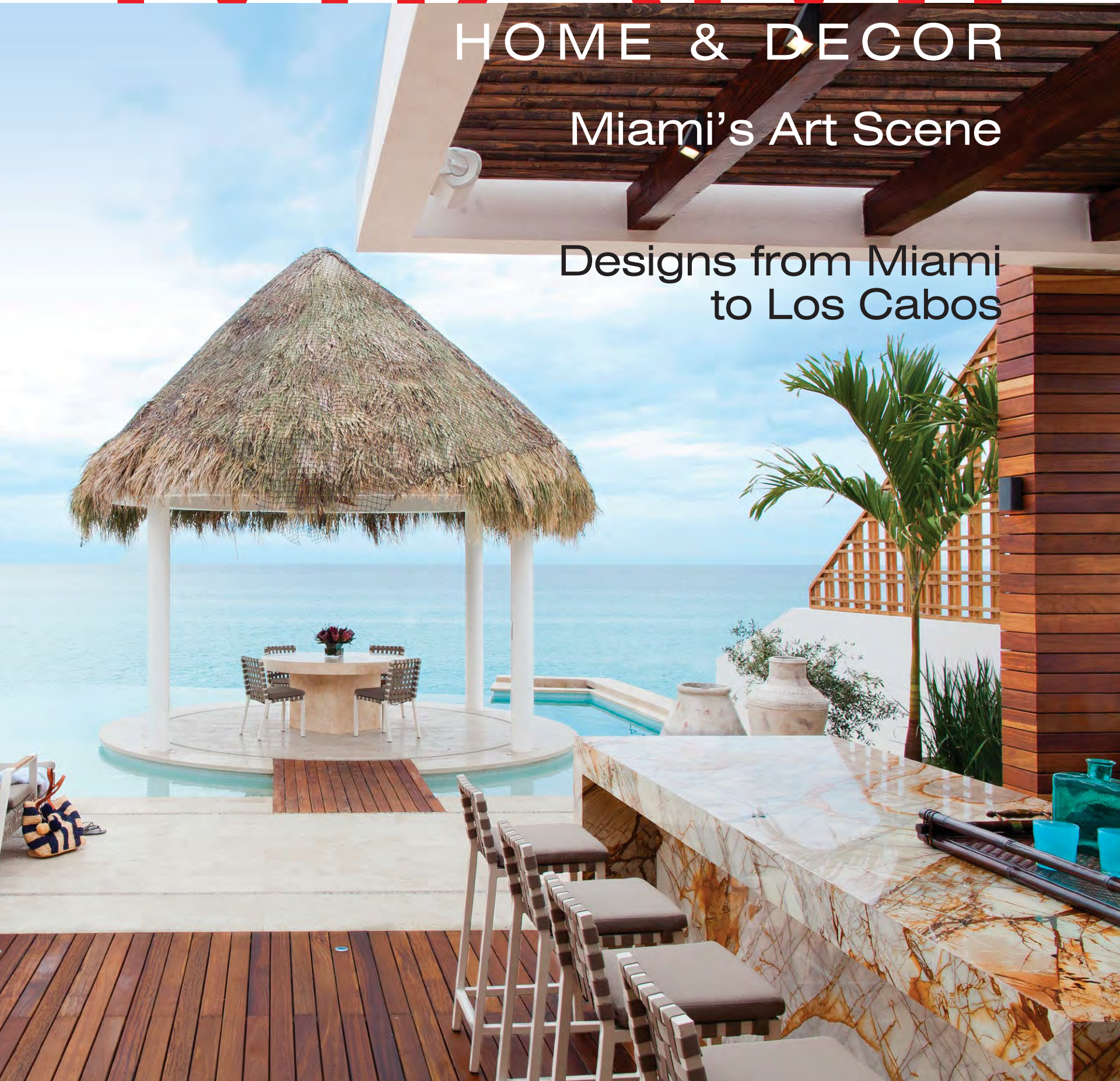
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ALL ABOUT LIVING

DESIGNER ERINN VALENCICH TELLS A STORY OF A WONDROUS LIFESTYLE — WHERE ONE CAN BASK IN THE BEAUTY OF LOS CABOS, MEXICO WHILE ESCAPING TO A DESTINATION HOME BUDDING WITH BLISSFULNESS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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With a breathtaking sunset and cool breezes off the crystal blue ocean, a saltwater infinity pool becomes a favorite retreat for everyone to enjoy. “When you’re floating in the pool around the traditional palapa, your eye line is level from the pool to the ocean, making it feel like you’re adrift in the sea,” designer Erinn Valencich says.



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As green as grass, life-like faux foliage from Dalmarko Designs instantly becomes the focus as it rests against the rich burl wood paneled wall that runs the expanse from the foyer and into the living room. Here, custom designs from Valencich's collection shape the social setting atop a subtle chevron-pattern area rug that is light, natural and durable.

WITH HEARTS BEING SYMBOLIC TO LOS CABOS, A LARGE BLACK AND WHITE ONE SITS PRETTY ABOVE A CARVED BLEACHED WOOD CABINET THAT CASTS A BEACH-LIKE IMPRESSION WITH ITS WEATHERED APPEARANCE.



A home away from home becomes an escape to paradise for the homeowners of this 5,500-square-foot, oceanfront getaway. Being friends with a talented designer has its benefits — namely, a distinguished dwelling styled with an interior scheme that is nothing less than astonishing. Having the utmost trust, the owners gave designer Erinn Valencich free reign of the much needed renovation. The outdoor living mantra begins with an exterior facade that would be the envy of any five-star resort. Never too challenging for Valencich, she removed what was an '80s architectural structure, and rebuilt a modern and playful platform.

Aside from the mind-blowing ocean view, a traditional thatched-roof Mexican palapa is the central space where most of the excitement occurs. Nestled in the center, the pool and Jacuzzi are wrapped around it to create a floating element and has its very own wood plank bridge.

Step inside, where an eruption of contemporary pieces portrays a setting of serenity — all pulling together with an earthy color palette along with pops of vibrant grass green that emerges from the foliage. “My father was a landscape architect and my mother was an avid gardener,” Valencich says. “So, plants are always a big part of my designs.”

SHADOWS DANCE OFF OF SOLISTONE'S GRAY WEATHERED WALL AS EIGHT STAGGERING MESH PENDANTS FROM H.D. BUTTERCUP DANGLE FROM A CUSTOM WOOD CEILING PANEL — SIMPLE YET CAPTIVATING.



With texture playing a big role, the living room is defined with two custom-designed sofas that grasp immediate attention dressed in bold stripes by Ralph Lauren. “It’s a heavy ethnic texture with a typical beach house look that’s tempered with a Mexican twist,” Valencich says. Creating a synthesis of styles and fabrics with her own collection of custom-designed pieces, the designer adds curvy and comfortable swiveling club chairs clad in the softest, ultra-suede taupe fabric. A few of the owners’ indigenous pieces complete the setting. One of which is a very large and heavy limestone cocktail table that catches the eye in remarkable contrast to the dark burl wood paneled wall.

No expense has been spared for the kitchen’s galvanizing rebirth. As throughout the home, many existing elements are put to use — and here it is the stunning flecked granite countertops that were poured in place to create an intense thickness. With the intent to open up the space, the original upper cabinets were replaced with a weathered stonewall in dark chocolate that casts a gray appearance and offers a touch of texture.

ABOVE: Aside from aesthetics, the kitchen has been outfitted with every amenity imaginable including state-of-the-art appliances along with a corresponding center island and dining bar. From an orange maple to a deep dark chocolate, the refinished lower cabinets acquired a face-lift that not only resulted in a dynamic look; they were cost effective as well.

RIGHT: A rakish approach for a contemporary backdrop is presented in the dining room, where an iron frame light fixture from Currey & Company that is reminiscent of one from the Middle Ages. The space is instantly expanded with a vintage, wood and metal-trimmed mirror that accentuates all of the other elements in the room.



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ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD WITH A WOOD TRELLIS WALL THAT ALLOWS WIND TO PASS THROUGH WITHOUT BLOCKING THE CRISP OCEAN BREEZES. “I WANTED A TIMELESS LOOK, BUT ALSO A MODERN FLAIR WITH NATURAL ELEMENTS,” DESIGNER ERINN VALENCICH SAYS.

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ABOVE: Abound with every amenity, an outdoor kitchen makes living a breeze. The bar is pronounced in striking marble that is contoured with deep rich golden swirls that become the focal point of the space.

LEFT: The outdoor entertainment is pioneered for superlative entertaining. A sectional sofa in an all-weather taupe fabric is inviting and shouts comfort while a limestone fire-pit rests on the Ipe wood patio.

As part of the open floor plan, the dining room organically becomes an extension of the kitchen. It takes an extraordinary eye to delineate the highest level of sophistication with rich woods, beautiful limestone flooring and unique furnishings that are paired together to transmit a casual yet elegant environment. The Cabo Chairs — a custom design from Valencich’s collection — are comprised of a flattering collaboration of mahogany wood, striped textured canvas and chocolate leather seat cushions that skirt the maple dining table. “It’s fun, lively and informal,” the designer says. “I love a round table so that everyone feels like they can join in the conversation,” the designer says.

Having a resort home in Mexico means the exterior deserves just as much attention as the interior. “I wanted to increase the usability of the backyard,” Valencich says. “The oceanfront property has a great view but it had a lawn area which limited the amount of space that the family could use.” Hence, a complete renovation was necessary to achieve the best lifestyle imaginable while shielding the home from the harsh environmental elements. A raised wood and stone roof with an extended overhang is dimensional and encourages protection from the sun. Tumbled stone piled high creates a unique look while offering seclusion and ambiance. Scattered niches are built in the wall to illuminate the space in the most dramatic way. “Indirect lighting adds interest and beauty,” the designer says.

Amazing results are always worth the wait, and after a full year of restoration, all things came together inside, outside and everywhere in between. **M**