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# SOUTH BEACH ALLURE

AN OCEANFRONT CONDO IS TRANSFORMED WITH A FRESH APPROACH THAT HALLMARKS ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AND PRECISE DETAILS

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South Beach — two words that signify a world-class entertainment destination, white sandy beaches and a vibrant, cosmopolitan lifestyle — proved irresistible to the homeowners of this spectacular oceanfront condo, a successful retired entrepreneur and his wife who maintain permanent residence in Boston's scenic Back Bay area. For years, the active couple had sailed their yacht to South Florida to play golf and visit friends. When they decided to sell the yacht, they replaced it with this vacation home in one of the most luxurious residential resort buildings in South Beach with panoramic views of Miami, "Cruise Ship Alley" and the Atlantic Ocean. "They could have bought in Palm Beach or anywhere else nearby, but they chose this spot because they love the beach and social scene," says designer Allen Saunders, who met his future clients by referral from the couple's realtor son who had admired Saunders' work.

**LEFT:** A series of untitled works by Colombian artist Luis Fernando Pelaez lines the wall of the living area, where a cocktail table of ebonized limed oak with a white quartz stone top centers A. Rudin sofas from J. Batchelor and an upholstered bench from Bright Chair Co.



The dropped ceiling soffit that centers the kitchen area provides an architectural element, while custom pendants of polished nickel and clear mica descend over the counter in perfect complement to the Thermador stainless steel hood from Ferguson.



Ironically, a simple request for Saunders' opinion about a major furniture purchase led to a complete makeover of this 2,000-square-foot space. Designer and clients were simpatico from the outset; by the end of the conversation Saunders was commissioned to create a concept for a complete transformation of the space from vanilla box to luxurious, custom-finished home — easy on the eye, relaxed and welcoming, and imperative to the outdoor views.

Fixed glass panels flank the entryway to the open great room. A dramatic Capiz shell chandelier descends from a drop-down architectural ceiling soffit to create an intimate conversation zone. "The chandelier is the 'fireplace' for this room; it's the 'fire and light' that draws guests to the space," Saunders says. And the open living area incorporates an impromptu dining area: the ebonized sofa





A step inside the apartment from the private elevator lobby reveals the foyer and view towards the now open great room. The unusual art on the wall is a video installation entitled "DEPTH," 2008, by video artist Gregory Scott, from the Catherine Edelman Gallery.