

# Magic Touch

CLEVER LIGHT TRICKERY AND OTHER SEASONED DESIGN RUSES TRANSFORM A COCONUT GROVE APARTMENT INTO A SOPHISTICATED RESIDENCE WITH ARTISTIC DETAILS GALORE



*AFTER STEPPING THROUGH* the pivoting front door of this Coconut Grove condo, one would be hard-pressed to believe that the 2,400-square-foot space was once dark and closed off. That's because architect Oscar Glottman, known for "freeing projects," performed feats of architectural sorcery to create a sleek, neutral-toned space that serves as a backdrop for his client's art collection and maximizes the stunning views of Biscayne Bay.

Working within narrow confines with 10-foot ceilings meant that Glottman had to get creative with storage to give the impression of minimalism without sacrifice. "It became a laboratory of tricks that we had to come up with," says the designer. One of those touches was smart storage spaces for the client's belongings and unsightly wiring.

A horizontal plane running the length of the apartment from the living room to the dining room above the kitchen was a sophisticated way for Glottman to hide the lighting mechanics and add an eye-catching layer to the ceiling.

ABOVE: Once dark and claustrophobic, the living room now benefits from plenty of natural light thanks to what designer Oscar Glottman calls his "laboratory of tricks."

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN OSCAR GLOTTMAN;  
GLOTTMAN ANTEPRIMA, MIAMI, FL  
TEXT LIA PICARD  
PHOTOGRAPHY TROY CAMPBELL, MIAMI, FL

The centerpiece of this area of the residence is a prism-like cube sculpture crafted by designer Oscar Glottman. As you move around the apartment the cube dissects the space while reflecting light. "The idea was an intervention of an architectural nature, more than a decorative one," says Glottman.



“With light and layering, we were able to give [the apartment] a sense of depth that is mostly an optical illusion,” he says. The “cloud” of this feature is punctuated by an oculus over the dining room table where a banquette serves as a terminus to the axis. “At the same time, it allows for lounging and having conversation after dinner as if it was a living room space.”

The artful use of light further enhances the sense of grandness in the intimate space. “In general, the concept of lighting is to use it as a building material and to think of it just as if it was drywall,” says Glottman, who moonlights as a lighting designer. “Light and shadow make a big impression in the way they are utilized.” In an entryway vignette, for example, Glottman placed slender Venetian glass leaves in front of equally slender recesses in the wall. “The light seeps through the cracks in the wall to illuminate the back of the Venetian glass leaves, which now kind of float in this space,” he explains. In the powder room, Glottman “painted with light” by using objects from the client’s travel collection, such as an Egyptian scarab figurine, to create shadows that can change depending on how the tiny light lenses beneath them are positioned.

The best projects are born out of a good synergy between architect, designer, and homeowner, and this residence epitomizes that crucial relationship. “The client here enjoys the

ABOVE: *Tatiana (butterfly)* by Hans Op De Beeck, a polyester, polyamide, copper, and wood sculpture, resides in the elevator foyer.

The kitchen is reminiscent of Pandora’s Box with everything, sink included, completely concealed so that it appears streamlined and free of clutter. The chandelier over the dining room table was designed by Viabizzuno and is reminiscent of magnifying glass loupes.



process of the design and pushed us to think of every detail of the project as a project unto itself,” says Glottman about this collaborative process, which allowed him to create four pieces of art that are woven into the home. One in particular—a dissected photograph of a sunrise printed on a floor-to-ceiling mirror placed next to a bay-facing window in the living room—plays with the lighting and accomplishes the goal of maximizing the water views. The dynamic piece appears to change throughout the day as it catches the reflections of the bay and the Miami sky at various hours. “I think it’s most beautiful when it’s a cloudy day with a really blue sky filled with fluffy clouds,” says Glottman. “That’s when you truly feel the extension of the outside into the inside.”

RIGHT: A ceiling detail in the guest bedroom using Viabizzuno lighting and bird figurines from the homeowner’s personal art collection.



The guest bedroom has a heavenly essence thanks to the cloud photograph printed on aluminum (a Glottman original) and the gold leaf on the ceiling. The original room had a tray ceiling, so Glottman introduced a more sculptural intervention by creating floating planes that reference clouds.

**SOURCES**

**LIVING AREA**

Sofa and love seat – Minotti, Design District, Miami, FL  
 Decorative black chair – Vittorio Bonacina, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Round cocktail table – Minotti, Design District, Miami, FL  
 Square cocktail table – Minotti, Design District, Miami, FL  
 Ottoman – Minotti, Design District, Miami, FL  
 Bar cabinet – Vintage antique, Owner’s collection  
 Cube sculpture designed by Oscar Glottman, Miami, FL and fabricated by MJ Mirrors and Glass, Miami, FL

**DINING AREA/KITCHEN**

Table – Laura Meroni, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Chairs – Cor Moeble, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Banquette – Cor Moeble, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Chandelier – Viabizzuno, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL

Photograph – Roberto Edwards, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

Wall and island cabinetry designed by Oscar Glottman, Mari Aviles, and Lissandra Castillo, Miami, FL and fabricated by Laura Meroni and Marco Garcia, Miami, FL

**PRIMARY BEDROOM**

Bed and headboard designed by Oscar Glottman, Miami, FL and fabricated by e15, Miami, FL  
 Bench – R & Y Augusti, Owner’s collection  
 Pendant lighting – Viabizzuno, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Wall cabinetry designed by Oscar Glottman, Mari Aviles, Lissandra Castillo, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL and fabricated by Laura Meroni, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL  
 Track lighting designed by Oscar Glottman, Miami, FL and fabricated by Viabizzuno, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL

Photograph – Roberto Edwards, 1995, Holden Luntz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

Digital photo print – Oscar Glottman, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL

**GUEST BATHROOM**

Cabinetry and vanity designed by Oscar Glottman, Miami, FL and fabricated by Laura Meroni, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL

**GUEST BEDROOM**

Bed and headboard – Holly Hunt, Design District, Miami, FL  
 Photo wall – *Mirage*, Oscar Glottman, 2020, Miami, FL  
 Art chair – Pratt Chair #7, 2018, Gaetano Pesce, Italy  
 Ceiling designed by Oscar Glottman, Mari Aviles, and Lissandra Castillo, Miami, FL  
 Lighting components – Viabizzuno, Glottman Anteperima, Wynwood, Miami, FL and fabricated by Marco Garcia, Miami, FL



ABOVE: The primary bedroom continues the motif of natural materials with a leather headboard and brass accents. The wardrobe uses a unique lacquer finish that is brushed on, which creates a stainless steel-like finish.



ABOVE: A resin chair by Gaetano Pesce offers a punchy pop of color in the guest bedroom. It’s translucent, so depending on where one stands, the light changes the colors of the piece.

