

# FLORIDA DESIGN

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## THE ART OF GLASS

Rainbows Of Whimsical Sculpture Catch The Eye In This Waterfront Home

INTERIOR DESIGN Katia Bates, Innovative Creations, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL  
ARCHITECTURE Arthur S. Bengochea, Bengochea Architects, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, FL  
TEXT Robin Hodes  
PHOTOGRAPHY Craig Denis, Miami, FL

When designing for a client who is ranked among the top five of American collectors of works by Dale Chihuly — one of the world's premier, contemporary glass artists — one would expect color and lots of it. The multiple hues in this 7,000-square-foot, residence situated in the affluent waterfront community of Rio Vista in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., reflect the vision of award-winning interior designer Katia Bates. However, the source of the home's chosen palette was rather unforeseen, illustrating that inspiration can come from anywhere, even a magazine tear-sheet of a Missoni sweater. The homeowner, Paul Hanson, a retired businessman and corporate consultant, admired the sweater's colors with its signature zigzags interwoven with pale

LEFT: Smooth stucco and blue-tinted glass windows comprise the linear, exterior structure. Situated on a cul-de-sac, the "L" shaped home maximizes all views, while the inviting pool mirrors its form. The deck and wide dock are paved in a tumble marble in prelude to the silvery tones found inside.

An avid collector of the masterful glassworks of Dale Chihuly, this homeowner commissions pieces that enliven each room with the beloved artist's distinct and magical quality.

shades of blue, green and purple, and suggested it to Bates.

Clearly a man who knows what he wants, Hanson relayed three more requests to his designer: the home should be contemporary but warm, without the harshness of cement or steel; it should be timeless and absent of trend; and, the picturesque waterways should be enjoyed from many viewpoints. Design goals set, this project would be a six-year endeavor that secured the talents of architect Arthur Bengochea, who is also the Bates' architect.

To ensure brilliant water views, Bengochea created massive ceilings and floor-to-ceiling glass windows nearly as high. "The great room has a 24-foot high ceiling, and the wall which faces the Intracoastal Waterway has windows that are 20 feet in height," Bengochea says. "The house sits on a point lot and has walls on the east and west with numerous windows, as well as French doors to maximize the views." A stately pair of red leather chairs, a Hugo lounge chair clad in silver-burgundy silk from Kravet and a Berman Rosetti sectional backed by a gray-blue sofa from David Sutherland, lend the perfect





Dramatic draperies in light teal add oceanic opulence to the great room, where flooring shimmers in travertine set to simulate a plank-like effect. *Yellow Bikini* — art designed by the homeowner and crafted by artist Scott Hile — dots the wall near the game table, while a Chihuly chandelier enhances the space.

The dining room's monochromatic pronouncement of electric blue showcases a Venetian plaster wall treatment that provides the perfect backdrop to Chihuly's sculptural "Wall Sconce."



place to unwind and soak in the majestic scenery. On the back wall, Chihuly's watercolor series entitled *Ikebana Doppio Suite*, soars above the great room's furnishings. Against the rear wall, white is perhaps the only shade of glass that does not appear in the kaleidoscope of colors that comprise a dazzling installation of 52 sconces by the renowned artist.

Considering her client's love of the water, the designer saw value in bringing the ocean hue indoors. "We applied a glass-like plaster treatment in an aqua color to the walls in all the main areas, which was very soothing," the designer says.

Electric blue pervades the dining room, where sloped chairs in an ebony finish are upholstered in blue, Italian-textured velvet from Lorenzo Rubelli. To provide balance to the generous wash of color, the custom-designed table and buffet, are wrapped in neutral teakwood. The chandelier and sconce from Eurofase are complemented by a



Chihuly "Wall Sconce" sculpture, all of which use white glass to starkly and stunningly contrast the blue palette.

"The home was recently completed, but it will never truly be done. One day the owner will wake up and say — 'I want a new Chihuly,' and that's a year in the making," Bates says. But having enjoyed working with her client, the designer is happy to continue the labor of love for as long as it takes. "The house is constantly evolving ... and that's just fine by me."

ABOVE: Upstairs, teak hardwood flooring lines the catwalk, while stainless steel railings lend a contemporary, open feel. An original oil on canvas by Hile, entitled *Outside the Box*, mirrors the colored-glass accents on Bartell's intriguing custom-designed doors in the great room below.

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### SOURCES

#### Exterior

Patio chairs - David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

#### Great Room

Sectional sofa - Berman Rosetti, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cushion and pillow fabrics - Scalamandré LLC, Hollywood, FL

Red armchairs - Rolf Benz, Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Lounge chair - David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric - Kravet, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Gray/blue sofa - Berkshire, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Window treatment - Windows of the World, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Game table fabricated by Raleo, Miami, FL

Side chairs - Selectus, Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Cocktail table - John Boone, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Occasional table - Appletini, Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Piano - Steinway Piano Gallery, Boca Raton, FL

Custom-finished pool table - Monarch

Billiards, Inc., Crum Lynne, PA

Artwork - Pismo Fine Art Glass, Denver, CO

Bikini artwork - Rosenbaum Fine Art, Boca Raton, FL

Chihuly sconce wall art - Sonny Stewart, Habatat Galleries, West Palm Beach, FL

Chandelier - Stewart Fine Art, Boca Raton, FL

Floor lamps near sofa - Moderne, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Table lamps - Esa, Carriage House, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Light fixture over pool table fabricated by Lightseeker, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL

Colorful sliding door - Custom designed by Innovative Creations, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL

Fabricated by Bartels USA, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Floor - Marble of the World, Fort Lauderdale, FL

#### Dining Room

Table and buffet fabricated by Raleo, Miami, FL

Dining chairs - Vero Design, Inc., DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL

Fabric - Lorenzo Rubelli s.p.a., Venezia, Italy

Wall treatment - Custom color by Elliott Wennet Decorative Arts, West Palm Beach, FL

Sculptures on table - Habatat Galleries, West Palm Beach, FL

Fish sculptures - Romero Britto, Britto Central, Inc., Miami Beach, FL

Sconce - Chihuly, Stewart Fine Art, Boca Raton, FL

Chandelier and small wall sconce - Eurofase, Lightseeker, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL

Floor - Marble of the World, Fort Lauderdale, FL

#### Throughout

Landscape Architecture - George Keen

Landscape Architect, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL

Electrical - Barrett Electric, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Area rug - Vera Za'arour, David Sutherland Showroom, DCOTA, Dania Beach, FL ♦

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