

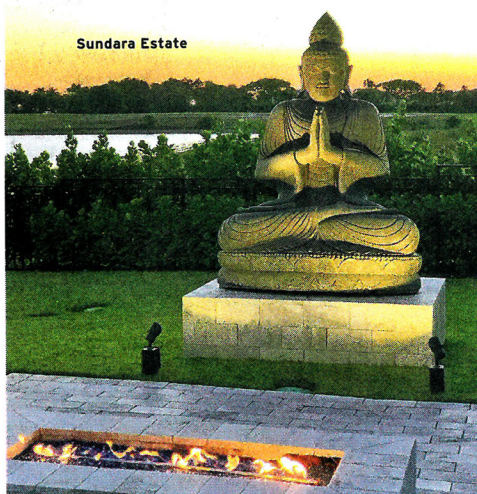


LUXE LIVING

SUNSHINE ESTATES

MIAMI'S POSHEST PROPERTIES AND HAUTEST HOME TRENDS

By CHRISTOPHER CAMERON



HOTEL-INSPIRED HOMES

FOR some haute hotel lovers, the vacation never ends. Across South Florida, luxe travelers are bringing their favorite resort features and amenities home.

Nina and Constantino Mendieta re-created the famously ornate pool and baroque stone wall from the Villa Casa Casuarina hotel (formerly home to Gianni Versace) in their own backyard. "We went to lots of parties at the Versace estate, and it's actually where Constantino proposed to me," Nina tells Alexa. "We love the style of that pool. So we just had to build it." Their seven-bedroom home, in Pinecrest, is now on the market for \$4.7 million with Brown Harris Stevens.

In Delray Beach, the **Sundara Estate** pays homage to its owners' favorite resort — the Four Seasons Bali — and its renowned Sundara beach club. Following their vacation there a few years ago, the couple commissioned an art consultant to acquire five enormous Balinese Buddha statues for their Florida home. They also built a \$3 million pool and a sprawling, fully feng-shui'd outdoor space, inspired by the resort. "It really is designed like a mini-Four Seasons," says Senada Adzem, who's marketing the \$20 million, seven-bedroom, 26,654-square-foot mansion.

And it was only natural for hotel designer Katia Bates — who handled the aforementioned restoration of the Versace Mansion into Casa Casuarina — to incorporate resort-style elements in her seven-bedroom Fort Lauderdale home (on the market for a whopping \$27.5 million). She modeled the green, Venetian-plaster accent wall in her guest bedroom after the lush palates she saw in the Hotel Dei Dogi in Venice. Meanwhile, the coffered ceilings in her living room were inspired by Venice's swank Hotel Danieli. And she couldn't forget Versace: a gold-encrusted pool table from the designer's home-turned-hotel stars in her den.