

RUE®

YOUR PATHWAY TO STYLISH LIVING

Hello, Fall

rich colors,
cozy rooms,
&
*pure
joy*

**CLUTTER?
GONE!**
TIPS THAT
REALLY WORK

186 ALL
STAR
DECORATING
IDEAS

**DREAMY
HOMES**
FROM COAST
TO COAST



FALL 2021 ruemag.com

\$9.95US \$10.95CAN

13>



DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 20, 2021

S M O O T H I N G
O U T
T H E
E D G E S

CONSTANZA COLLARTE PEELS BACK THE
LAYERS ON HER 1930s MIAMI MEDITERRANEAN
TO REVEAL THE BEAUTY AT ITS CORE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRIS TAMBURELLO
INTERIOR DESIGN BY CONSTANZA COLLARTE
OF COLLARTE INTERIORS



T

The home really guided me, Constanza Collarte says of her six bedroom, 1930s Mediterranean style home in Miami's Coconut Grove neighborhood. The more I studied it and learned about its past, the more I wanted to honor it.

The project was both a labor of love and a return to her roots. Collarte, a Miami native, studied at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and spent over a decade working for prestigious firms in New York and London. She and her husband, Nicolai Bezsonoff, were eager to return to Miami and knew the lush landscape of Coconut Grove was exactly where they wanted to raise their three children.

The home had seen many iterations over the years, with several additions some were good, others were poorly integrated and it was clear a few shortcuts had been taken. The layout didn't really make sense for a modern family with young children, she says. Stripping it down, they gave the layout structure and symmetry. As we reorganized the layout, we simplified things and found an axis that reimaged the home's passageways, she explains. We incorporated archways to create pattern and repetition. We further added to the curves with rounding edges and tossed out baseboards to give it that Old World feel.

While Miami architecture is (stereotypically) known for modern, glossy, sleek interiors that's not Collarte's vibe. I found that once the home was stripped, it's neutral palette and raw textures allowed for a layered mix of furnishings, she explains. We incorporated mid-century Scandinavian, Italian pieces from the late '60s, and contemporary works to counterbalance.

It became more than a renovation, but a gift the designer's family will enjoy for years to come. I love how warm it feels, it embraces us. Spaces are ample and comfortable, but they're still intimate and the textures and palette just feel fresh against Miami's lush landscape.

DURABLE DESIGN

Collarte is easygoing when it comes to how precious or not the space is. With young children, it comes with the territory. While we have dings here and there, I kind of accept and love them as part of the aging process of a house. I love the way leather patinas, metal burnishes, and the wood weathers. I just don't worry so much about it. Plus, the lime paint walls are waxed, so anytime we get some crayon on a wall we can sponge it right off!





NATURAL CURIOSITIES

Coconut Grove is a far cry from the neon lights of South Beach and is one of Miami's most historic neighborhoods. Collarte's Old World style fits in perfectly here. She gravitated towards a combination of wire-brushed white oak, tumbled limestone, and walls coated in lime paint. I am also a certified vintage furniture junkie, she laughs. So, we layered the finishes with lots of interesting pieces I had collected over time. Italian lighting we found on travels, Scandinavian leather seating from auctions, French and English antiques I'd source in Palm Beach and some collectible design we picked up at fairs. The furniture periods of the pieces span over 500 years and when they all come together, they feel really fresh yet familiar.



DESIGN WITH
MEANING

Everything we own has a sentiment behind it, Collarte says. There's a Kadar Brock she won at auction, a cubist still life carefully transported back from Paris, and a beautiful black and white photo a good friend gave the couple as a wedding present. I am also really keen on layering, art, found objects, books, and weird trinkets. I love to keep building on my vignettes—shelves, consoles, and end tables start to feel authentic and less like we found everything at a commercial home store.

