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WHEN OLD BECOMES NEW

THE PAST BECOMES THE PRESENT WITH A SIGNATURE STYLE THAT TRANSITIONS INTO A MODERN DAY SETTING — A PLACE KEITH JACOBSON CALLS HOME IN MIAMI BEACH

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Some things are meant to be ... as it was for homeowner and real estate guru Keith Jacobson who challenged himself to transpire a hobby into the fantastical dream home he had aspired to design. With the help of an architectural consultant, Jacobson's 3,000-square-foot house morphed into a home that is drenched with expression while showcasing his true personality throughout. Built in 1928, the house was designed to preserve many of its original nuances while peppering each space with its own special qualities. "It's a charming home," Jacobson says. "I added unique ornamentation that creatively replaced the undesirable elements."

LEFT: Just outside the guest house, coral stone encases the Pebble Tec pool as casual furnishings from Royal Botania offer relaxation. Soft gray cushions paired with weathered wood are resilient to the tropical elements.

In the main house, a Poul Kjaerholm PK54 dining table designed for Fritz Hansen — circa 1950 — lives up to its mid-century appeal with a white marble top and chrome base. Flaming red-orange leather chairs exude a calming sense of familiarity with the past.



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WITH A BURST OF FIERY REDS AND ORANGES, ALEX HAMILTON'S MODERN PAINTING PUNCTUATES THE DINING SPACE. "STASHED AWAY IN STORAGE, IT WAS ONE OF MY BEST KEPT SECRETS UNTIL NOW," THE HOMEOWNER SAYS.



The exterior emulates the traditional California mission style home with classic characteristics of a world-class Miami Beach cottage. All together, the white stucco exterior, red tile roof and curvy arches give a new meaning to the word romantic — like a scene from a Hollywood movie. "This house had great bones and phenomenal potential," Jacobson says. "I wanted something cozy and inviting, not enormous."

In keeping, a quaint guesthouse has boasting qualities with a spacious bedroom-sitting area, walk-in closets and a full bath. The hot tub with connecting waterfall and the enticing Pebble Tec pool offer family and friends a serene spot for fun and relaxation.

ABOVE: In the dining area of the main house, the chandelier becomes a conversation piece that is too intriguing to be ignored. Comprised of light bulbs adorned with real feathers, famed German designer Ingo Maurer named it "Birdie" — simply outrageous!



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LEFT: Left to the imagination, the vivid painting by Gail Catlin — a South African artist — calls attention with its unique features and warm colors that redefines the classic foyer with contemporary interest.

BELOW: Gray, brown and tan tiles add texture in the powder room designed by Francis D'Haene. The Boffi sink offers a contemporary touch, while a brushed nickel mirror continues the “old meets new” ambiance.



Inside the main house, straight edges are replaced with dimensional elements such as the dropped ceiling and rounded archways that lead from the living room into the dining room and adjacent family spaces. Unlike the conventional Floridian backdrop of white walls, distressed dark oak Du Chateau flooring is appealingly adversary throughout the neutral social spaces accessorized with gentle strokes of soft-spoken red, orange and brown hues.

In the family room, the tufted L-shaped sectional from Restoration Hardware rests upon a natural wool area rug. An abundance of texture continues in the dining area, where a Crate & Barrel buffet creates dimension with layered strips of dark oak. A mid-century dining table topped in white marble keeps it simple yet stylish beneath Ingo Maurer's eye-catching “Birdie” chandelier.

Very unassuming, the foyer is the antithesis of the traditional lively Miami Beach milieu. The stairway is classic with a white wood spindle banister and distressed dark oak treads. Mixing woods always wins the popular vote, and here, a lighter walnut wood console table with an iron metal base pulls in the warmth with its natural grain.

Arclinea's sleek stainless steel cabinetry lines the kitchen, where dark stained oak is sprinkled in to create a truly dynamic look. Double hung French doors open to the veranda that boasts spectacular views of the pool.





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NO SPACE IS LEFT UNTOUCHED, AS ANOTHER WAY OF THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX IS TO BE CREATIVE WITH THE HOME'S LANDSCAPING. AN INTRICATE CHECKERED PATTERN IS FASHIONED WITH ALTERNATING GRASS AND SQUARE STONES THAT ARE IMPECCABLY MANICURED.

Although pioneered for the culinary fanatic, the kitchen is pleasing to the eye from every angle. "It looks like a work of art, yet it is very practical," Jacobson says. Using a generous amount of stainless steel, the streamlined Arclinea cabinetry has a striking presence with state-of-the-art appeal. A backsplash comprised of rough irregular slate stone is shaped to resemble a Frank Lloyd Wright design, circa 1950. On a quest to keep things calm, the barstools echo simplicity all the way from the stainless steel base to the dark stained wood seats.

With respect and tribute to the home's original footprint, a sense of history is revealed with troves of treasures that reflect the past while gracefully transitioning into modern day eclecticism. Although it was an extensive 14-month renovation, it was no doubt a labor of love. "I enjoy just being home," Jacobson says. "It's spacious yet cozy and was so well worth the wait." **M**