

HOME SCHOOLING

BY BRAD MEE

Take a look around your residence. Are your rooms making the grade when it comes to interior style? If not, it's time to go back to school. *Boca Raton* has studied several spectacular South Florida spaces to determine what puts them on the dean's list of dynamic design. The talented Florida designers responsible for these rooms loaded them with livable, engaging style—providing 36 interior lessons along the way that can apply in your home. Get your notebooks ready. Class is in session.

[1] MAGIC WITH MIRRORS: Nothing visually expands space or brightens dark areas better than mirrors. In this striking dining room, uniquely framed and "fractured" mirrors wrap the walls, amplifying their space-altering, reflective power.

[2] TREAT YOUR BACKS: Too frequently, we ignore the back of a chair when it's often the most visible element. By upholstering these chair backs with lively fabric, the designers dressed the table—and the room—with eye-catching color and pattern.

[3] APPROACH THE BENCH: Built-in banquettes not only look ultrachic, they also save floor space needed by chairs that pull in and out; ideal for small dining rooms.

[4] FRAME THE SHOT: Framing the opening to a room with bold molding and contrasting color creates instant drama. This dark, overscaled doorframe outlines the view into the dining room, placing the focus on its dynamic style.

[5] THE TIME FOR BOLD: Love patterned wall coverings but don't know where to use them? Consider low-traffic areas like the hallway, foyer or powder room; they're the perfect spots for over-the-top wall treatments and big, bold patterns.

[6] BRING ON THE BLING: Every space can benefit from a bit of pizzazz, from sparkling crystal to shiny brass. Emphasis on "a bit." Bling overkill is deadly to interior design. This chandelier, for example, dazzles the dark and moody dining room with a single, shimmering statement.

BARRY GROSSMAN, GROSSMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Design by Brett Sugerman and Giselle Loor, b+g design inc.



Design by Marc Thee, Marc-Michaels Interior Design, Inc.

[7] PUT IT IN NEUTRAL: Neutral colors provide an ideal backdrop for a timeless, easy-to-decorate space. Here, the creamy walls, sectional, rug and built-in cabinets set the stage for pops of color introduced by accessories and paper-backed shelves. To change things up, the homeowners can switch out the accessories to create a new look.

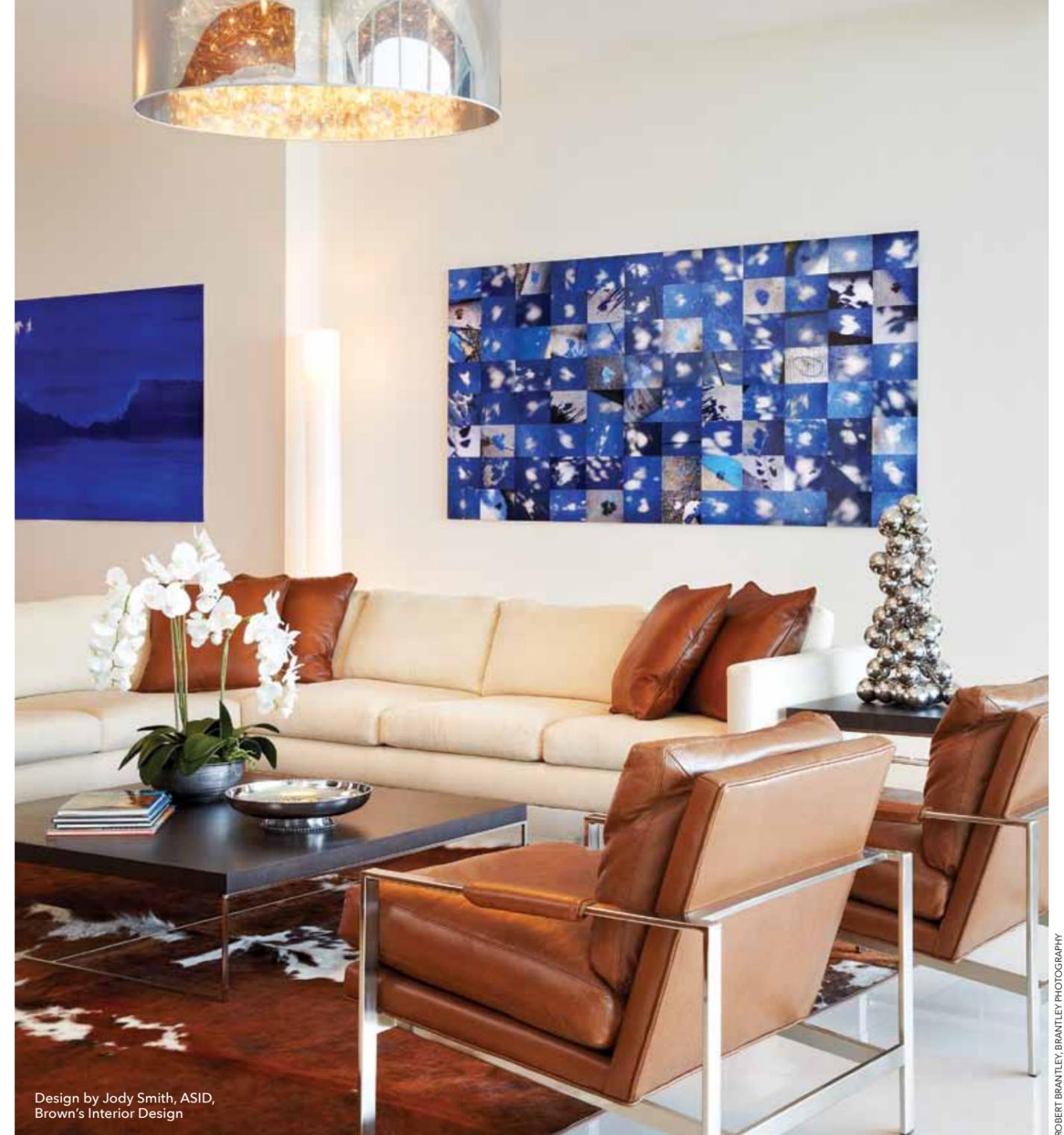
[8] LAYER LIGHTING: Well-designed lighting strongly affects the ambience and the aesthetic of a room. Layer multiple sources of light—ambient, task and accent—for best results. Here, general light from windows and overhead cans fills the space, well-positioned reading lamps serve their purpose, and recessed niche lights set a cozy mood.

[9] GO BIG: Large rooms demand large-scale furnishings. A broad sectional, big cocktail table and generously sized chairs fill the expanse of this inviting space. Even the pillows are appropriately large to suit the room's dimensions.

[10] OUTSIDE IN: Looking for a unique accent table? Pull from your patio. Garden stools are all the rage, serving as chairside tables in chic rooms.

[11] SET BOUNDARIES: Area rugs anchor furniture groupings within rooms and establish borders. This large rug unites the furnishings while its neutral shades and subtle pattern prevent it from overwhelming the space.

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Design by Jody Smith, ASID, Brown's Interior Design

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[12] GO ORGANIC: If you love modern design but hate cold, sterile style, add organic elements including wood, leather and woven wicker to your material palette. These soften the hard edge of stone and metal. Here, a hair-on hide rug and leather seating enrich the space with texture and warmth.

[13] SHOW SOME LEG: Instead of heavy, to-the-floor furnishings, choose open-framed pieces to make a space appear roomier. These chrome-framed chairs and the simply styled cocktail table keep the seating area airy and bright.

[14] HEAVY ACCENT: The stronger your accent color, the less of it you need to finish a space. Two art pieces by Robert Bery and Eric Telchin are all that's required to give this room a powerful punch.

[15] REPEAT AFTER ME: Recurring materials, colors and treatments create continuity, making a room's design feel more cohesive. Chrome repeats in this room's chair frames, chandelier and tabletop sculpture.

[16] 3-D EFFECT: Designers transformed this room's broad wall with a three-dimensional gallery segmented by molding, dressed in grass cloth and filled with keenly curated artifacts. The result is a memorable display that adds depth while visually stretching the space with its mix of horizontal and vertical lines.

[17] ADD THE UNEXPECTED: Everybody loves a surprise. Throw your space a curve or two to add instant character. This unique chandelier does exactly that for this room. A word of warning: Too many unexpected elements create clutter and confusion.

[18] THINK CLEARLY: If you're short on room, incorporate glass furnishings. The area behind this dining table may be tight, but the glass table functions as a sizable console without consuming visual space. The sitting area's glass cocktail table performs similarly.

[19] SAVE THE VIEW: When you have million-dollar views, the last thing you want to do is block them with tall furniture. This sitting area's high-back sofa is positioned against the wall leaving the "view corridor" virtually unobstructed by low-profile furnishings.

[20] STYLE THE CEILING: The often-forgotten fifth wall offers big design opportunities. Ceiling options—from color and coffers to beams and barrelings—are endless. To help unite and define the living and dining areas of this open floor plan, designers flowed this unique wall treatment onto the ceiling, adding a dynamic overhead feature.

[21] THINK TEXTURE: Dislike bold patterns? Layers of textured elements—like the grass-cloth wall coverings, plush velvet pillows, nubby wool rug, woven cane chair and rusted-iron table base in this room—can add interest and warmth to patternless decors.

50 SHADES OF GRAY

Bye-bye brights. Gray-tinted colors enrich many of South Florida's most stylish spaces.



DOVER WHITE 33-6 Pratt and Lambert	BLUE PEACOCK SW 0064 Sherwin- Williams	LULWORTH BLUE 89 Farrow & Ball	CRUSHED ICE SW 7647 Sherwin- Williams
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ELEPHANT'S BREATH 229 Farrow & Ball	SKYSCRAPER 765 Benjamin Moore	BATH SALTS 624 Benjamin Moore	COLUMBINE 31-22 Pratt and Lambert
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[22] CREATE ARCHITECTURE: Stately or stylized, decorative molding adds instant architecture to a room. Walls, ceilings and built-in features can all benefit from bold millwork. This room's Moroccan-inspired moldings transform simple shelves into an oasis of style.

[23] COLOR THREADS: Choose a primary accent color and use it multiple times to move the eye throughout the space. Here, a terra-cotta orange originates with the tiled floor and recurs inside the shelves, on the metal mirror and with a pair of ginger jars.

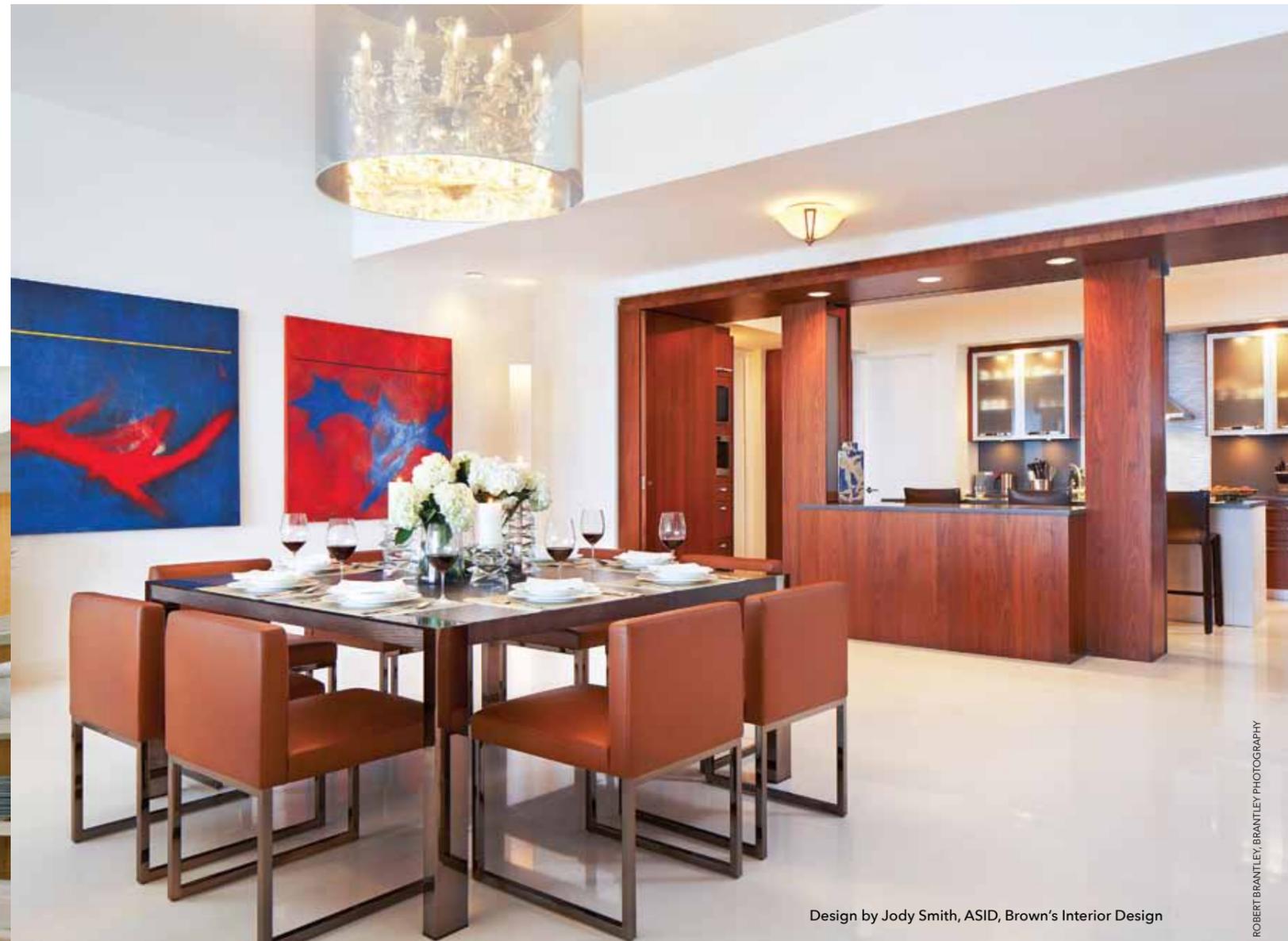
[24] BREAK IT UP: Matched dining sets are so over. Today's approach incorporates a mix of styles and finishes that

create a fresh, personalized look. In this case, two cane host chairs partner with slipcovered side chairs and a light-washed wood table.

[25] BACK YOUR SHELVES: Dress the inside of your shelves with a strong color using paint or wallpaper. Heighten the visual impact by adding simply displayed collectibles of a contrasting hue.

[26] HEIGHTEN THE EFFECT: Want to increase the scale and visual impact of an accessory? Place it on a stand. Acrylic blocks or boxes, like those propping this table's ginger jars, give objets d'art a lift without calling attention to themselves.

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[27] GET FOCUSED: Competing focal points create chaos. If your eye can't settle on a single feature, you've prioritized too many. Instead, determine the most important visual statement in the room and make all else secondary to it. In this space, art by Harak Rubio rules. The keenly edited furnishings, fixtures and color palette complement rather than compete with these works provided by Catalyst Art.

[28] WORK WITH WHITE: Nothing sets the stage like a backdrop of white. Here, light floors and warm, white walls let the art and furnishings take center stage while the shell of the room plays a supporting role.

[29] SOFTEN WITH SHAPE: All straight lines and squared corners can make a space feel harsh. Add a little curve to soften the style. Here, a drum-shaped chandelier by Mooi not only adds sparkle but also tempers the room's angular tension with its round shape.

[30] HIP TO BE SQUARE: Forget the rectangular dining table with host chairs. Square tables are a great equalizer, making every seat of equal status while adding style and modern shape to a dining area.



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[31] LINE IT UP: Modern design often relies on horizontal lines to give it an edge. From a broad upholstered headboard and wide nightstands to the fireplace's squat form and its linear tile, long and low dominates this room's contemporary style.

[32] MASTER MONOCHROMATIC: Decorating with a single color is no simple task, but pros know that using varied shades and tones adds depth and interest to a monochromatic room. Include a mix of materials, and the impact doubles. This warm white decor boasts a broad palette of hues that calms the space and enhances the ocean views. The cowhide Le Corbusier Chaise adds a surprising form and finish.



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[33] STYLE WITH SYMMETRY: If calm and comforting is your decorating mantra, then symmetrical design is for you. Balancing elements in a room creates a sense of peace and order. Here, each side of the master bathroom mirrors the other. To prevent boring predictability, every detail doesn't match.

[34] LIGHTEN UP: Choose soft colors and mirrored finishes to make a space lighter and brighter. Both elements reflect light, illuminate a room and make it feel more spacious. Mirrored door fronts disguise the bulk of these large painted vanities while a palette of cream marble, ivory wallpaper and shimmering white floor tile enhances the room.

[35] GO WIDE: Individual headboards and nightstands can get lost in big bedrooms. By uniting and expanding them with broad wall treatments, they can form the scale required in a large room. Here, a creative use of mirror connects the bed with its side tables while reflecting views that wow the room.

[36] VOLUME CONTROL: Large rooms benefit from furnishings that fill open space. In bedrooms, canopy beds accomplish this feat. Adding an element of surprise, designers attached a modern bed frame directly to this room's wall.