

# Rhapsody in Blue

THANKS TO A SEA OF AQUA, TURQUOISE, AND NAVY, THIS

KEY BISCAINE, FLORIDA, APARTMENT IS ALL ABOUT THE VIEW

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## ON THE HORIZON

The living room rug is Madeline Weinrib. The bench is from Country French, and the coffee table is from Jalan Jalan, both in Miami.





**COTE D'AZUR**  
Impressionist paintings, sunflowers, and dining chairs from Victoria's Armoire slip-covered in blue add French style to the dining room. The rug is Madeline Weinrib.



When it comes to unobstructed coastal views, most folks are concerned with what's outside their windows—the neighbor's roofline, the height of the trees, the community building plans. But for New York-based designer Micky Hurley, maximizing those vistas includes careful consideration of what's on the inside, as well. "An interior needs to be beautiful and rich, but carefully planned," explains Micky, "so that the real star—the view—can shine."

That philosophy helped him land a gig redecorating an outdated Key Biscayne, Florida, condo for a jet-setting family of four. Set on the 12th floor of Island House, a 1961 Art Deco-style building just a few steps from the shore, the apartment has floor-to-ceiling windows with seemingly endless panoramic ocean views. The horizon line is so high that the living room, which is surrounded by glass on three sides, is engulfed in turquoise.

Thus, from the get-go, Micky knew that his primary focus would be on creating a design scheme that would celebrate the ocean. First and foremost, that meant making decorating choices that would emphasize—not detract from—the scenery. The designer also wanted to showcase the owners' prized art collection, an impressive array of both nautical paintings and

works by impressionist masters such as Bonnard, Dufy, and Vuillard. While an all-white palette that set off the intense colors of the sea and created a gallery-like backdrop for the artwork would have been an obvious solution, the owners preferred a more inviting and lively interior. "They wanted something that looked like they'd been living there for years, right when they moved in," says Micky. The real challenge was finding a way to incorporate color that enhanced, but never competed with, the view.

Micky started with a classic nautical palette of navy and white. Solid, color-blocked upholstered pieces, from the white slipcovered seating in the living room and den to the navy skirted chairs in the dining room, sit atop graphic rugs (stripes in the living and dining rooms and a geometric motif in the den). A few other timeless patterns—a shell print here, a ticking stripe there—enliven the simple scheme. The navy-and-white combination subtly references the ocean and complements the owners' impressionist and nautical artwork (including a series of old boating lithographs Micky found in a closet and had reframed)—without diminishing the impact of either.

To keep the palette from becoming too cool, Micky painted the walls a warm, mellow

#### IN THE NAVY

Details in the living room (above), from the piping on the George Smith sofa and club chairs to the prints on the Hurley & Company pillows, echo the deepest shades of ocean blue.





## SITTING PRETTY

In the sitting room, aqua walls painted San Clemente Teal by Benjamin Moore soften the transition from the white sofa (from Unusual by Giselle) and West Elm ottoman to the navy Madeline Weinrib rug.

## THE HIGH LIFE

The apartment is on the 12th floor of the Island House (below), built in the 1960s. Looking down and out at the ocean from so lofty a vantage point makes the horizon line look even higher. Right: Micky decorated the guest room's bookshelves with nautical accents, such as a blue painted ladder from Nadeau and a sailboat model.



aqua. “Sometimes blue and white can be too crisp, but that depends on where it’s implemented,” he explains. “In Greece, for example, it’s absolutely perfect by itself and needs nothing else. This apartment needed a little warmth, and the aqua helped accomplish that.” The walls are nearly an exact match to the ocean, creating a seamless color transition between what’s outside the windows and what’s inside the condo. White-painted trim, ceilings, and bookcases throughout the apartment keep the space from feeling like it’s underwater.

Micky worked in a few additional colorful notes by carefully curating everyday objects, such as the red throws on the chairs and turquoise books on the coffee table. “Color doesn’t just come from paint, fabrics, and rugs,” says Micky. “Choosing which books to stack on top of a table can affect the palette of an entire room.” Even flowers—especially arrangements of stems in a single hue, such as yellow—can make a strong color statement. Here, the small hits of red and yellow add dimension.





#### FEELING BLUE

Island House was one of the last buildings built this close to the beach in Key Biscayne (below). Its unparalleled proximity to the water gives its apartments the best views in town. Opposite: The range of blue hues found in the ocean inspired Micky's palette throughout the house, including the aqua-and-yellow master bedroom. There, he paired a Parsons-style desk (left) from West Elm with a Louis Ghost chair from Island Shop in town.



The only departure from that palette is in the master bedroom, where Micky paired aqua with golden yellow, used very little white, and eschewed navy altogether. "Yellow was a great way to add some warmth to the soothing palette while maintaining the relaxed but sophisticated feel," says Micky. The result is a much more saturated space that still works with the rest of the apartment—due in part to the fact that it is a contained room, unlike the living areas, which open to each other as part of one large space. Plus, the patterns in the master bedroom, from the wide-striped curtains to the geometric rug, appear throughout the apartment. Most importantly, the amped up hues are just deviations from the primary color palette that permeates the rest of the home.

Those classically coastal colors proved to be the key to balancing the owners' desire for a lived-in look with an interior that's truly all about the view. "Colors evoke emotion," says Micky. "So it's inevitable that a room with a charming mix of hues will seem that much more inviting." 🌿 For more information, see Sources, page 106.

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#### MELLOW YELLOW

The golden hues of the upholstery and Madeline Weinrib rug add cozy warmth to the turquoise master bedroom.