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THE BOLD COLORS OF SUMMER



LA GORCE PALACE

A SPECTACULAR FACE-LIFT

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LEFT: J Design Group took La Gorce Palace's dated interior and made it relevant and modern using the finest materials and engaging colors.

RIGHT: Using shades of aqua, green and teal, Miami Beach condo owners never forget they live by the sea.



When J Design Group began renovating the public areas of La Gorce Palace on Miami Beach, the main challenge was to update and redefine the look to reflect the modern-day lifestyle of the condominium's residents.

The architecturally stunning, 1990s glass-and-stucco tower rising above the ocean stood out among other buildings yet needed a major interior transformation to bring it into the 21st century. "The interiors had a dated look when we began working on the project," explains Jennifer Corredor, owner of J Design Group located in Coral Gables, Fla. "We wanted to create a space that was relevant, up-to-date and keeping with the surrounding area."

The professional architectural and interior design team spent less than a year working the design into the existing marble and finishes, all the while coordinating a cool color scheme and adding white-glass tiles, white Thassos marble and wood features including columns. "My pride and joy is the exotic cherry-wood panels," Corredor says. "When you walk in the main lobby, there are two huge panels on the back wall, which give a jigsaw effect. It looks modern and luxurious and has that wow factor!"

The lobby with the concierge desk, which stands out because of the design and the cool green glass, features three-dimensional panels on the back wall that imitate the wood paneling on the desk. The designers also repeated the treatment in the main elevator lobby.

Using various shades of green, such as aqua, blue, teal, etc., condo owners are constantly reminded that they live by the sea when they walk through the public areas of their Miami Beach home. The building's second lobby, where the designers also dressed four columns with wood panels, uses splashes of color, including burnt orange, to add punch. The third lobby is refreshing with white-glass tiles.



The Club/Social Room was opened so owners and guests can see the pool area from inside of the condo. The area is sporty and clean with tempting colors. Sea green glass panels to extend the room are stunning.

All of the dated hallways were transformed into warm and inviting spaces by adding a fusion of color, and by changing the wallpaper, sconces and carpeting. A custom carpet following the green hues of the building's characteristic logo offers patterns of the waves of the ocean. The updates feel peaceful and enchanting, and made for modern-day living.

Another challenge Corredor's team faced was how to best open the Club/Social Room so owners and guests would be able to see the pool area and the ocean from inside. The room was transformed into a sporty, casual respite with durable leather seating and a clean, modern cherry-wood bar with glass top. The stylized barstools stand out in beautiful beige leather. "We actually opened this room by adding sea greens with glass panels," the designer says. "We made it modern by use of color, and were able to annex it with the pool and beach."

Corredor feels the renovation succeeded in making the interiors sing with modern input yet retain a warm and inviting look with an enchanting beach vibe. Realtors and unit owners agree the renovation illustrates a huge change, and they love it. "J Design Group was able to accomplish the beautiful work that is evident throughout this jewel of a building," praises Richard Alayon, spokesman for the La Gorce Palace. "We could not have done it without the stupendous and fine work of J Design Group, the firm selected by representatives of our building." Indeed, a job well done.

RIGHT: The bar is made of cherry wood with a smooth glass top. Bar stools are cool in beige leather.

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