



PHOTOS BY CARL JUSTE/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

WORKS OF ART: Above, kitchen at Casa Decor Miami '06 includes salon chairs by Keyton and cutlery by Faces Design. Below, Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz's *Dream* features pink hues mixed with white furniture.



IF YOU GO

Here is a sampling of home decor exhibits running in conjunction with Art Basel:

DESIGN MIAMI/

Where: Moore Building, 4040 NE Second Ave., Miami
When: 1-7 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m.-midnight Saturday, 1-7 p.m. Dec. 10.
Cost: Free
 One of the exhibits will be *NEW OBJECTS: USA*, including the Underwater Metropolis Collection by Michele Oka Doner, Mosaic Building, 155 NE 40th St.
 There will be an interview with Marc Newson, Design Miami's Designer of the Year 2006, at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Design and Architecture Senior High Courtyard, Northeast Second Avenue and 40th Street.
Information: www.designmiami.com.

CASA DECOR MIAMI '06

Where: The Miami Woman's Club, 1737 N. Bayshore Dr., Miami
When: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. through Dec. 17
Cost: \$22.50; no children under 7 allowed. A multiday package is \$45.
Information: casadecor-usa.com

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL 2006 DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE

Where: Aqua at Allison Island, 201 Aqua Ave., Miami Beach
When: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily through Dec. 10.
Cost: \$25 at the door, check or cash only, or with credit card through HBhighlights.com
Information: 877-627-2608

THE MORRIS LAPIDUS COLLECTION

Where: Lapidus Upper-Lobby of the Ritz-Carlton South Beach, 1 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach
When: Wednesday through Saturday.
Cost: Free

The following Italian manufacturers will team up with South Florida showrooms for Tour Abitare Miami 2006 from 6-9 p.m. Thursday. Each showroom will provide a map to all the showrooms.

- **Astra at ME Corporation:** Expo Kitchens, 1949 Tigertail Blvd., Dania Beach. 954-963-1243.
- **Feg and Salvarani at Compagnia del Mobile USA:** 4100 NE Second Ave., Suite 109, Miami. 305-573-2500.
- **Lualdi Doors at Lualdi Doors Miami:** 209 Altara Ave., Coral Gables. 305-461-5464.
- **Matteograssi at Anima Domus:** 480 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables. 305-567-9717.
- **Poliform:** Varenna and Tre-P&Tre-Piu at Poliform Miami, 3930 NE Second Ave., Miami. 305-573-9950.
- **Scavolini at Mia Cucina:** 105/107 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. 305-444-7383.
- **Verardo at Anima Domus:** 480 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables. 305-567-9717.

Architectural Digest Editor-in-Chief Paige Rense will moderate a series of free half-hour "Architectural Digest Talks," at the Art Guest Lounge at the Miami Beach Convention Center, 19000 Convention Center Dr., as part of Art Basel Miami Beach's Art Salon.

- **2 p.m. Thursday:** "Architecture for Public and Private Art Collections," Margaret McCurry, Hugh Newell Jacobsen.
- **2 p.m. Friday:** "Architects and Architecture: Objects of Desire," Alex Gorlin, Robert A.M. Stern, Annabelle Selldorf.
- **2 p.m. Saturday:** "Modern Design: Is It Collectible Contemporary Art?" Joseph Giovannini, Lee Mindel
- **2 p.m. Dec. 10:** "The History of Art: Its Importance for the Designer," Graham Gund, Peter Marino

Glamour is new buzzword for our homes

***HOME DECOR, FROM 1H**

ing."

Indeed, this art in the home is a highlight of this season's home decor exhibits, including those produced in conjunction with Art Basel Miami Beach. Visitors to the exhibits and Miami-Dade's other show house — sponsored by House Beautiful at Aqua on Allison Island — will see art featured throughout rooms.

These days, people are seeking high art even for low ottomans. Since 9/11, the cocooning urge has intensified to make our castles — no matter if they're a single room or a McMansion — comfy, beautiful and stylish.

"People are spending a lot more at home and they seem to be creating these mini-museums," says Ambra Medda, a co-founder and director of Design Miami/, now in its second year of exhibits. "It's very liberating in a sense. They can make their own choices. They can mix something they found at Target with what they bought at a vintage store or art they discovered at a market in Paris."

"You don't have to spend a lot of money to make rooms nice and beautiful and cool," adds Casa Decor's Sanjuanbenito.

Americans feel more confident these days, Medda says. They've developed an eye for

good design, thanks to traveling and reading home design magazines.

"There's greater access to good design," Medda says. "People's eyes are more trained, not only to look for beauty, but for function."

These days, people also seem to want to escape from the grim realities of the world. Casa Decor, for example, features sweeping floor-to-ceiling bright red curtains, ornate chandeliers, beds on a pedestal and carved tables.

MORE GLAMOUR

"You're going to see a lot more glamour used," predicts architect Dennis Miller, who started Dennis Miller Associates, a New York-based manufacturer and distributor of design furniture.

"We're going back to our glamorous home," agrees artist Michele Oka Doner, who will preview her Underwater Metropolis collection of monumental bronze and crystal vessels and epergnes at a Design Miami exhibit.

Look for more classical design in furniture, she adds. "You'll see symmetry," she says. "People like to see things set right. It cuts across all classes."

Many homeowners are splurging on a "name" piece of furniture, added Miller, who is helping bring the furniture designs of famed



WALTER MICHOT/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

KNOWS WHAT'S HOT: Casa Decor USA president Javier Sanjuanbenito is up on the latest trends.

Miami Beach architect Morris Lapidus to the consumer. His five pieces of Lapidus furniture will be exhibited during Art Basel and, he says, is part of a revived interest in mid-century design.

"Furniture is an affordable collectible," he says.

His favorite Lapidus chair, a barrel-like creation, costs \$2,800.

"People can come to Art

Basel and come away with pedigree, an authentic piece of furniture," Miller says.

Lapidus playfully designed Miami Beach hot spot hotels such as the Fontainebleau and Eden Roc. Some of the curvy chairs and couches reproduced for sale today look like the ones used half a century ago — and many will remember them from their childhood visits to the posh hotels.

"His lobbies were like living rooms. Now they are able to bring them home," says architect Deborah Desilets, the last collaborator with Lapidus, who died in 2001 at age 98.

"I would say he was an artist," she added. "He studied people, not geometry. He would love to see people sitting in his chairs. . . . They're firm. They're fit. They're delightfully complex. They fit the body well."

"They have a little bit of humor," Miller adds. "They are so friendly. What's interesting is that he was modernistic but designed in a baroque way."

People want that individualism, says artist Oka Doner, who also will exhibit two coral reef-inspired chairs at Design Miami.

It wasn't always that way, she adds.

She remembers her mother as one of the few in the Miami Beach neighborhood to hand-

paint tile for their bathroom. Her mother also wanted her kitchen cabinets to be hung a certain way, to have the right finish and knobs.

"I grew up with good design and art. I grew up thinking art just didn't hang on the wall," Oka Doner says.

DEMANDING CONSUMERS

Since then Americans have become more demanding. Store have eagerly responded, partnering with well-known designers to offer even designer toasters. Think architect Michael Graves' small appliances. Meanwhile, Martha Stewart is designing sheets and towels for Kmart. Other stores are offering handicrafts from around the world.

Artisans and designers are also flocking from around the world to show their creations to Americans.

"This is the biggest market in the world," says Rocamador Rubio, director of tiles and interiors for the Spanish Trade Commission.

These designers are bringing their trends with them — many of them featuring South Florida-friendly design.

Tile is in, for example. The material, which effortlessly fits into a subtropical climate, moves up in the art world as shiny wall decor in Casa Decor '06.

But its mission never left

the ground, either. Designers cleverly use tile as faux wood, stone and slate floors at Casa Decor.

Mother Nature should be grateful.

"The good thing about tile is that they didn't have to destroy a mountain for it," says Casa Decor producer Sanjuanbenito.

Once relegated to bathrooms, mosaic tile is back, but this time as a main event. Other popular '50s and '60s materials are making a comeback, including Formica.

Some other trends:

- The colors black and white anchor many rooms in Casa Decor with a third vibrant color — such as red — added for drama.

- Designers are using inexpensive slick paper that looks hard and durable as wallpaper and even ceiling covering.

- They're mixing the old and new, handmade crafts and items from around the world to form distinctive rooms.

Visiting Casa Decor recently, Vitali Renes of Toronto was impressed.

"It's very different, very advanced," he says.

He especially likes "the simple open look."

"There's a lot of versatility" in the rooms — something for everyone, adds producer Sanjuanbenito.



ART FOR THE HOME: Design Miami/ objects to be on display include Lapidus' Alton chair, *Ocean Reef Bowl* by Michele Oka Doner for Steuben Glass, Swivel Coffee Table from Wendell Castle's Black Edition and Lapidus' Collins chair.