

Balancing Act

Designer Maggie Cruz blends family-friendly with ultra-edgy in a Balinese-style home in South Miami.

Written by Brielle M. Ferreira | Photography by Jessica Glynn



new traditional
MAGGIE CRUZ

Interior designer Maggie Cruz's Miami isn't all about white-sand beaches or impossibly small bikinis. While the Florida native has learned to appreciate the city's hard-partying ways, her love for the subtropical playground goes deeper, to its rich cultural diversity and deeply rooted sense of history. "Miami is a blend of all things," Cruz says. "It borrows a lot of traditional values from its large Hispanic population, while also providing a fast-paced, sexy scene. It creates an environment that encourages people to simultaneously follow the rules and to break them."

It's a concept Cruz can relate to, since having the flexibility to straddle two worlds plays a large part in her work. "I design homes for a lot of young families," she explains. "They want

places that are grown-up and family-friendly but that still make them feel young and hip." It was exactly this that a couple with three daughters—ages 10, 5, and 4—had in mind when they invited Cruz to help them define the interiors of their Balinese-style residence in South Miami.

Inspired by the house's exotic architecture, Cruz wanted to give the homeowners the edgy look they craved (think oversized

Living room A Lee Industries wing chair in vibrant orange creates a colorful counterpoint to the tufted aubergine and Lucite stools from Grace and Blake. **Preceding pages** Architect Cesar Molina crafted the home's facade using teak accents, which give the structure an organic feel.





Living room To achieve more intimate scale in this grand space, designer Maggie Cruz created two conversation areas separated by a wood slab table and a Foscarini chandelier. A bold blue Lluís Lleó painting atop a low Julian Chichester cabinet sets a dramatic tone.





Dining room Chairs from West Elm and a Williams-Sonoma table contribute a midcentury vibe to the space, while upholstered host chairs from the Maggie Cruz Home Collection, a Madeline Weinrib rug, and a Lluís Lleó print from M+V Art provide touches of color. The chandelier is from Oly Studio.



contemporary artwork, stark-white expanses, and plenty of glass and Lucite), while also carving out cozy spots perfect for play dates and slumber parties for the girls. In the family room, modern art and colorful accessories add fresh, urban appeal to the space's otherwise more practical elements, like the super-durable sisal rug, the nearly indestructible coffee table, and the plush sectional upholstered in washable Sunbrella fabric. Cruz herself designed the coffee table and sectional.

"Creating custom pieces is actually one of my favorite parts of the job," she says. "I love to sit down

and sketch out the perfect piece for a room after not being able to find what the homeowners wanted anywhere. It's so satisfying."

In fact, she's parlayed that passion into the soon-to-be launched Maggie Cruz Home Collection. Working with local craftsmen, the designer has big plans for her nascent furniture line, which features the sleek lines and sharp silhouettes she gravitates toward in her interiors. And happily, she doesn't have to go far to find the inspiration she needs: "It's all about Miami for me—its vibrancy, its amazing colors, and its incredible soul. It influences everything I do."

tips of the trade

Maggie Cruz's tips for a chic, family-friendly home

Go undercover. White is such a crisp, elegant color, but it can be a little intimidating in a home with young children. Using white slipcovers crafted from outdoor fabric solves that problem. They look fantastic, and it's so easy to throw them in the wash.

Follow traffic patterns. For rooms that get a lot of action, I like to use sisal rugs. They're handsome and have amazing texture, but they're also easy to replace since they're not crazy expensive.

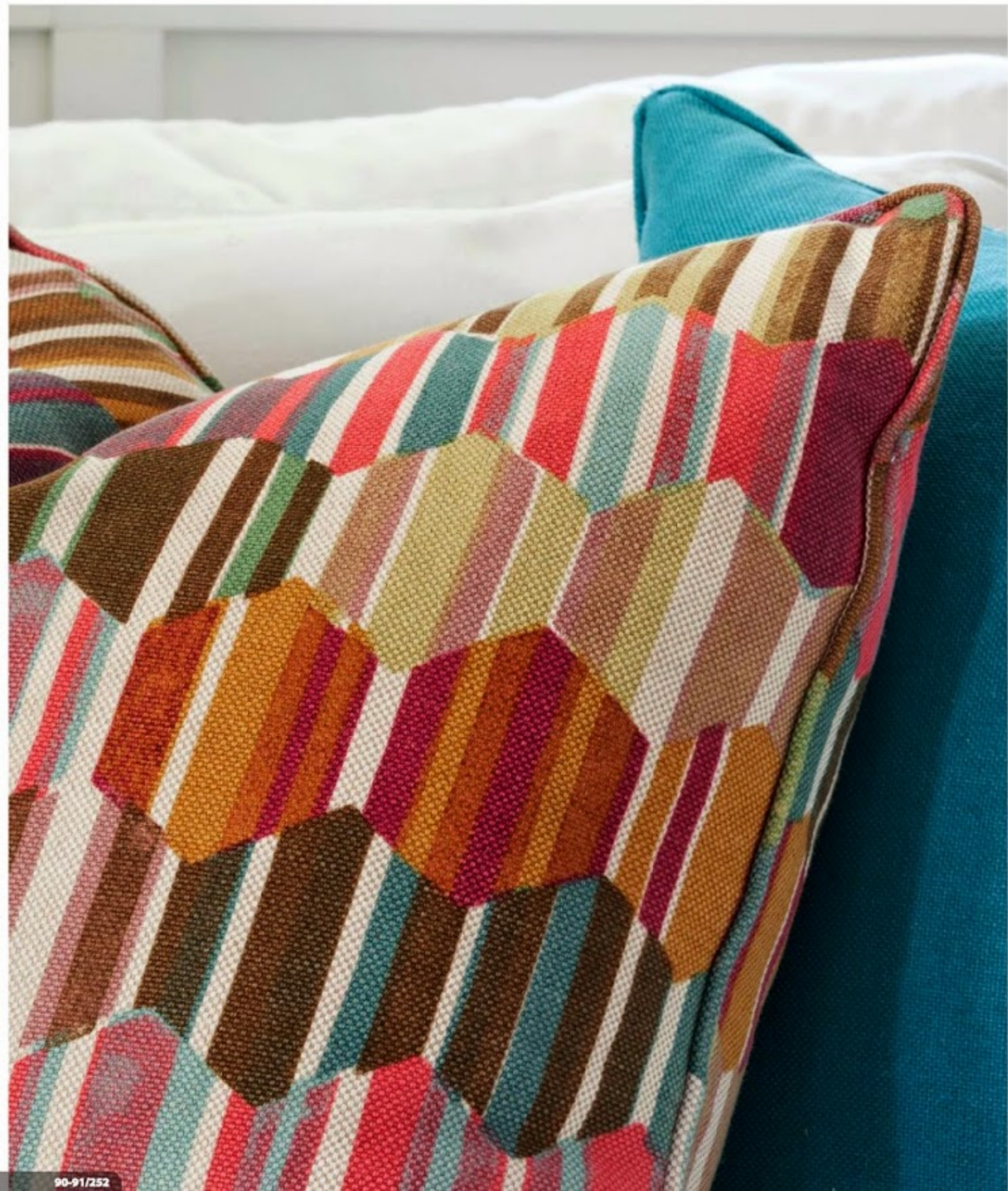
Leave room for growth. Splurge on solid, well-made furnishings that will stand the test of time. A little refinishing and reupholstery magic can take a beat-up family favorite from sad to fab once the kids are all grown up.

Make it yours. Filling interiors with fun accessories and modern art is a great way to bring in personality, but the best touches are those that tell a story about the people who live there. Incorporating family photos is a must for a house to truly feel like a home.



Kitchen Cruz had the custom cabinetry from Viking Cabinets painted Benjamin Moore's "Super White" to complement the subtle pattern in the Calacatta Gold marble countertops from Ocean Across. Hudson Valley Lighting pendants and Pottery Barn bar stools round out the room.

Family room Pillows from Jim Thompson and Robert Allen add a dash of Miami-inspired color.



Family room Mixing custom pieces, like the sectional and coffee table, with strong retail scores, like the chairs from Fine Line, the lamps from West Elm, and the rug from The Carpet Boutique, allowed Cruz to bring a tailored approach to the family hangout spot. The art behind the sofa is a Paule Marrot piece from Natural Curiosities.





Master bedroom An upholstered bed from the Maggie Cruz Home Collection lends softness to the space and joins an Urban Loft rug, a vintage Louis Vuitton trunk, and pale walls painted Benjamin Moore's "Calm" in creating a romantic retreat for the homeowners.

Playroom A graphic black-and-white color scheme—highlighted by the Ikea rug underfoot—gets a bit of feminine flair and excitement thanks to a burst of pink via the pillows from Manuel Canovas and the Serena & Lily table set.





Girls' bedroom A colorful chandelier from Shades of Light sets a playful tone and works especially well with the Bungalow 5 mirror. The Ballard Designs beds are sweetly dressed in bedding from The Land of Nod, Serena & Lily, and Ralph Lauren. **Playhouse** An idyllic playhouse takes on a fantasy appeal when surrounded by lush, tropical foliage.

