

AIR APPARENT

ARCHITECT MICHAEL PIERCE OF RENOWNED DESIGN TEAM PIERCE ALLEN CREATES A DREAMY, OPEN SPACE FOR THIS SOUTH BEACH CONDO BY ADDING SPLASHES OF COLOR TO STARK WHITE WALLS.

TEXT BY LINDA MARX | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PEP ESCODA



White round chairs amid a white living environment are punctuated by colored glass. Right: The white dining room table and chairs are part of the extended living area that includes a large kitchen and walkways.

To create a light, airy space that faces the sea on South Beach, Michael Pierce of Manhattan design firm Pierce Allen tore apart a pair of cold, boxy apartments and converted them into one spacious unit. The building itself, located South of Fifth (SoFi), is a simplistic concrete structure from the 1960s with apartments begging for reinvention.

"After exploring several possibilities for the client, we went for open space on the sea," says Pierce. "But we had to totally gut the existing units to design a glamorous, tropical-modern condo." The master bedroom is open, and the kitchen is interconnected with living room, dining room and another bedroom, functioning as one large vista. "The apartment has a layered, dense, open feel with lovely terrace and view of the ocean," says Pierce. "There is an understated tension between the open and carved rooms."

It took the design team over a year to complete this 1,200-square-foot condo, which acts as a beachy holiday retreat for the client. Pierce designed the interiors in all white using bright colors in the loft-like main area and throughout the apartment. For e







Clockwise from top left: Yellow floral wallpaper on white sets the tone for the glamorous yet comfortable living space; the acrylic vanity is rich in detail work by Elizabeth Page Smith of Los Angeles; a Ferris wheel-like chair in the style of Jean Royere on the seaside terrace give the owner plenty of stylized lounging room; the round bar stools in the kitchen-dining area come from an old cruise ship.



ample, the deep orchid print behind the master bed is by Sally McQuillan; a pink wall is Lee Joffa Ultrasuede. Outstanding in the living room are the white polished concrete floors, a white standing lamp from Serge Mouille and a coffee table and white leather couch designed by Vladimir Kagan. The dining room has an interesting round table custom designed by Los Angeles artist Elizabeth Page Smith.

Pierce calls the colors "Palm Beach" hues as they sing a song of the subtropics. "Designing anything in all white was a new thing for us," says the designer, who occasionally goes for high-end sizzle. "Plus, the client wasn't into such an extreme look. She has 16 nieces and nephews who like to visit, so the condo had to be beachproof."

Although the client barely cooks, the kitchen is large and dominant with a ceiling shaped in an organic form made of resin material on a stainless-steel frame. One wall is like an information map with a satellite photo of South Beach, an aerial view of South Pointe, a nautical chart and a Rand McNally map of South Beach. At night, the recessed lighting in the romantic apartment creates an aura of magic. Perimeter lights flood down to make the walls virtually glow. "Our intent was to make the rooms warm and mysterious," says Pierce.

The client loves her bedroom with its open views of the ocean. At night she closes off the space with eight pivoting glass doors. "Everything we did was to reemphasize the beach quality in high design," says Pierce.



Clockwise from top left: The fabric's rich color adds glamour to the all white space; yellow floral wallpaper (Celeste from A.M.Collections) highlights the Tommi Parzinger dresser and Senzatempo mirror; white bedding and the window in guest room add dimension to the open vista beginning the kitchen.