

MARCH 2002

HOUSE & GARDEN

10 GREAT
IDEAS FOR
GARDEN
RETREATS



PLAYING IT COOL

ARCHITECT JOHN KEENEN BRINGS THE MIAMI SUN
INDOORS, WHILE LANDSCAPE DESIGNER EDWINA VON GAL
CREATES A DARK, CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN




TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, this is a renovation. But if one considers the scope of the transformation of this Miami home on an island in Biscayne Bay, the term “alchemy” seems far more appropriate. Architect John Keenen of the New York firm Keenen/Riley has changed lead into gold, converting an anonymous, crumbling, 1950s modern house into a contemporary refuge of extraordinary intimacy, refinement, and character. The metamorphosis is dazzling.

“Everything was reconfigured to meet Carlos’s needs,” the architect says of client Carlos Cisneros, a prominent Miami businessman and art collector. “The house was literally falling down. We reworked every surface, every material, every square foot.”

BY MAYER RUS PHOTOGRAPHED BY WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ
STYLED BY DAVID YARRITU





Curved walls forming a sitting area in the bamboo patch offer organic relief from the planar architecture of the house. ■ Visitors reach the purposely dark, moody entry, opposite page, via a path of concrete pavers that crosses a moat.



The Cisneros house, top, embraces the sun on the side facing Biscayne Bay. ■ The crisp lines of the living/dining room, above, are broken by sculptural furniture, such as a '50s Oswaldo Borsani rosewood screen from Form and Function, NYC, and Yves Klein's Blue Table. The Harvey Probbler armchair and Robsjohn-Gibbings daybed are from Gansevoort Gallery, NYC. Both are covered in Gretchen Bellinger fabrics. ■ Another angle, opposite page, shows off the John Keenen terrazzo and steel stair design, executed by Aileron Design Inc. The prototype Franco Albini Fiorenza chair from Brian Kish, NYC, is covered in Carlton V fabric. Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Yellow Dots* hangs on the far wall, Ed Ruscha's *Screaming in Spanish* on the right.



