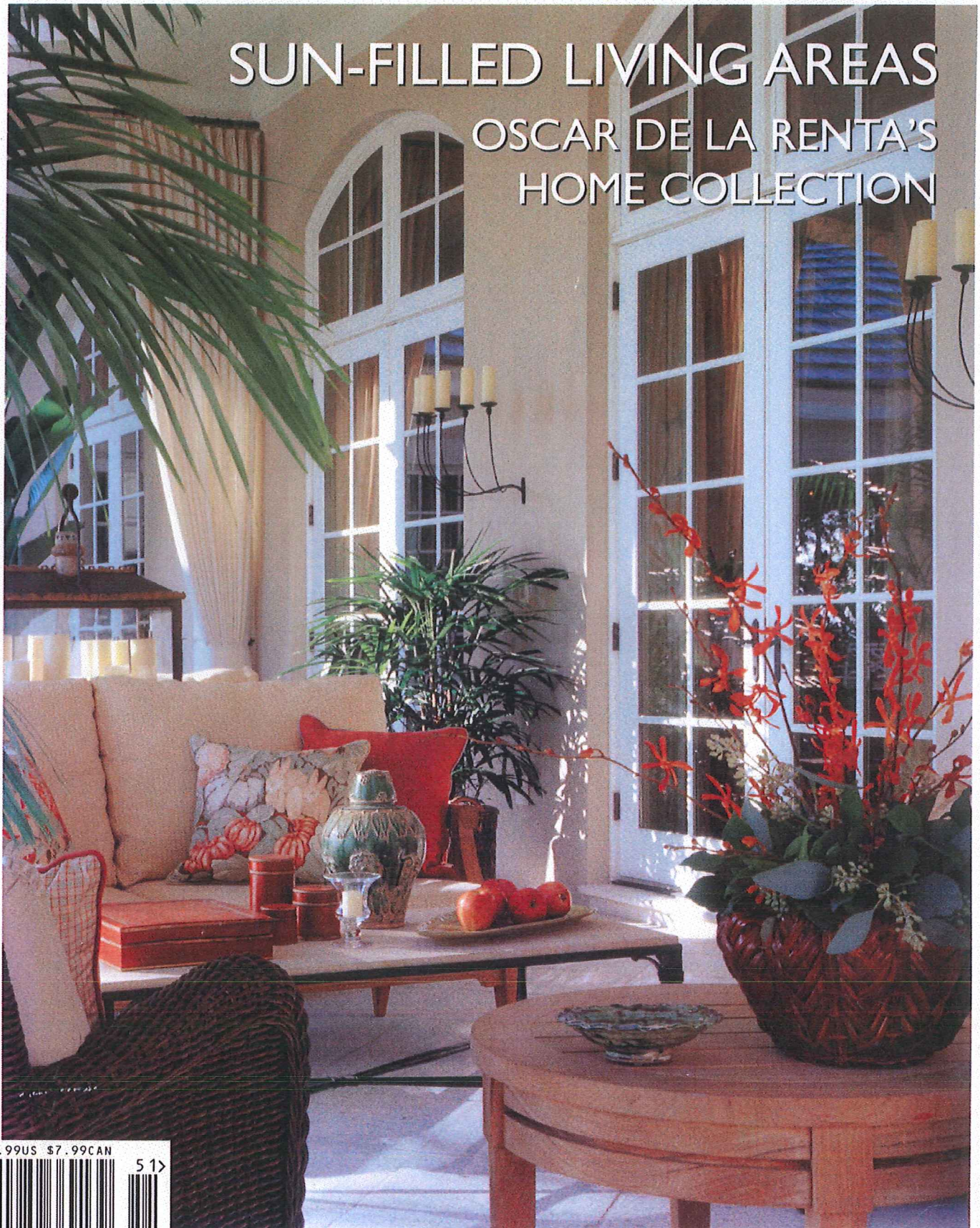


FLORIDA DESIGN

THE MAGAZINE FOR FINE INTERIOR DESIGN & FURNISHINGS

VOL. 15 NO. 1

SUN-FILLED LIVING AREAS OSCAR DE LA RENTA'S HOME COLLECTION



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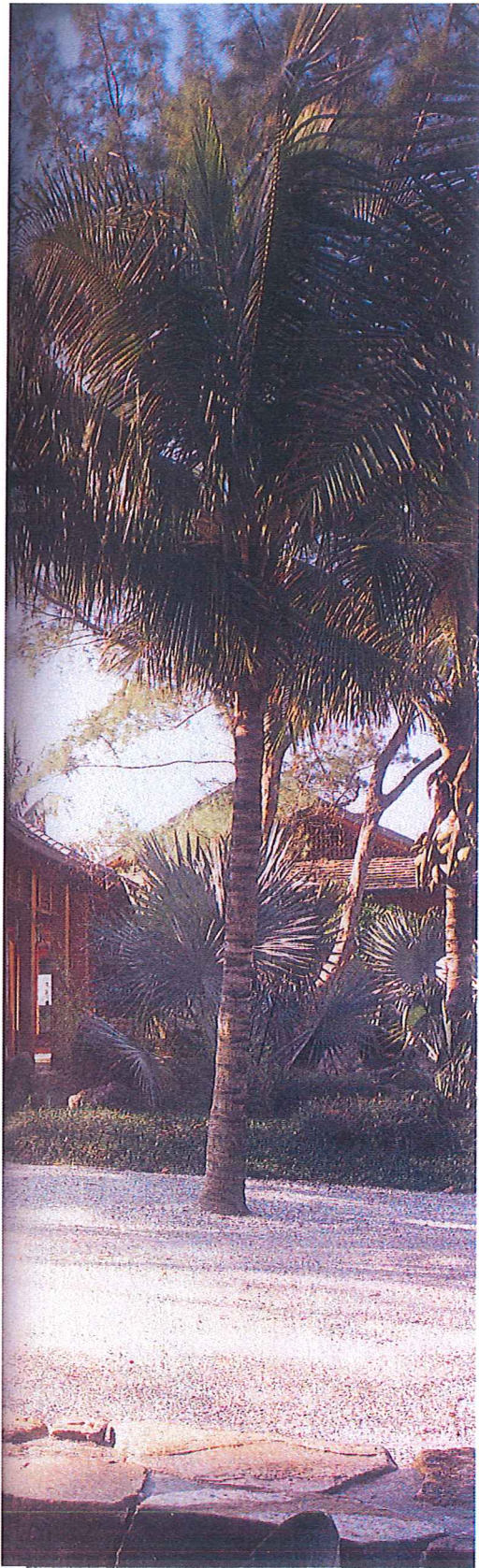


Inspired by Japanese style, architect Maho Abe created a striking minimalist design for this private sanctuary, which includes a two-story guesthouse and a covered walkway that leads to the main house.

In Japanese, the word “seijaku” means serenity, a sense of being one with nature. That feeling prevails in this contemporary Asian retreat on Siesta Key near Sarasota, Fla. Located just 10 feet from the shores of the Gulf, this private sanctuary encompasses a main residence, a two-story guest-

house and a Japanese garden across the street.

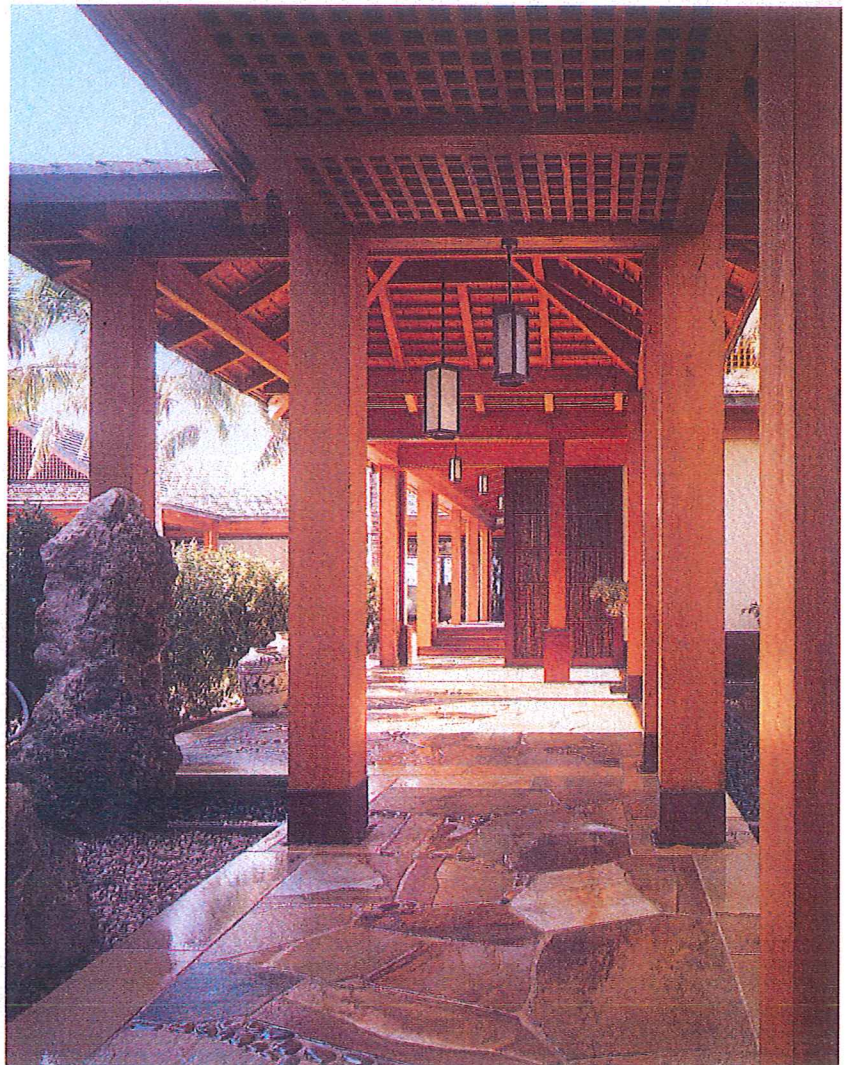
When looking to purchase a home in Florida, owner and interior designer Sue Strober and Michael Jensen fell in love with the site’s incredible views, but were less than enamored with the existing house.



SERENITY ON SIESTA KEY

*A Private Asian-Inspired Sanctuary
Evokes The Sense Of Being One With Nature*

INTERIOR DESIGN Sue Strober, Sue Strober Interiors, Sarasota, FL
INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURE Maho Abe and Rina Okawa,
ZEN Associates, Inc., Sudbury, MA
ARCHITECT OF RECORD Mark H. Smith and Todd Yeomans,
Smith Architects, P.A., Sarasota, FL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Peter White and Jon Russo,
ZEN Associates, Inc., Sudbury, MA
BUILDER Michael K. Walker, Michael K. Walker & Associates, Inc., Sarasota, FL
TEXT John D. Adams
PHOTOGRAPHY Robert Brantley, Delray Beach, FL



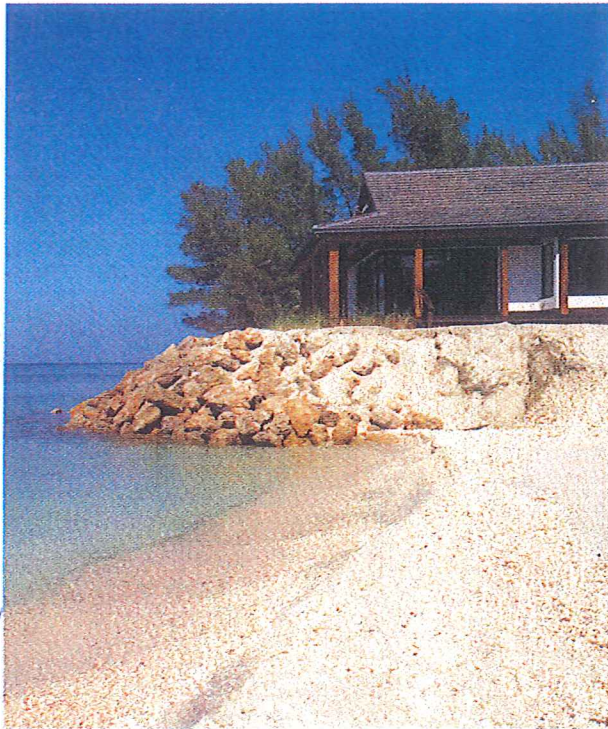
Building on the property, however, meant devising a detailed construction plan that would meet the lengthy regulations and deed restrictions. With myriad challenges ahead, the couple turned to architect Maho Abe who, with assistant Rina Okawa, conceived an extensive rebuilding plan

based on Asian design principles.

Avid travelers to the Far East, Strober and Jensen "wanted a very peaceful environment, and the Eastern or Japanese aesthetic seemed to lend itself well to the kind of feel we were looking for," Strober says.

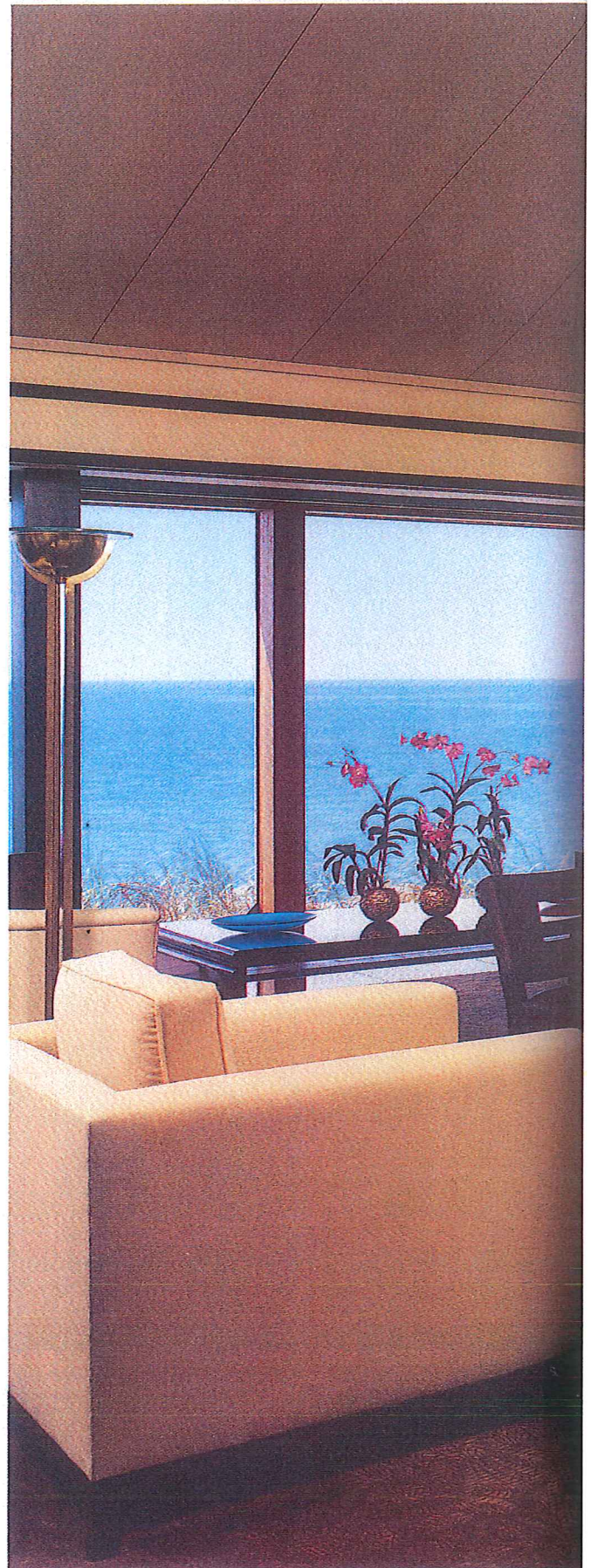
RIGHT: Sculpture from owner and interior designer Sue Strober and Michael Jensen's collection adds artistic interest to the living room.

BELOW: Much thought and consideration went into the redesign of the home due to its close proximity to the water, just 10 feet from the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.



To ensure Abe's initial designs met with Florida's building codes, the couple retained architect of record Mark H. Smith, who also handled the permitting process. "It was one of the most challenging projects we've worked on," says Smith who teamed with Todd Yeomans on the project. "From working with the existing home's footprint and raising the aggregate height of the home to bringing in specially laminated glass for the multiple floor-to-ceiling windows — there were a thousand details that had to be reviewed, discussed and approved by the state before we could continue. Sue and Michael understood how long this process could take."

Also, because of the home's proximity to the water, finding the appropriate building







From the kitchen, pocket sliding-glass doors open to one of several Japanese gardens designed and created by ZEN Associates, Inc. Appliances and cookware were purposely tucked out of sight to maintain the home's clean-lined aesthetic.



materials was paramount. "We worked with an incredible matrix of natural materials," builder Michael K. Walker says. "From the pool deck's South African ipe wood to the interior's wenge-wood trim and deep brown granite flooring, we did a lot of research to find just the right materials."

Such attention to detail can be seen in every facet of the design — both inside and out. The extensive landscaping, designed by Peter White and Jon Russo, evokes the feel of traditional Japanese gardens.

"We were limited in the kind of vegetation we could use here," Strober says. "Everything had to

be able to live off the salt water, so we had to apply the minimalist philosophy of the Japanese. We used only about 10 different species of plants."

Cypress wood, chosen for its color and texture,

ABOVE LEFT: Two paintings from Edward Giobbe's "The House From My Window" series introduce color and texture to the main grouping in the living room.

LEFT: Dark wenge-wood trim accents the ceiling in the dining room, where Japanese artist Yuri Tsuzuki's series, "Trees," lines one wall.



covers the guesthouse and forms a covered walkway to the main residence.

Inside, a modern French motif with Asian accents establishes a sense of calm. "We like the contemporary style and didn't want anything to detract from our incredible views," Strober says. "We kept the palette neutral and reflective of the exterior elements of sand, sky, water and garden."

In the living room, a chocolate brown area rug lies under two conversation groupings — one

comprising twin love seats and another with a sofa and club chair. Christian Liaigre's fudge leather chairs melt into the setting. "I purposely wanted several angled social areas," Strober says. "You have to keep in mind that at night those amazing views become a black wall. You have to make sure people's focus can shift easily."

The same color scheme continues into the dining room, where an authentic French chandelier hangs above a contemporary Randolph & Hein



ABOVE: A Christian Liaigre desk and chair form the work area in Strober's office, which is located in the master bedroom. A Man Ray photograph hangs on the wall to the right.

RIGHT: Across the street from the home, a Japanese garden affords a spot for quiet contemplation. "We can walk across the street and stroll through our own private Zen garden," Strober says.

LEFT: From their platform-style bed, Strober and Jensen watch the ever-changing vista of the beach, blue waters and sky. "It's the most relaxing place you can imagine," she says.



table and Lorin Marsh chairs. "It's calming and came together just perfectly," Strober says.

A true indoor/outdoor space, the kitchen opens to a Japanese-style garden surrounding the patio and pool area. Sliding-glass doors disappear into pockets, allowing both spaces to meld as one. The brown granite flooring used in the main living areas flows into this space and also forms the countertops.

In the master bedroom, floor-to-ceiling glass doors open to panoramic views of infinite blue

waters. "It's amazing to watch the beach from here," Strober says. "When the doors go back into the wall, it feels like you're actually on the beach, hearing the waves crash just feet from the bed."

Nearby, Strober maintains an office complete with a desk, chair and a sofa. "Yes, it can be difficult to get much work done here," she laughs.

Whether looking out at the Gulf, enjoying quiet time in the private garden or relaxing around the courtyard-style pool — nature is never far away.



Looking at the house from the patio and pool area, the open floor plan makes a dramatic statement. South African ipe wood surrounds the pool and forms the deck.

SOURCES

Covered Walkway

Bamboo door - Bluefield Joiners, Taftville, CT

Lantern fixtures - Cusack Design, Somerville, MA

Urns - Youngblood, Sag Harbor, NY

Stone flooring - ZEN Associates, Inc., Sudbury, MA

Living Room

Sofa, love seats and club chair - Albert Vitiello Decorators, Bethpage, NY

Sofa and club chair fabric - Rogers and Goffigon, Ltd., D&D Building, New York, NY

Love seat fabric - Bergamo Fabrics, Inc.,

D&D Building, New York, NY

Leather chairs - Christian Liaigre, Holly Hunt New York, D&D Building, New York, NY

Leather and accent pillow fabrics - Great

Plains, Holly Hunt New York, D&D Building, New York, NY

Round cocktail table - Carole Gratale, Inc.,

Kirk-Brummel, D&D Building, New York, NY

Rectangular cocktail table - J. Robert Scott, Inc., D&D Building, New York, NY

Fireplace - Custom designed by Sue Strober Interiors, Sarasota, FL

Marble - Marble Magician, Williston Park, NY Fabricated by Architectural Marble Importers, Sarasota, FL

Pendants - Sirmos, D&D Building, New York, NY

Floor lamps - Skyscraper, New York, NY

Glass table lamp - John Salibello Antiques, New York, NY

Glass sculpture on pedestal by window - Barry

Friedman Gallery, New York, NY

Pedestal fabricated by Edmunds Metal Works, Bradenton, FL

Female sculpture - Irving Gallery, Inc., Palm Beach, FL

Paintings - Sandra Gering Gallery, Inc., New York, NY

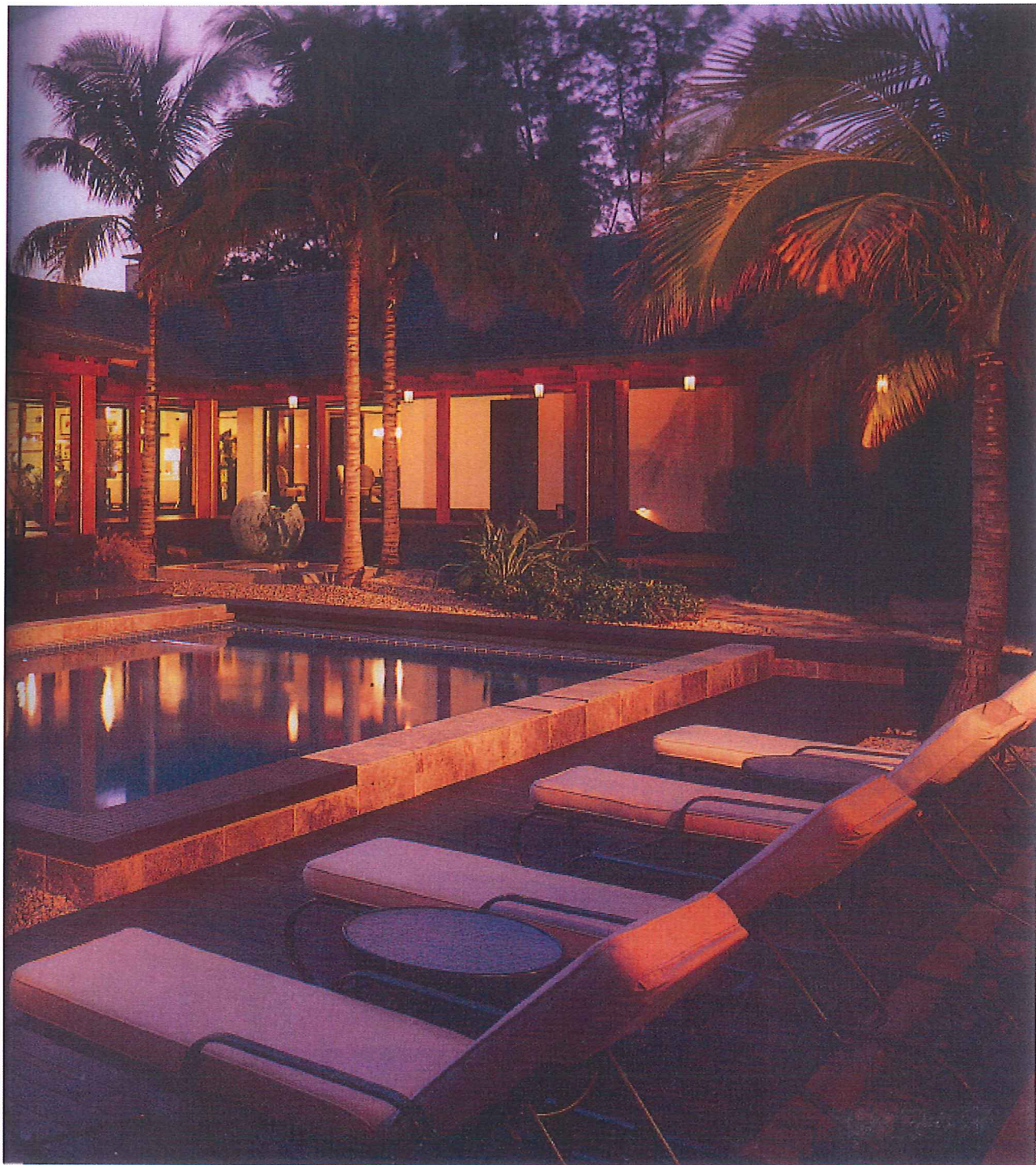
Candleholder on mantel - Ellen Brenner, Pietrasanta, Italy

Area rug - Bart Halpern, Kirk-Brummel, D&D Building, New York, NY

Dining Room

Table - Randolph & Hein, D&D Building, New York, NY

Chairs and buffet - Lorin Marsh, D&D Building, New York, NY



Chandelier - Skyscraper, New York, NY
 Sconce - Daum Boutique, New York, NY
 Bowl on table - Donna Karan, New York, NY
 Area rug - Bart Halpern, Kirk-Brummel, D&D Building, New York, NY

Kitchen

Barstools - Christian Liaigre, Holly Hunt New York, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Cabinetry - Village Woodworking, Sarasota, FL
 Countertops - Marble Magician, Williston Park, NY
 Fabricated by Architectural Marble Importers, Sarasota, FL
 Range and hood - Mullet's Appliances, Inc., Sarasota, FL
 Sphere sculpture outside - Flemming Sorensen, Pietrasanta, Italy

Master Bedroom

Bed and chair - Christian Liaigre, Holly Hunt New York, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Bedside table and lamp - Sutton Place Antiques, New York, NY
 Glass sculpture on pedestal - Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, NY
 Pedestal fabricated by Edmunds Metal Works, Bradenton, FL
 Area rug - Sirmos, D&D Building, New York, NY
Her Office/Master Bedroom
 Love seat - Albert Vitiello Decorators, Bethpage, NY
 Desk and chair - Christian Liaigre, Holly Hunt New York, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Chest on floor - Sutton Place Antiques,

New York, NY

Glass table lamp - John Salibello Antiques, New York, NY

Patio and Pool Area

Chaises and occasional tables - Tropitone Furniture Co., Inc., Walters Wicker, D&D Building, New York, NY
 Wood deck - Michael K. Walker & Associates, Inc., Sarasota, FL

Throughout

Interior millwork - Village Woodworking, Sarasota, FL
 Windows and sliding doors - Plaza Door Co., Inc., West Palm Beach, FL
 Lighting design - Liteworks, Inc., Cape Coral, FL
 Faux painting - Eileen Blanchard, Ronkonkomo, NY
 Marble flooring - Marble Magician, Williston Park, NY