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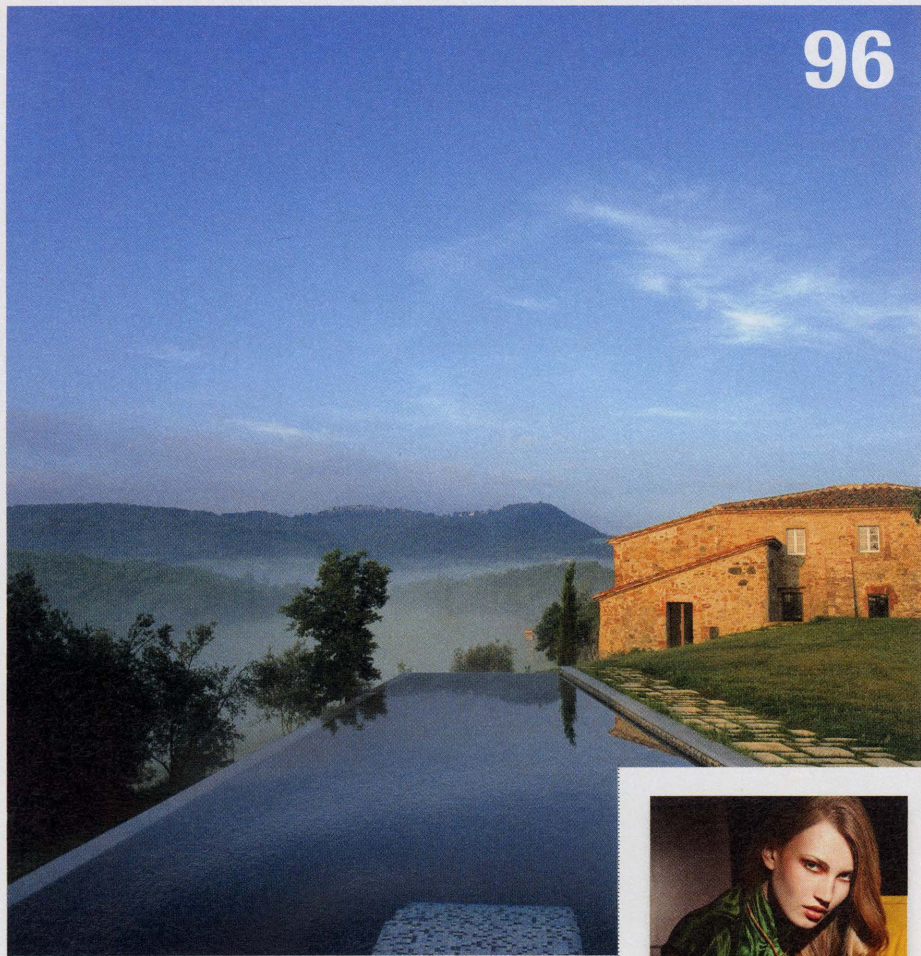
# DEPARTMENTS CONTENTS



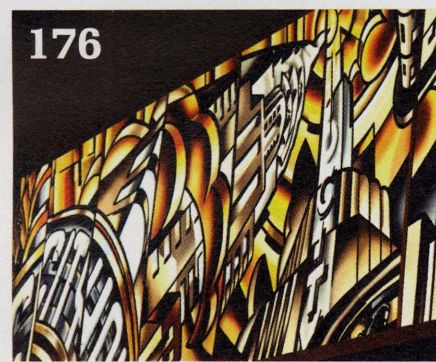
90

## THE RADAR

- PEOPLE** Restaurateur Barton G. Weiss' brand of fantasy knows no boundaries. . . . . 88
- DESIGN** For designer Hernan Arriaga, interiors are a family affair. . . . . 90
- BIZ** Lingerie—Miami style! . . . . . 94
- JET SET** One visit to Castello di Casole, a five-star resort and luxury residence club in the heart of Tuscany, and you may never want to leave. . . . . 96
- RIDES** Step inside Range Rover's new, innovative and radically designed Evoque. . . . . 100
- SCENE IN MIAMI** . . . . . 148
- FOOD DRINK**
- REVIEW** The flavors at City Hall are by the people, for the people. . . . . 176
- BITES** Miami chefs: who's in and who's out; the scoop on The Dutch and more. . . . . 180



96



176

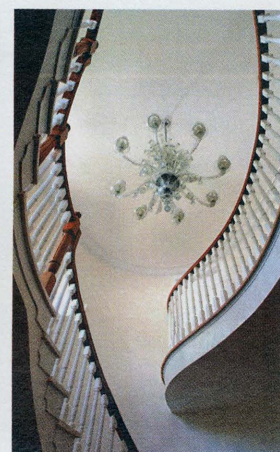
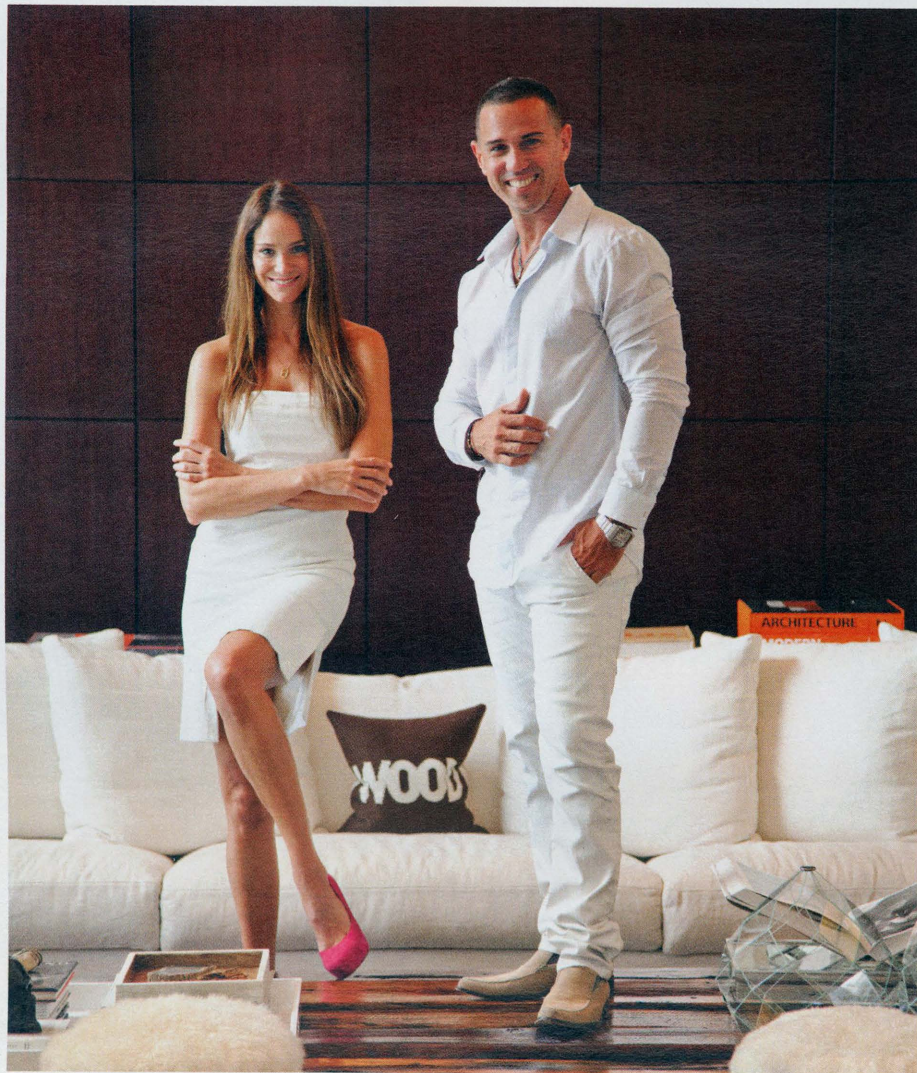
- PEOPLE** David Manero keeps it real at Vic & Angelo's in Miami Beach. . . . . 182
- GUIDE** Where to eat now; plus: the dish on Cibo and Zuma's new brunch . . . . . 184
- LOOK WHO'S TALKING**
- William Vela on why size really does matter when it comes to film . . . . . 204



## ON THE COVER

Photography: Rony Shram  
Styling: David Widjaja at [introartists.com](http://introartists.com)  
Hair: Riad Azar at [introartists.com](http://introartists.com)  
Makeup: Hazuki Matsushita using Make Up For Ever at [introartists.com](http://introartists.com)  
Production: [no-nameproductions.com](http://no-nameproductions.com)  
Model: Anzhela with Supreme Model Management  
Location: Sanctuary Hotel, [sanctuaryhotelnyc.com](http://sanctuaryhotelnyc.com)

Ornement Tribal necklace in yellow gold with yellow and pink sapphires, spessartite and tsavorite garnets and diamonds, \$77,500, at Louis Vuitton, Aventura Mall. Large Starburst ring (on left hand), price upon request, and black onyx Tapestry ring (on right hand), \$7,500, both at David Yurman, Bal Harbour Shops. Jaipur bangles in 18K gold with semi-precious stones, \$1,160 to \$1,290, all by Marco Bicego at Saks Fifth Avenue, Bal Harbour Shops. Norma dress in green fluid panne velvet, \$3,698, by Ralph Lauren Collection at Ralph Lauren, Bal Harbour Shops.



# Adventurous Liaisons

As designer Hernan Arriaga sees it, great interiors and lifelong friendships go hand in hand.

| By Lisa Cregan | Photography by Robin Hill |

From concept to installation, Hernan Arriaga believes interior design is a hands-on endeavor.

"You can't pass the work over to anyone else," admits the designer, whose high-end projects have been featured in countless shelter glossies. "Interior design needs to be personal."

Personal, but not necessarily solitary. The 37-year-old Argentina native's days begin with client coffees and end with client dinners. In between are client meetings, client shopping trips and client installations. That's what Arriaga believes it takes to deliver the results he wants. With so many hours spent together, it's inevitable that his clients almost always become his friends.

"I've even taken a client's daughter to see Britney Spears [in concert] as any good friend of the family might do," he laughs. "And I was just in Greece at a client's 50th birthday party. We share so much quality

time together as we work on a home that we begin to love each other, to gain each other's trust. I tailor their houses to fit their lives."

And what lives they are. Clients as worldly and stylish as his—which include designer Roberto Cavalli, New York socialite Rita Schragel (ex-wife of hotelier Ian), Bon Jovi drummer Tico Torres and his model wife Alejandra, and former Victoria's Secret Angel Ines Rivero—set a pretty high bar for sophistication, but in Arriaga, they can rest assured they've found their man.

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Arriaga relocated to Miami when he was in his teens. Compared to the Argentinian capital, however, late-'80s Miami felt small town, provincial. So Arriaga decamped for Manhattan and the NY School of Interior Design, where he honed his craft, made connections and began his career. Eight years into building a career and a loyal clientele in the Big Apple, Miami beckoned once

CONTINUED...

## IN THE HOUSE

Clockwise from top left: Client and designer: Ines Rivero and Hernan Arriaga; a white palette dominates the family room; view to the home's second story; Gio Ponti chairs, a Milo Baughman table and a Murano glass chandelier in the main dining room



...CONTINUED again. "I'm Latin," he says. "In New York, there was always a certain flavor missing."

When Arriaga announced his move to his pal/client Rivero, who was also living in Manhattan at the time, she wasted no time telling him she was coming too. "I said 'if you're going I'm going!'" remembers Rivero. "We're very close, like brother and sister." She and her 10-year-old daughter recently moved from their initial Miami apartment and into a chic 1950s-era home in Bay Point (featured here) that Arriaga designed for them.

Rivero concedes there are risks involved when working with such a good friend, but she says Arriaga's willingness to tailor his aesthetic vision to fit his clients' taste makes him the ideal collaborator. "I like my house to be personal and so does Hernan," she says. "I don't want it to look like it's all out of a catalog and neither does he." In fact, Arriaga insists the last thing he wants to be perceived as is some uncompromising dictator of design: "I always want my clients' homes to be their signature, to express something about themselves."

A confirmation of that credo stands like a sculpture in a corner of Rivero's entry hall in the form of a vintage Gio Ponti bar. Despite Rivero's objections that she had nowhere to put it, Arriaga insisted she buy it, "I told her that a home is about owning things that touch your soul. On every project my goal is to help my clients live elegantly with the things that touch them." For another example, he points to Rivero's dining room. "She collected those Gio Ponti dining chairs, that 1960s Milo Baughman table and the Murano glass chandelier," he says. "She fell in love with those things and it was

my job to pull them together so they'd work. I look at the whole picture. You should never feel like you're in a different house when you walk into the next room."

The sophisticated spaces in Rivero's home confirm that Arriaga delivered on his promise. All the rooms are visually linked by creamy Venetian plaster walls with traditional columns and thick crown moldings sheathed throughout in sparkling white lacquer. "I like modern with antique, pairing something crazy with something classical," says Rivero. "Somehow Hernan makes it all work."

Clearly, Arriaga is on to something. He's currently working on residential projects in the Dominican Republic, London and Geneva, completing five houses in Miami, and designing the interiors of three hotels, including one in Saudi Arabia and another in Brazil. All this in addition to helping with the refurbishing of ONE Bal Harbour Resort & Spa. He also recently expanded his showroom, Azul Mar, in the Dominican Republic, a spot regularly visited by top interior designers and architects, and even once by the first lady. The shop is a chockablock with all the things Arriaga falls in love with while sourcing the world for his clients: lamps from Turkey, crystals from Iran, even cowhide rugs from his native Argentina.

An intimidating workload? Not at all, insists the designer, especially when you're surrounded by people you care for. "You can do incredible things when you let design into your heart," he says. "I absolutely believe that."

And if you can also make lifelong friends along the way, all the better. **M**

#### PERSONAL TOUCHES

From left: The living room balances a variety of sentiments that range from modern to classic; A Gio Ponti bar by the entry hall is one of the many vintage touches in the residence: "A home is about owning things that touch you," says Arriaga.