

OCEAN DRIVE

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A Stylish Life

From rosé at sunset to Vespas in Wynwood and vintage from around the world, *Ocean Drive* peeks into the perfect personal spaces of Miami's most detail-oriented trendsetters.

By Jon Warech
Photography by Gary James



Sharp and sophisticated interior designer Hernan Arriaga is driven by style.



Base cofounder Steven Giles epitomizes structure at its most stylish.



World-traveling interior designer Sam Robin is at one with elegance.

Leshem relaxes in her Florida room, a whimsical take on sunshine and color.



The Cool Maven

Trendsetter Michelle Leshem bridges decades of style with her colorful take on how to live Miami life to the fullest.

Back in 2004, when no one was partying downtown, Michelle Leshem waved her magic wand and turned Pawn Shop Lounge into cool-kid central. Today, as the cofounder of Supermarket Creative, the brand director and professional buzz maker is still the voice of what's hip for the Wynwood generation.

EASY MORNING

It's 7:30 AM when the sun creeps in through Leshem's powder-blue drapes. She snuggles next to her 13-year-old American cocker spaniel, Kismet, while reading the newspaper on her Hotel Collection pillow-top bed (the mattress is a Stearns & Foster). Out in the kitchen, she and her husband/business partner, Sean Drake, enjoy a low-stress meal at the 1960s Chromcraft breakfast table that Michelle refurbished. Before heading out, Leshem paints her lips in a bold red Chanel lipstick and dresses in a self-described "quirky girl meets tomboy" wardrobe packed with independent designers, vintage items, and brand names such as Marc Jacobs. In her home and with her clothes, Leshem opts for only vibrant colors after leaving the gray weather of her native Toronto 15 years ago, but her bright appearance matches her throwback "Kodachrome" lifestyle, which, from the moment she wakes, shouts, "All the world's a sunny day."

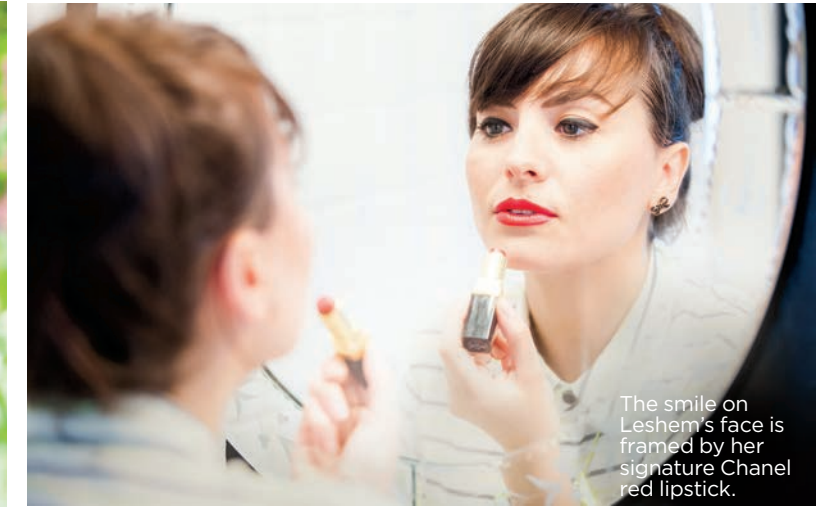
CREATIVE AFTERNOON

Whether at home brainstorming on her vintage 1960s mod rattan sleeper sofa in her Florida room or at "the studio"—her term, since she refuses to use the word "office"—Leshem is in a creative space. Music plays at all times, as she and Drake draw up plans for their latest project. At 1 PM, it's a lunch break at Gigi or off to unwind with a little "me time" refurbishing furniture, but juxtaposed with every vintage 1950s Formica coffee table, 1960s walnut credenza, or CB2 living room couch with midcentury legs that she added, there's a very modern, trend-defining plan on how to customize her clients' business. "I'm always thinking, How can I alter it, if I don't think it's perfect?" she says. She's talking about her furniture, but the same mind-set applies to that bar you love or that store you can't stop going to, because it's very likely it was Leshem who made it perfect.

UP-TEMPO EVENING

As the sun goes down, Leshem shines even brighter. Whether she's mingling at Broken Shaker, Backyard Boogie-ing at Wood Tavern, or deejaying until 2 AM as part of the all-female Ess & Emm DJ duo, her style turns heads. Leshem marches to the beat that she creates, and many around town bob their heads right along with her. It's a vibe that comes naturally since she's moved to Miami, or as she calls it, "the vacation that never ended."

Leshem at the Broken Shaker.



The smile on Leshem's face is framed by her signature Chanel red lipstick.

Spray-can art by local artist Jorge Rodriguez from the indie designer market she created, El Mini Market, held at Wood Tavern.



Making mint tea, a favorite growing up. The Dutch Wax owl plate on the 1950s Formica coffee table is hand-painted.



Leshem re-upholstered the Florida room chair in white vinyl with tangerine color piping for a bit of pop. The curtains are mosquito netting.



Playing Ping-Pong at Broken Shaker.





In the dining room, a 17th-century copper and wood bowl filled with ostrich eggs is the centerpiece on the 1970s Italian Fontana table.



An avid collector and wearer of vintage and modern timepieces, Hernan sets a Hublot his partner Fabio bought him.



Running on Key Biscayne, Arriaga works out three times a week with a personal trainer.



Despite regular trips to Milan and Paris, someone else's 100-year-old passport is among Arriaga's treasures.



Tobacco leaves line the wall of the bedroom as he works.



The stuffed turtle in a corner of his bedroom was purchased many years ago in the Hamptons.

Soaring high above Miami, Arriaga's Brickell condo is his "biggest showcase."



The Smooth Operator

Plenty of people have style, but rarely do you find someone like Hernan Arriaga, so packed with panache that his life is defined by it.

As a jet-setting interior designer, Hernan Arriaga travels all over the globe honing his craft, a curator for the uppermost echelon of society who also adds one-of-a-kind artifacts for his own collection. He has worked with South American aristocrats, Saudi princes, and American celebrities, but for Arriaga, style starts at home in Miami.

HIGH RISER
Residing high above the Miami skyline 22 floors up, Arriaga awakens at 7 AM to see the city that he loves, nearly in its entirety from his Brickell condominium. After a luxurious sleep on the white oak bed he bought while on a trip to Milan, not only does he have his bed made immediately, but the sheets are ironed to crisp perfection. On most days, he'll dress head to toe in Tom Ford, with a Cartier Santos or Cartier Roadster watch, spray on Black Orchid, and hit the road in his Cadillac Escalade escorted by his driver, Emerson—the Alfred to Arriaga's Batman. Even if he's not meeting a client, he will leave the house very well put together, since "my personal image is the first thing I focus on every day," he says. That image is what people all around the world pay for.

WELL-DESIGNED DAY
A noon power lunch is often the center of Arriaga's schedule. Today he's off to meet Kelly Rowland at Mandolin Aegean Bistro, where they'll discuss design over octopus, his favorite dish. His best work, though, happens at home, where he can put his panache on display. Clients can see his 16th-century paintings, petrified seaweeds, ornaments from a 17th-century French building, a painting from Quinquela Martin, and a pair of Jean-Michel Frank chairs, and know that his love for historical artifacts fuels the level of his craft. "My house is my biggest showcase," Arriaga says. "It is there where I entertain my clients and I allow them to experience not only my personal taste but essentially the impeccable flow of my work."

QUIET NIGHTS
Arriaga never shies away from a party, but you're more likely to see him out and about in New York or Milan than in Miami, where he prefers a more low-key evening of tea or coffee with his model friends. But even teatime is stylish for Arriaga, who sips mate from Argentina out of a small bowl and through a straw. "In order for anybody to stand out and be unique, all you have to do is look into yourself and find your greatest gift, recognize what you have been born to do, and run after it for the rest of your life," he says.