

Winner- Interior design category

Subcategory Ia

Brickell Penthouse (Miami, FL, USA)

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Photography: Troy Benson

DESCRIPTION OF BRICKELL PENTHOUSE

Perched at the top of a landmark Brickell tower, this 7,500 SF, 700 m² penthouse was conceived as an architectural belvedere, a space suspended between sky and sea, where light and horizon become the true materials of design. From the first step inside, the eye is drawn forward, guided by a continuous visual axis that connects the city skyline to the shimmering expanse of the bay.

“I wanted the experience of space to unfold through light, not through walls,”

explains the designer.

The layout was imagined around openness and continuity. The plan dissolves conventional boundaries between living, dining, and circulation. At the center, a sculptural staircase redefines the vertical flow. Wrapped in matte black Fenix and crowned by a suspended walnut volume, it acts as both anchor and sculpture, a quiet statement of geometry and proportion that holds the composition together while preserving transparency.

Material continuity was essential to the project. The flooring is the first architectural layer, the surface that ties all spaces into a single atmosphere.

“The floor is what ties everything together, it’s the rhythm underfoot that defines the architecture.”

Porcelain stoneware 48”x48” (120x120 cm), was chosen as the unifying surface, extending from the foyer through the living room, kitchen, and office. Its mineral tone enhances the diffusion of daylight, amplifying the brightness that floods the penthouse from dawn to dusk. The natural texture grounds the space while reflecting the light of the bay. Warmth emerges from contrast, the clarity of Bera White balanced by the depth of walnut used in millwork and suspended volumes. The dialogue between wood and stone is one of balance, a meeting of precision and sensibility.

In the family room, the walls are clad with porcelain stoneware (anthracite, 36”x106”, 90x270 cm), used in large slab format to emphasize grandeur and continuity. Installed without visible

joints, using dry seams to enhance the illusion of a monolithic surface, it absorbs the light softly, creating a darker, more intimate atmosphere, a space for retreat and reflection contrasting with the luminous openness of the main living areas.

“The stone tiles were designed as a seamless, sculpted plane that holds its own shadow and quiet stillness.”

Vertical planes and portals throughout, from the foyer to the living room and to the office, are finished in 63"x126" (60x320 cm) porcelain stoneware. Its tactile quality reveals the power of geological matter shaped by precision.

In the primary suite, the ceramic extends as a defining motif. It forms the headboard wall and continues into the ensuite bathroom, where it merges with glass partitions and walnut cabinetry. The combination creates an atmosphere of serenity and permanence.

The suite spans the full facade, oriented toward the water. Designed as a retreat immersed in light, it brings walnut, stone tiles, and glass into quiet equilibrium. The textures are meant to be felt as much as seen, with soft transitions, muted reflections, and a continuous visual flow that connects interior and landscape.

The double-height living room opens toward the sky through expansive glazing. Here, light becomes a structural element. Every surface, the matte of Fenix, the grain of walnut, the mineral reflection of tiles, reacts to it.

“The space breathes with the light, so each hour offers a new reading of volume and proportion.”

Every alignment, joint, and surface contributes to an atmosphere of clarity and calm sophistication. It embodies the designer's vision of architecture in Miami, a dialogue between the vertical energy of the city and the infinite horizon of the sea, a suspended landscape where light, matter, and structure converge in harmony.

Ceramic Materials

Living Ceramics (Bera&Beren Bera White (48"x48") y Allure Anthracite (36"x106"), Soft Textured)

Inalco (ISEO 63"x126", Bush Hammered)