

WORKING

With Your

SURROUNDINGS

Famed designer Thom Filicia creates location-specific interior elements to tickle your designer fancies.



INTERIOR COOLS BY THOM FILICIA

It's been several years since star interior designer and interior designer to the stars Thom Filicia became a household name, transforming interiors for aesthetically challenged men on "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." Having moved past television to become one of the most successful interior designers in America and the world, Filicia is all set to make a splash in Miami. Filicia's design label, Thom Filicia Inc. is the design partner for Biscayne Beach, an exciting new luxury condominium tower you no doubt just marveled at in our *Additions* chapter.

Although Filicia has a particular personal aesthetic—what he describes as "New American," focused on simplicity and modernity, free of frills or unnecessary embellishments—as a designer, he pays attention first and foremost to clients and locations, creating spaces that cohere with their surroundings. "We work all over, so what we are doing in Miami isn't what I would do in Connecticut or Colorado. It isn't what I would do in New York City," said Filicia.

Filicia sees Miami growing into itself as a city, and is excited to be a part of the transformation. "I love Miami," he said. "It's a fun, dynamic,

interesting market, and it's going through this incredible moment of becoming a real business, culture, and vacation hub all at once." Filicia took that laid back, natural-but-cool vibe as an inspiration for his design concept with Biscayne Beach. "It's about mixing earth and nature with a relaxed sensibility that's also sophisticated."

His approach to interior design is all about honesty. He explained that great interiors are made by recognizing what you really need in your life and your home. "When you're dealing with people with an honest aesthetic, you're dealing with the way they really live. They're the people that can say that although they'd love a formal dining room, they know they won't use it, so they don't need it," explained Filicia.

Accordingly, Filicia is designing for Miami as it is, creating livable, stylish spaces that will make their residents feel at home. "One of the things people love about Miami is the lifestyle of being outside, with nature, water, trees, and parks. But at the same time, it's an urban city. It's about that mix," he said. The new condominiums will reflect their light and lively surroundings. "The color palette to me really fits the sensibility of Miami. If you look at



THOM FILICIA

the colors, it's about water, nature, and a city skyline," said Filicia.

Filicia's aesthetic fits into the world because it comes from living in the world. "If I go out to restaurants, or I'm traveling, or in a European park, or in South America, all of a sudden I might see all these highlights and different pieces of things I love. I just bring them back and create my own designs based on all the interesting things that inspired me," said Filicia. "It's just about keeping your eyes

open because the most inspirational things can come at any time."

Filicia is thinking about making Miami a more permanent home for his company. "One of the things people love about New York is that it's a global city, but it's a business city. Miami is a global city, but it's also a destination and a relaxation and vacation city," he explained. With the help of Thom Filicia, Biscayne Beach will be the kind of place that makes even business feel like vacation, just like the city of Miami itself.