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"The apartment is mostly open," says Hickey, "so this nook provided a cozy area for the family to bond. The photograph was a piece the owner purchased, and we incorporated it into the design. The zebra rug adds some depth to the space."

"We used the odd shape of the dining room to dictate the design of the seating and dining table," says Yedid. "Rather than let it limit us, we took advantage of the curving wall and custom-designed a floating bench that took its shape. In terms of art, we worked with [artist] Peter Tunney, who likes to play with language, to add a bit of edge to the overall environment."



"The owner is the largest importer of pens in Brazil, and he told us how much he loved typing, so the typewriter was a gift from us," says Yedid. "It's a restored Royal Century from 1962 that sits on a floating lacquer desk that we designed for the space."

"The geometry of this room was long and narrow, which would have created an awkward single seating area," says Hickey. "We decided to create two seating areas, separated by a daybed, which broke up the long room and allowed for flexibility."



Cult of Personality

Custom touches lend lived-in familiarity to an Aventura vacation home.

| By Michael Muzquiz |
| Photography by Francis Dzikowski/ESTO Photographics |

Infusing homes with character is par for the course for Thomas Hickey and Edward Yedid of GRADE, a New York-based architecture and interior design studio. Their knack for discreet, informed aesthetics that marry tradition with modernity certainly came in handy at one of their most recent projects: a 4,000-square-foot pied-à-terre in Aventura.

"The clients wanted something with a Miami feel, but with a New York edge," says Yedid. "It's a level of design that comes with being exposed and surrounded by the best of the best."

And that's exactly what GRADE delivered: a residence marked by a subdued palette, refined with midcentury sentiments and made current with custom-designed appointments.

A retreat that's both familial and fabulous? Now that's worth coming home to time and time again.