

Art We Live In

Renowned architect Peter Pennoyer talks trends and more

Words by Vanessa Pascale

Photo Credit: *Peter Pennoyer Architects: Apartments, Townhouses, Country Houses*
Anne Walker New York: The Vendome Press, 2010

It is said that architecture is art we live in – such is a sentiment that rings entirely true if you're a client of Peter Pennoyer. For over three decades, Peter has awed with his bold and elegant architecture. Extraordinary detailed ceilings, dramatic staircases, ornate windows and entryways, magazine-worthy renovations... are a few hallmarks of his impressive traditional architecture. His portfolio has been highlighted in a list of publications including *Architectural Digest* and *The New York Times*, and garnered his firm a spot on the prestigious 2014 AD100 list –culled by *Architectural Digest* and comprised of the world's leading architects and designers. In 1990, Peter established Peter Pennoyer Architects in Manhattan, where he was born and bred, and recently opened a new office in Miami to accommodate the demand for his company's talent, vision and expertise. The award-winning architect kindly took some time to answer our questions, and here's what he shared.



Photo Credit: Jay Ackerman

What are some of the latest trends in Miami architecture?

Peter Pennoyer: The influx of new development towers and new museums by famous architects in Downtown and Brickell has been widely discussed. But it's the reaction to all this frantic growth, the effort to preserve some of Miami's historic fabric that is the most exciting architectural trend for the future. In Miami Beach we already saw the heated debate over redeveloping the courtyard of the Miami Beach Community Church. Now take a quick tour of South Beach and you'll see historic Art Deco buildings being renovated and restored. We are going to see more and more of this preservation and restoration in coming years. The new buildings can only shine when set in the context of old Miami.

What is your favorite style of architecture and why?

Peter Pennoyer: I love the rich blend of styles that form the historic heart of Coral Gables. The abstract, distilled classical style of the Glasgow building on the University of Miami campus is fresh and exciting. And it's a great contrast to the romantic Spanish style architecture throughout the rest of the neighborhood, especially in historic buildings like The Biltmore Hotel.

What color palettes are the most popular today?

Peter Pennoyer: Most people picture bold colors when they think of Miami, but the intense, varying light and the abundant sky and the dramatic weather of Miami are actually best reflected through colors that absorb nature. I love to see off-white with hints of warm gray and pale blue –blended colors like these create more architectural drama and interest.

What feature adds the most value to a property?

Peter Pennoyer: It's tempting for some architects to use glass everywhere to take advantage of views, but designing a house that has a variety of spaces and effects is always going to add more worth to your property than an overly obvious glass box. A house should have a rich, layered sequence of spaces so that the drama of a view unfolds as you move through each room. This makes a house feel bigger and makes for more dynamic architecture.

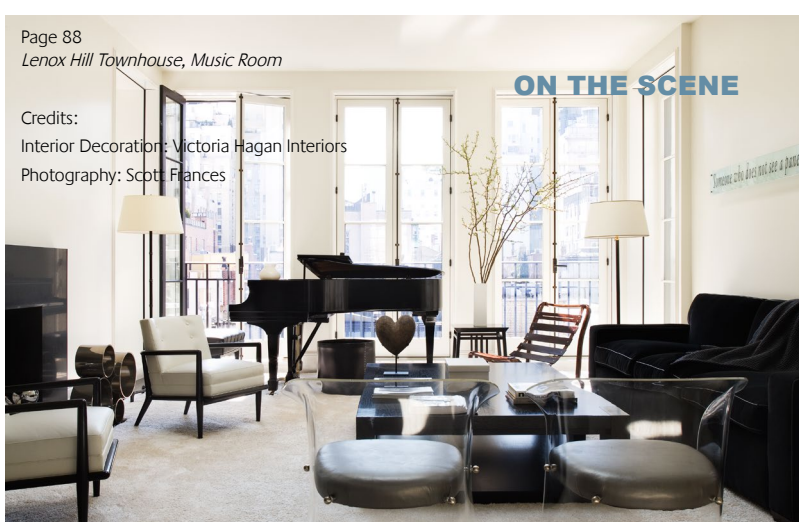
What is your favorite project to-date?

Peter Pennoyer: Because all of the houses we design are so different, it's impossible to choose a favorite. But we just finished a gorgeous house just up the coast from Miami that has an amazing living room that is really like a courtyard –open to the views east and west of the ocean and the Intracoastal. The room is all white except for a cypress coffered ceiling that adds great style. After it was done, I didn't want to leave. **ML**



Page 83
Lenox Hill Townhouse, Stair

Credits:
Interior Decoration: Victoria Hagan Interiors
Photography: Scott Frances



Page 88
Lenox Hill Townhouse, Music Room

ON THE SCENE

Credits:
Interior Decoration: Victoria Hagan Interiors
Photography: Scott Frances



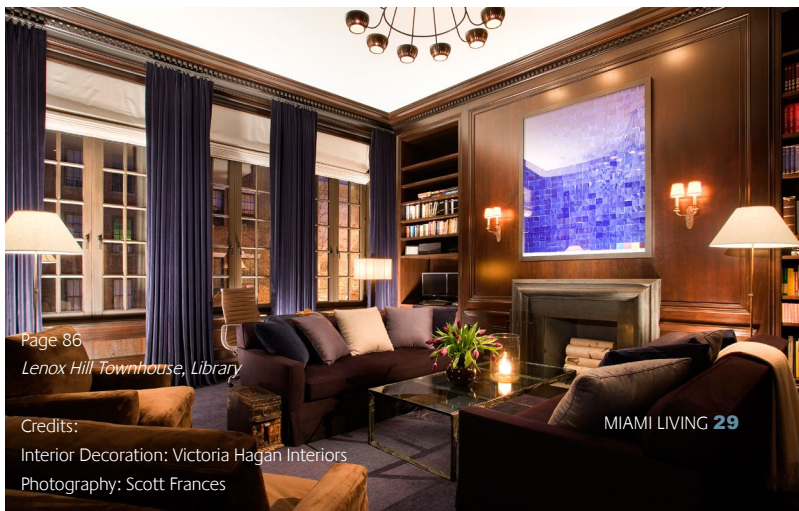
Page 39
East Side Duplex, Stair

Credits:
Interior Decorator: Eve Robinson Associates
Photography: Scott Frances



Page 49
Park Avenue Apartment, Foyer

Credits:
Interior Decoration: David Kleinberg Design Associates
Photography: Christopher Mason



Page 86
Lenox Hill Townhouse, Library

Credits:
Interior Decoration: Victoria Hagan Interiors
Photography: Scott Frances