

DESIGN & REALTY
people

glamorous MOVES

Designer Jean-Louis Deniot brings his worldly sensibilities and unabashed love for elegance to Elysee.

By Luis R. Rigual

Making a statement has never been a problem for Jean-Louis Deniot (deniot.com). Since establishing his firm in 2000, the Parisian designer (an *Architectural Digest* and *Elle Decor* favorite) has been producing head-turning interiors for clients around the world. One look at his work and it's not hard to see why. As he puts it, Deniot is in the business of "creating atmospheres," and his eclectic, emblematic and elegant interiors are testaments to what copious research and a sharp, discerning eye for layering can achieve.

Now he's infusing his signature into the common spaces of Elysee (elyseemiami.com), a 57-floor residential tower from Two Roads Development (where residences start at \$1.5 million) that's emerged as one of Miami's most anticipated condominium projects.

"My initial inspiration was to bring back a contemporary version of the early midcentury glamour when Miami was a very chic international resort destination," says Deniot, who's been visiting the city regularly for the last 15 years. "I watched the 1964 film *Soy Cuba*, read Morris Lapidus architecture books, went through hundreds of Dorothy Draper images and then wrote a list of contents to create the colors, shapes and finishes I wanted to use. The design was inspired by the views of the bay and the water, so I tried to bring those natural elements into the design of the interiors."

Visitors and, more importantly, residents will see those words come to fruition when Elysee is finished in 2019. Here, Deniot takes us on a room-by-room tour of what else we can expect.



JEAN-LOUIS DENIOT PHOTO BY STEPHAN JELAND



"The grand lobby foyer is purposely impressive and stately. Because it's so structured and geometrical, I introduced a lot of loose shapes. Graphics, blurry patterns and plain textured wallpaper mix with antique gold and silver leafing to create a rich and serene atmosphere."



"I love the grand dining room because it's poetic and festive. The theme of this room is really the screens on the walls; they remind me of something you would find at Coco Chanel's apartment in Paris. The table mimics the pool shape on the blue cove ceiling, so the whole room gives the impression that it's floating."



"I like to call the theater room the ladies boudoir because it reminds me of those French rooms where women congregated and men were not allowed. I wanted it to feel more feminine than the other rooms. Note how the retro-style curvy furnishings mimic the shape of a woman and the coffee table reminds us of a necklace."



"The library has a very masculine feeling, and I like the idea that it's frenzied, that there's a lot going on in this room. The mirrored bookcases reference the water and the view to avoid being too static, and the colors are warm and comforting, lots of tans and taupes, without being too heavy or gloomy. This is Miami, after all."



"The lobby lounge is a transitional space, which is made to feel intimate yet still part of the main reception area. We incorporated one-of-a-kind elements like custom-designed area rugs, vintage artwork and antique lighting to add depth and layers to the interiors."