

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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in the living room, a trio of crystal obelisks line the mantelpiece, and an antique Venetian mirror dominates the dining area. The mirror, which originally hung in a Venetian palazzo, gives the new residence a firm link to the Old World.

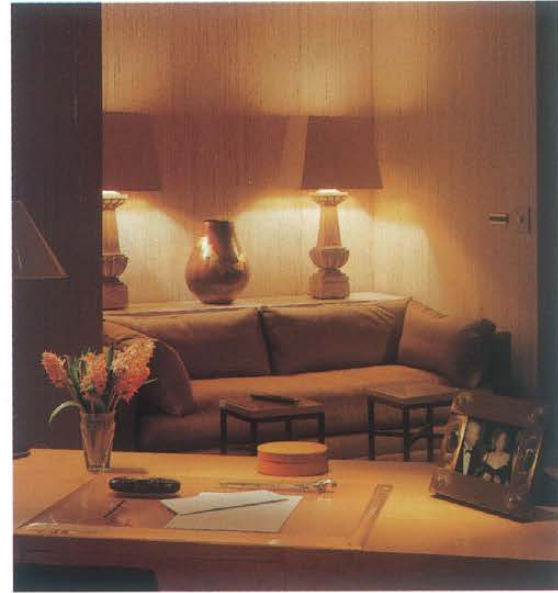
Quite a different look is achieved by the contemporary artworks that de Santis and his client picked out on a shopping trip to Santa Fe, such as John Hogan's vibrant *Spring Cedar Prairie Clouds*, mounted above the living room fireplace. The recognizably southwestern objects might seem out of place in Florida, but the client feels that the works evoke the American spirit. "Because I am European, the sense of space in America is important to me," he says. "Everything here

is so big, so full of boldness and strength. The mixture of European and American styles translates well."

The designer's final recommendation was sheer Roman shades on the windows overlooking Biscayne Bay. The client thought they might obstruct the view, but once the décor was fully in place, he recognized their subtle value. "You can still see through them," de Santis says, "yet they finish the room off nicely."

After years of searching for a place to call home, Michael de Santis's client says he so enjoys the serenity of his new surroundings that he no longer feels the urge to travel constantly. "I look out the window at the ships that pass by," he says. "There is no border, just the sea, which never ends." □

"I found him very easy to work with," says de Santis of his client. "I suggested things to him and he listened, and then he decided what he liked." BELOW: A pair of Neoclassical-style lamps bracket a gold-leafed clay pot by Santa Fe artist Ilena Grayson in the study.



BELOW: The master bedroom features more works by southwestern artists. A contemporary painting hangs above the bed, and a sculpture of a Navajo woman by Terry Slonaker rests on a steel-and-glass Billy Baldwin table. The bedside lamps and chair and ottoman fabric are from Mimi London. The cream fabric on the headboard, pillows and bedcovering is by Lee Jofa.

