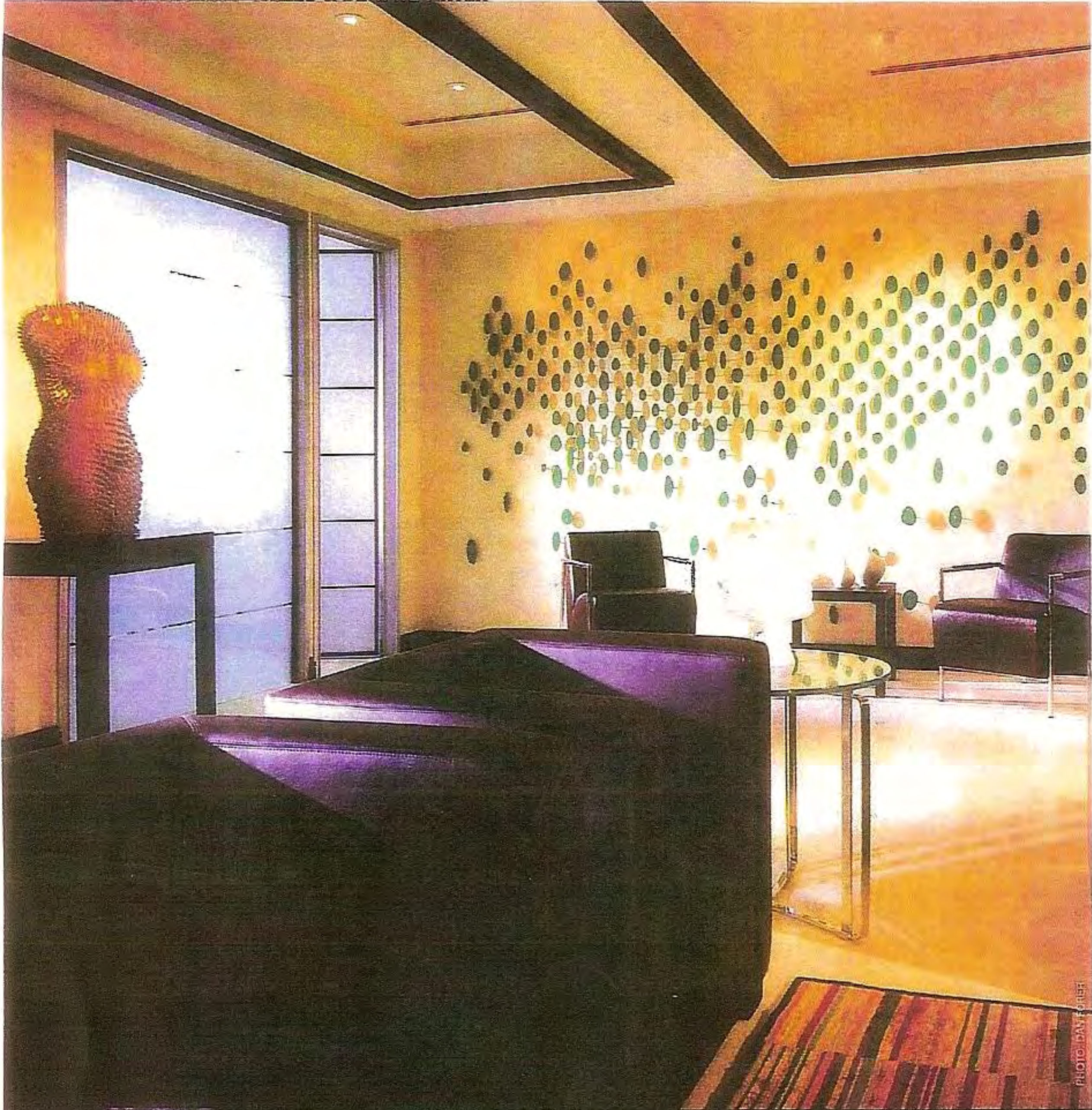


FLORIDA

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RESIDENTIAL SALES & DESIGN CENTER



When Cedrik Denain of the new Palazzo del Mare condo complex at Fisher Island commissioned Pepe Calderin to design its sales center, he knew the onsite experience would be crucial. Calderin's task was ambitious to say the least: transform six trailers into a state-of-the-art center that would set the tone for Fisher Island's new breed of A-list towers. The space aims to please on every front. The waiting area soothes the eye with muted tones and earthy materials (rough-finished quartz, onyx, glass, and wood). Chocolate seating by Artefacto and artwork by Carolina Sardi and Federico Uribe complete the space.

PHOTO: DAVE FARRER

IN THE RIGHT SPACE

Florida artists in their studios **BY JAYME AGEE**

As products of a voyeuristic society, we are captivated by filmmakers on the set, chefs in the kitchen, and musicians in the studio. But rarely do we get a glimpse of artists in their workspaces. **Six Florida artists were kind enough to invite us into their studios. Here they discuss art, life, and how their workspaces influence the creative process.**

The only way of knowing you've arrived are the big, black numbers spray-painted on the warehouse's white exterior. A step inside this warehouse, just north of the Miami Design District, reveals 5,000 square feet of space housing painted metal in various forms. Some pieces are completed and on display; others are cutouts waiting to be painted. Scrap pieces are stacked in the corner.

In the middle of it all there's Argentinean-born **Carolina Sardi**, who has been in Miami since 1995, and working in this particular studio since 2002. "It's very good to have such a big space, especially for sculpture," she explains. "All of these pieces take a lot of time, a lot of labor. Metal is a hard material, but with it you can do just about anything."

Sardi's work suggests this malleability through material as well as through theme and arrangement. It exemplifies something basic — not the everyday, mind you, but something simpler and more organic. Says Sardi, "My work is about exploring the ABC of visual language and applying it to my concept."

The forms have taken the shape of nests, eggs and beehives. Going to life's most basic matters are works like *Sky Cells*, a blue steel structure that references the obvious with its color and vertical composure, yet also hints at

the want of freedom: that of an exile, an undercurrent to Sardi's work. Just as the cells move upward, they may also be a prison. Life cannot escape the structure of society, even in its most basic form.

Site-specific artwork is a significant part of Sardi's portfolio. The voluminous studio space allows her to create artworks with monumentality, pieces that can exist outdoors or in front of a grand structure without being dwarfed. In 2002, Sardi completed *The Journey: Water Project & Suitcase Project*, a series of painted metal pieces installed at the Miami Seaport. For architect Chad Oppenheim's *Ilona*, a cruise ship-shaped condo project in South Beach, Sardi created a 100-foot-long gate of entwined metal that mimics the ocean's undulating rhythm. She has done other site-specific projects for the Fisher Island sales center and Neiman Marcus.

"Every piece is like words to a sentence, so they work together and have a dialogue that can change in different environments," says Sardi. "When you place them in different spaces, they interact differently with each other."

Sardi is represented by 10 galleries in the U.S. and internationally. In Florida, she is represented by Karpio+Facchini Gallery in Miami. ▷

