



## DESIGNER REFERENCE

## THOUGHTFUL SPACES

INSPIRING LUXURIOUS AND ELEGANT COMMUNAL INTERIORS

BY GAYLENE SALOMONS

Interior architect Cristian Pinedo has traveled the world creating exquisite interior spaces—from guest and amenity rooms to common areas, like lobbies and hallways—for luxury hospitality group Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA).

In 2015, Pinedo moved to the east coast of Florida to open an HBA office in Miami. In 2021, he opened his own firm, **Susurrus International**. “Our name means a whisper,” he says, explaining that he focuses on discreet and subtle ways to realize luxury in his designs. Pinedo is now able to focus on only one or two jobs each year, giving more attention to control and quality, sharing that “Key Biscayne is a quiet and relaxing environment for creativity.”

One year ago, he joined the team currently developing The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Naples, a coastal condominium enclave comprising 128 residences planned by Stock Development and scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2025.

Pinedo was tasked with the overall interior design of the common areas. To appeal to a broad range of tastes and backgrounds while creating an interior consistent with a luxury brand, Pinedo composes a distinct narrative associated with the historical, social, and physical elements of each property he is involved with.

Historical insights for the new Naples property include



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the fact that it's nestled in a resort town with a seaside vibe that has Mediterranean influences. Think: exposed wooden beams, stone walls, arched windows, and ceramic tiles. Socially, residents live in the sunshine, enjoying the Gulf of Mexico as the main attraction. And physically, the planned enclave will exist within a very specific estuary boundary, one with unique flora and fauna.

Pinedo produces ambience boards, showcasing various design selections that he believes best interpret these historical, social, and physical insights. For every selection he makes—from a side table in the lobby to light fixtures to the color of a rug—Pinedo refers to the narrative and asks: What are we trying to convey? His goal is to successfully capture the essence of the location in the design.

For example, the atrium and lobby lounge of The Ritz-



Carlton Residences, Naples, will feature a large spiral staircase. Reminiscent of a seashell, "it is coastal and geometric," says Pinedo. The private movie theater will be a dark and cozy place with a canopied wood ceiling—emulating the interwoven branches of the mangroves in the nearby waters; the spa rooms have a similar look and feel.

"Cristian has surprised us every step of the way," says Claudine Leger-Wetzel, vice president, sales and marketing, Stock Development. "His creativity is unbelievable, and he is personally and passionately involved with the project." (*susurrus.us*)

**CRISTIAN PINEDO OF SUSURRUS INTERNATIONAL—A MEMBER OF THE TEAM CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THE RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES, NAPLES—WAS TASKED WITH REALIZING THE OVERALL DESIGN OF THE COMMON AREAS.**