

DAYS OF WINE AND ROSÉS

SUDDENLY WEALTHY

THE MAKEOVER MAESTRO

CITY & SHORE

MAGAZINE

HOME AWAY
FROM HOME
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS

The
Ultimate
Gift Guide

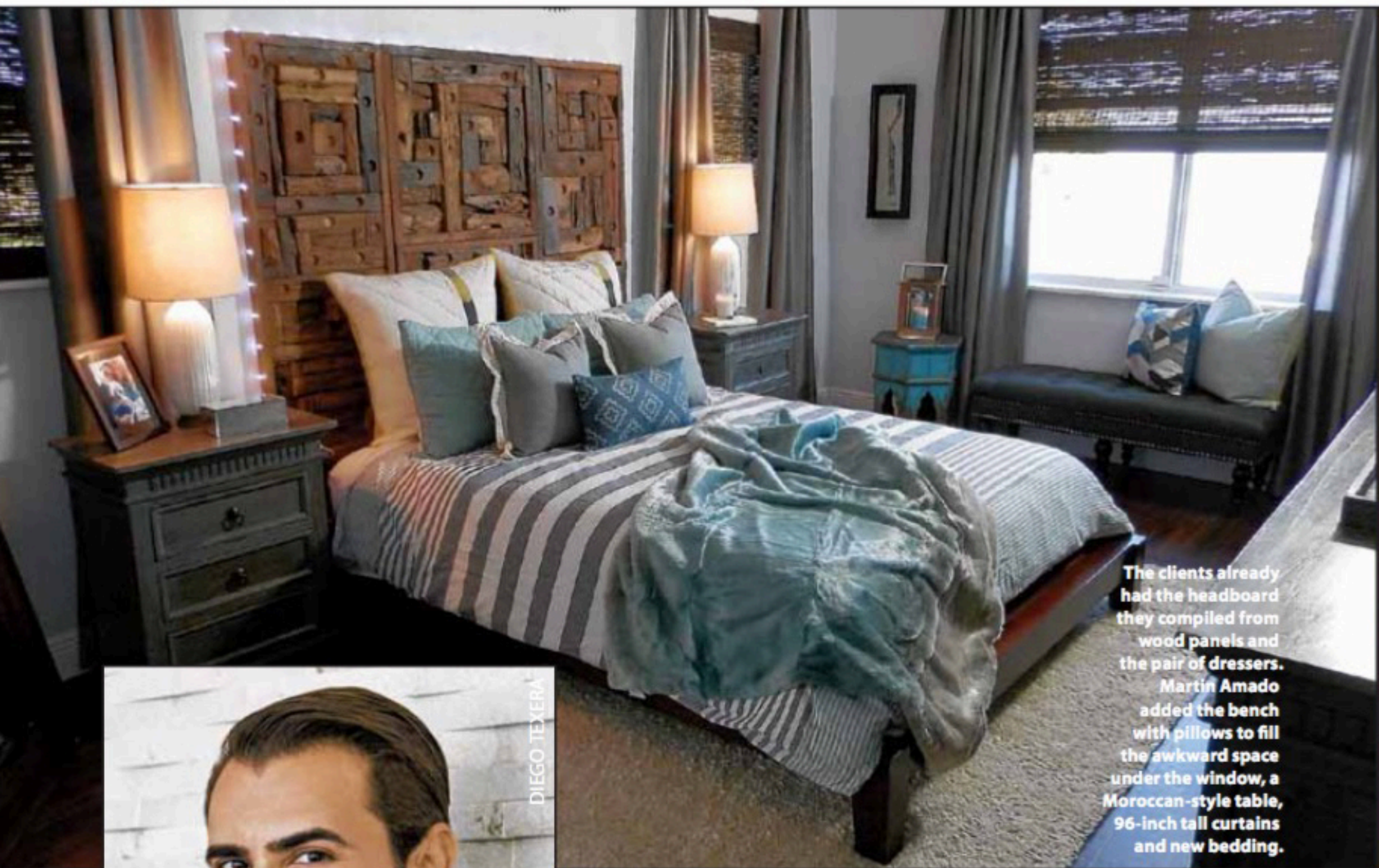
PALM BEACH
FOOD & WINE FEST



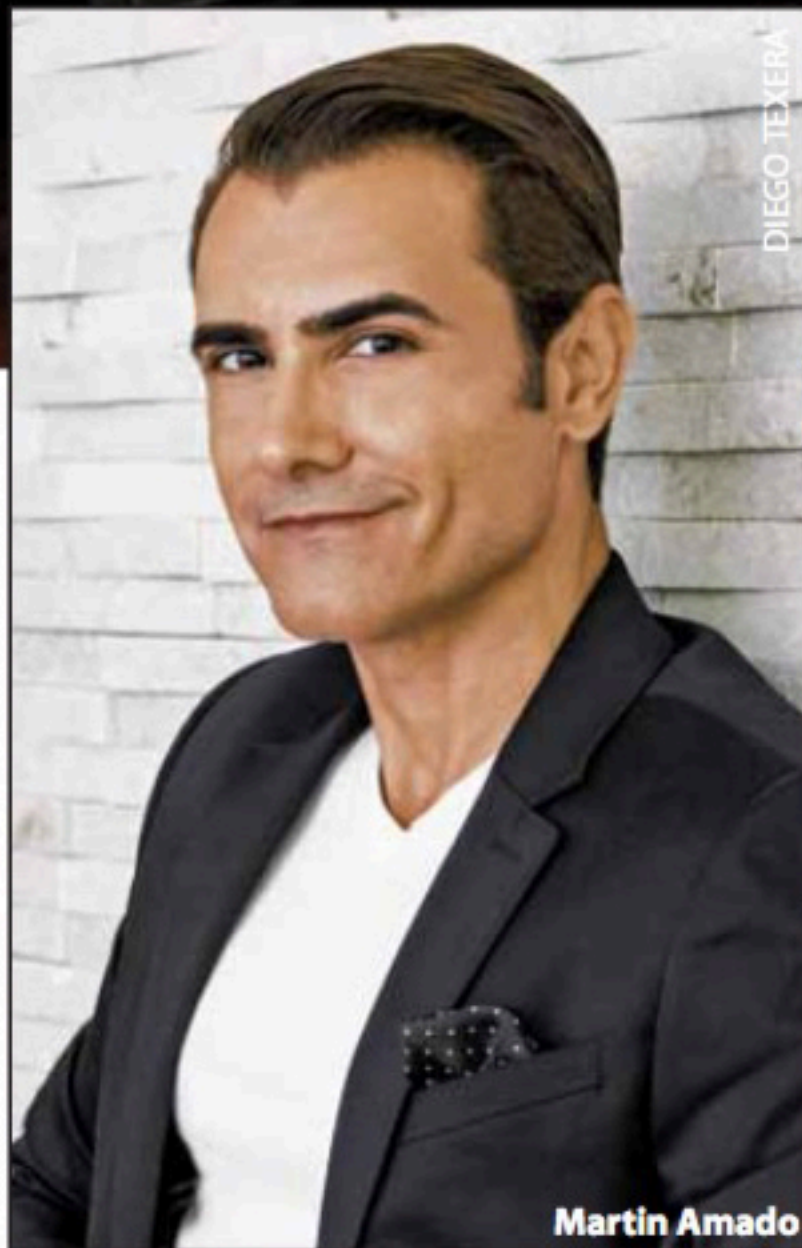
On Dancers

*The Miami City Ballet leaps into
the season's most glamorous gowns*

DECEMBER 2015



The clients already had the headboard they compiled from wood panels and the pair of dressers. Martin Amado added the bench with pillows to fill the awkward space under the window, a Moroccan-style table, 96-inch tall curtains and new bedding.



DIEGO TEXERA

Martin Amado

The Makeover Maestro

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub

When Martin Amado was a child, he loved to rearrange furniture, paint walls and buy new bedding for his bedroom. Design was his passion, but later he wanted to have a career in broadcasting.

Amado eventually found a way to integrate his two loves. He combined a degree in broadcast journalism from Florida International University with his design experience as a visual merchandiser in a retail store. These two talents helped him become the "Makeover Maestro" on WSVN-Ch. 7's "Room for Improvement," a segment on the news that illustrates everything from making an inexpensive pet bed to creating a romantic bedroom. He is

also the home décor contributor to *Un Nuevo Día*, Telemundo's national morning program; and has appeared as a host/designer on HGTV and was a home décor and DIY expert on a web series for Moen faucets for three years

"I take inspiration from the space and the homeowner, and combine elements such as architectural details, paint colors, furnishings, lighting and decorative accessories, which in the end tell a story about the person who lives in the home."

City & Shore: What do you call yourself?

A client won Amado's services in a silent auction and a \$500 gift card from City Furniture. The existing coffee table was supplemented with a sofa and chairs from City Furniture. The rug, lamps, artwork and garden stool came from HomeGoods.



The baby's room was designed so it could transition when the child grew older. The dresser could be used as a changing table without looking juvenile. The pillow is from Jonathan Adler.



Martin Amado: A home décor and lifestyle expert.

C&S: What is your design mantra?

MA: Design is in the details. Furnishings alone and a high price don't necessarily translate to high style. A room is designed in layers. Each is equally as important so in the end you have a cohesive design that is a true reflection of the client.

C&S: Why doesn't good design have to be expensive?

MA: I avoid custom-made. You can buy good design with a high-end look in stores like HomeGoods, Z Gallerie, Marshall's and Pottery Barn and in catalogs like Ballard Designs. I also recycle a big portion of what the client has. The result is an updated look combining old and new pieces.

C&S: Do you have clients outside your TV show?

MA: I work with clients through my home-styling company, The Wow Factor! I specialize in one-day makeovers working with a minimal budget to achieve a decorator look for less.

C&S: What are you sorry you didn't buy for yourself?

MA: I'm constantly shopping for makeovers. There is always something beautiful, unique – what I consider to be a 'shopping find.' But as much as I would want it for my home, I just don't have room for it. Luckily, I'm able to get it out of my system through my work, since I can still purchase it and use it in a client's home. I'm able to enjoy it vicariously through them.

C&S: Do you do any charity work?

MA: I've worked with Habitat for Humanity decorating spaces

for first-time homeowners and families in need. I also redesigned the playroom for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida; the reception area for the His House Children's Home; and have collaborated with ChildNet, Lighthouse for the Blind, International Kids Fund and public schools. It's rewarding to work on these charitable projects and see the joy design brings to others.

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