

# I.D.



## 50 Designers/50 States Who Represents Yours?





Private and public spaces collide in the gigantic outdoor Living Room, 2001, a Miami warehouse adorned with 42-foot-high walls, a stucco sofa, two 15-foot lamps, and a 40-foot curtain.

## Two Who Tango

Argentine-born architects who have known each other since childhood, Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt arrived in Miami Beach in 1983. Marquardt initially made her name as a painter who invoked the magic realism of Latin American novels and film; Behar worked on architectural projects that were largely theoretical. In 1996, they officially began to collaborate after winning a public art commission for the now-famous Miami "M," a 45-foot tall sculpture painted bright red. The work is a city symbol, a clock tower, a giant toy—utterly simple and yet open to an array of interpretations. Other commissions quickly followed, among them The Living Room public plaza-cum-art installation in the Miami Design District—an ode to Magritte in tropical pinks and oranges—and the more Rousseau-like Paradise Room murals at Fairchild Tropical Garden's Jean M. Shehan Visitors Center.

The husband-and-wife duo is entwined so closely that no idea seems to have a single origin, no sentence a single speaker. Their tiny Miami Beach house is their studio. Ideas are tested in an indoor sandbox in which they have placed figures, model buildings, paper sailboats, and rocket ships. These miniatures are both "real and imaginary, to parallel the way we work, in which the fantastic becomes a part of everyday life," says Behar. "Like dreams that grew," adds Marquardt.

Their affection for the fantastical as well as the childlike is what makes their work resonate. Small-scale pieces, murals, and huge public art installations alike depict an ideal Florida that has been the subject of myth since the Spaniards began seeking the Fountain of Youth four centuries ago. *Beth Dunlop*

Sunshine State



Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar  
*R&R Studios*

Ages: 50 (Behar); 48 (Marquardt)  
Residents of Florida since: 1983  
Favorite place in state: Miami Beach  
Where we'd be if we didn't live here: Rosario: "This is the place we want to live."

Roberto: "What about Venice or Rome?"  
Rosario: "Okay, if you insist, Rome."  
Our state slogan would be: "Because the sky is blue"  
Our state mascot would be: The mosquito