

A photograph of a modern interior space. On the left, a large glass wall looks out onto a patio with a lounge chair. A thick black pillar stands in the foreground. To the right, two wooden chairs with a curved, organic design are on a striped rug. A black metal table with a glass top is partially visible in the bottom right. A modern lamp with a black frame and a white shade stands near the chairs. The floor is light-colored and reflective.

EASY LANDING

Jet-setting investor Nat Rothschild outfits a new bachelor pad in Rio de Janeiro



Rothschild (above), an inveterate traveler, now divides his time between his Rio home and a handful of others. ABOVE RIGHT: In the glass-walled living room, a work by Brazilian photographer and graffiti artist

Alexandre Orion hangs above a massive wood sofa designed by Zervudachi and built by craftsman Afranio Cunha; the pillows are covered in rustic print textiles. The cotton kilim is from the São Paulo firm Kamy Tapetes.





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LAMOUR AS WELL AS MYSTERY SEEM TO surround the Honourable Nathaniel Philip Victor James Rothschild wherever he goes. Scion of the world's best known—and chicest—banking dynasty, he's a financial titan and international playboy who appears to spend most of his time aloft in his extensively equipped Gulfstream jet, flying between his homes in Klosters,

Switzerland; London; New York; Paris; Moscow; and Corfu. While Rothschild is intensely private, details of his personal life, even his vacations, often make the papers in his native England, given that his entourage generally includes a few cabinet ministers, movie stars, models, and Russian oligarchs.

The 39-year-old Rothschild, known as Nat to friends, recently added another jewel to his crown of domiciles. In Rio de Janeiro he now owns a spectacularly sited beachfront property, a glass house built on a lush hillside in the 1980s by Claudio Bernardes, one of Brazil's most esteemed modern architects.

But by the time Rothschild acquired it, the place had seen



The dining room's glass-top table is by Aurelio Martinez Florez; the photograph above it is by Orion. OPPOSITE: The new pool features an Op Art tile design by Zervudach.



better days. "It was in very bad condition when we found it," says his Paris-based interior designer, Tino Zervudachi, whose anxiety only increased when Rothschild told him he wanted the entire place more or less rebuilt in a year.

Though London-born Zervudachi is himself a very worldly figure—and a partner in the blue-chip firm Mlinaric, Henry & Zervudachi—this was his first project in Brazil. Going native, he quickly surmised, was the way to proceed. "I wanted to use as much local material as we could, including the furniture and art," he says. "I became enamored of Brazilian design. Everything is deeply connected to nature and seems to relate

to its overpowering presence in the country. There is just incredible ebullience of flora and fauna."

Working with a local architect, Luciano Pedrosa, he refigured the five-bedroom house, creating a huge glass-roofed great room for living and dining. Exotic hardwoods and stone glisten throughout, but there is relatively little in the way of textiles. "In tropical settings fabric retains humidity . . . which makes it rather disagreeable," says Zervudachi in his clipped British accent. While he designed several major furnishings for the home, which were produced by Brazilian Afranio Curcio, he also bought a number of Brazilian-modern pieces, such



From the master bedroom, Rothschild has a view over the pool to the green hills beyond.

ABOVE RIGHT: Zervudachi kept the furnishings in the space simple, choosing

Himo chairs from Interni to accompany a red-lacquer Pi table from Micasa by the sliding glass doors. The six-legged console was custom made; the lanterns are from Firma Casa.





pair of Whale chairs by Julia Krantz. Outdoors, on a terrace facing the sea, Zervudachi laid out what has become the urbane centerpiece of the residence: a pool whose elaborate tile design echoes the wave patterns on the famous Rio promenades by Roberto Burle Marx.

For Zervudachi's Oxford-educated client, in line to become the fifth Baron Rothschild, the good taste to savor all this is just in the blood. Waddesdon Manor, his family's turreted stone mansion in Buckinghamshire, is a signature example of the renowned *style Rothschild*. The future baron must be pleased with the results achieved in Rio, as he is now planning an addition.

And, press-shy as he is, he has allowed his place to be published here. ("I'm rather surprised," confides Zervudachi.)

Still, Rothschild remains characteristically elusive when sought out for comment. His assistant in London will not even divulge what continent he is on ("I cannot disclose," she whispers over the phone). This might have something to do with the \$3 billion merger he's just struck for his finance company, Vallar, with a seriously wealthy Indonesian family—an accord described in the financial press as one of the most complex of the past year.

After a deal like that, it would seem Rothschild is due for a vacation—perhaps in Rio? Time to check the papers. □