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PALM BEACH

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Back to the Future

Interior designer Danielle Rollins crafts a gem of a getaway home in classic Palm Beach style with a mid-century twist.

By Jean Nayar


Photography by Carmel Brantley

“For as long as I can remember, I’ve had an obsession with mid-century Palm Beach style,” says interior designer Danielle Rollins (danielledrollins.com), who has designed homes for both family and clients in styles ranging from very traditional to very modern. “It has such a wonderful tropical quality,” she adds. And so, driven by this Palm Beach passion over the past dozen years, she diligently acquired a collection of furnishings and accents from that era, knowing that one day she’d put them to use. “Friends would ask, ‘When are you going to decorate with those pieces?’ she says. “I told them ‘You’ll ee.””

As it turned out, the Atlanta native found the opportunity to compose them altogether in her own getaway pad, a small one-bedroom apartment she’d

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purchased in West Palm Beach shortly after her marriage ended with a divorce some years ago. Situated in a 1970s condominium just a block from the water, the compact apartment needed a major refresh, but Rollins saw its potential and was especially drawn to its primary selling feature—an expansive and very pretty veranda. So she bought it on the spot and immediately set about converting it into the pied-à-terre of her dreams. “The second I got the paint on the walls, it had this overwhelming, uplifting feeling,” she says. “I loved it!”

Since the apartment is quite small and she had much of what she needed to furnish it in storage, Rollins was able to pull off the interiors very quickly. “As soon as the paint was drying, I furnished the rooms virtually in one fell swoop,” she says. “I knew I wanted it to look like the inside of a “I Dream of Jeannie” bottle,” she says, “with a palette of seashell-y pinks, soft celadon, and watery blues.” Upholstered in a beribboned-patterned fabric infused with all of these hues, a perfectly preserved vintage Milo



Baughman sofa from the era—a gift from the Boca Grande estate property of a client—set the tone for the living room. After Rollins custom-made a chair to accompany the sofa and positioned a lounge-y daybed along one wall, she examined her lifestyle to determine the choice and placement of other pieces throughout the home.

“I looked around and asked ‘Where am I going to do puzzles? Where am I going to play backgammon? Where am I going to put down a drink?’” she explains, and then proceeded to fill in the gaps with furnishings designed to accommodate all these activities. Among the more notable of these pieces are a vintage set of Russell Woodard spun fiberglass wicker furnishings (some with cushions covered with koi-strewn Sunbrella fabric) on the verandah, a quirky lily-pod-like plaster side table in the living room, and a pair of Stéphane Boudin-designed Maison Jansen club chairs from a French cruise ship flanking a mid-century McGuire table in the bedroom. “I found all of the pieces in local shops or on web sites like One King’s Lane, E-bay, and 1st dibs,” says



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the designer. Completing the ensemble is a mix of mid-century artworks, including a large fluid abstract painting over the daybed and a collection of drawings she'd seen in house designed by the late Atlanta designer extraordinaire T. Gordon Little and later found in a local shop in Palm Beach.

Even the kitchen, where she enlisted her new beau to help her fix up the bamboo-trimmed breakfront, is in keeping with the home's classic Palm

Beach style. "I love a guy with a power tool," she says of the romance that has blossomed between the couple since they met. So content has Rollins been since occupying her enchanting pied-à-terre, that she has decided to settle in Palm Beach for the long haul. As such, she'll give up the dreamy dwelling for larger digs, which, in addition to including more space for living and working, will no doubt brim with intonations of the Palm Beach style she loves. ■



DESIGN DETAILS

BENJAMIN MOORE

Living room "Pink Cloud" 887 Perle Finish wall color and "Black" 2132-10 high gloss door trim color
benjaminmoore.com

CIRCA LIGHTING

Living room "Ralph Lauren" floor lamps
circalighting.com

MAGUIRE

Living room vintage coffee table
maguire.com

DANIELLE ROLLINS HOME

Custom black Chinoiserie coffee table
danielledrollins.com

DANIELLE ROLLINS HOME

Living room custom daybed
danielledrollins.com

KRAVET

White "Matelasse" daybed upholstery
kravet.com

SCHUYLER SAMPERTON

TEXTILES

Living room "Eden" Sweet Pea, Meadow and Serene throw pillow fabric
schuylersampertontextiles.com

BAKER

Vintage Ming chairs
bakerfurniture.com

DANIELLE ROLLINS HOME

Ming chair upholstery, custom lampshades Danielle Rollins Home "Blush" linen
danielledrollins.com

WENDOVER ART GROUP

Art Danielle Rollins for Wendover Art Group
onekingslane.com

DASH & ALBERT ANNIE SELKE

Living room and bedroom rugs
annieselke.com

THIBAUT

Master bedroom wallpaper
thibaultdesign.com

BALLARD DESIGNS

Bedroom "Katherine" headboard
ballarddesigns.com

MATOUK

Bedding
matouk.com

VINTAGE

Bedroom Maison Jansen slipper chairs, lamps, mirror and signed Albertus Seba shell art