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MARCH 2016

# Palm Beach PERFECT

Designers Celerie Kemble and Lindsey Herod revive a 1940s Florida retreat with retro-fresh furnishings and tropical color



By Marisa Spyker  
Photographs by Jessica Glynn  
Styling by Liz Strong





The Mediterranean Revival-style home was designed by John Volk in the 1940s. Top: The pendant in the kitchen is custom-colored Peachy Keen by Benjamin Moore. The glossy tiles are by Tiepolo Tileworks.

**J**ust beyond an emerald wall of boxwoods on a quiet, palm-lined street, a whitewashed home with electric blue shutters rises like the sun peeking over the horizon line. Amid the glamour of Palm Beach, the 1940s house had persisted as glitzy estates and modern manses with square footage in the five digits had grown up around it. “It has a classic, understated design,” says Maureen Carr, who purchased the property with her husband, Walter Nollmann, three years ago. “You could tell it was older, but that made it really special.”

They later found out it wasn’t just older—it was the brainchild of one of Palm Beach’s most prolific architects, John Volk. In the 1920s, Volk set the tone for the Palm Beach vernacular, dreaming up island homes with Mediterranean and Bermudan influences for a client roster that included Vanderbilts, Fords, and Pulitzers. He introduced trademark features like majestic spiral staircases and expansive windows that connected the interiors to the outside. Today, his work is considered Old Florida architecture at its finest.

Carr and Nollmann had spent two years casually searching for a comfortable escape in Palm Beach, where they’d been vacationing from their Manhattan home with their two 20-something sons. When this 5,000-square-foot find came on the market, they fell in love with the modest scale of the rooms and the way each flowed easily into the next, and were drawn to its stately, Mediterranean Revival-style exterior. But the feature that really sealed their affection was its historic charm. “It grabbed us from the minute we walked in,” says Nollmann. The pair called on a design team as classically Palm Beach as the home itself:

In the living room, sky blue ceilings and lemonade-colored walls create a soft backdrop for pops of watermelon and aqua. The modern coffee table has goatskin inlay and cubed brass legs.

**“In Florida, there’s endless inspiration in the landscape. We pulled from the pink of hibiscus, the turquoise of the ocean”**

—designer Lindsey Herod





The tropical wallpaper in this guest bath is custom cut to extend “leaves” onto the ceiling. Top: Madagascar cloth wallpaper and trim painted Twilight by Benjamin Moore frame the family room.



Celerie Kemble and Lindsey Herod. “We knew that Celerie grew up here, and she also isn’t afraid to use color,” Nollmann says. “We wanted to take advantage of the fact that it’s Florida—you can paint your bedroom pink or teal and it makes perfect sense.”

With the couple’s input, the designers dreamed up a palette that’s as at home here as it is in a Lilly Pulitzer catalogue. “In Florida, there’s endless inspiration in the landscape,” says Herod. “So we pulled from the views outside—the pink of hibiscus, the turquoise of the ocean, and the greenery that surrounds the home.” In the kitchen, a pale lime green coats the cabinets and backsplash, accented with white Corian countertops, lemon accessories, and a chandelier the color of pink grapefruit. “The kitchen is like one big bowl of citrus,” says Herod. The dining room’s mint-hued walls and ceilings painted a shade lighter take their cues from a painting of a lifeguard stand the owners scooped up in Manhattan and vintage dining chairs Herod re-covered in green faux leather.

To keep the mix of bold and pastel shades beach-friendly and casual, the designers incorporated plenty of natural textures into the walls and decor. Pecky cypress ceilings continue from the outdoor pool area into the family room, where grasscloth walls pair with bamboo accessories like curtain rods and a bar cart scored at a Dixie Highway antiques shop. “Organic details like these really freshen up the room,” says Herod.

Ultimately, that’s the *raison d’être* for color in the house: to breathe new life into what once was dated. “As soon as I open the front door, I’m happy,” says Carr. “I can’t wait to put fresh flowers on the table, go for a walk down to the beach, and then come home and kick back by the pool with my family.” ■ For more information, see Sources, page 96.



Pale pink walls (painted Coral Buff by Benjamin Moore) give this guest room a welcoming, rosy glow. Opposite: The custom rug, from Merida, ties together the dining room's various shades of green.