

Easy living is assured on the terrace of designer Danielle Rollins' Palm Beach apartment, where vintage Russell Woodard outdoor seating was reupholstered in soothing blue Sunbrella fabrics.



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 midcentury twist.

*By Jean Nayar
Photography by Carmel Brantley*

“For as long as I can remember, I’ve had an obsession with midcentury 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 see.’”

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

Perched on a custom daybed in her living room, Danielle Rollins sits amid elements of the trove of vintage treasures that epitomize the Palm Beach style she loves, including artworks from the era found at local antiques shops. Opposite page, from top: A pastel palette sets a feminine tone throughout—including the pale green surfaces of the bamboo breakfront in the kitchen: “The extra living space on the veranda is like gold to me,” says Rollins. “I often sit there in the evening, light a candle and enjoy the breezes.”



up in Palm Beach on Atlantic Avenue, 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-a-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 loungey 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 veranda, a quirky lily pad-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 midcentury McGuire table in the bedroom. “I found all of the pieces in local shops or on websites like



One Kings Lane, eBay and 1st dibs,” says the designer. Completing the ensemble is a mix of midcentury artworks, including a large fluid abstract painting over the daybed and a collection of drawings she’d seen in a 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 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-a-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. ■

From left: “I love a blue bedroom,” says Rollins. “Blue is so calming and I’m drawn to the colors of the ocean,” which prevail in the linens, shades and upholstery fabrics used in the room; in the living room, the original fabric on the sofa served as the inspiration for the palette throughout the home. A seagrass rug grounds the room with a relaxed air.



DESIGN DETAILS

BAKER
Vintage Ming chairs
bakerfurniture.com

BALLARD DESIGNS
Bedroom Katherine headboard
ballarddesigns.com

BENJAMIN MOORE
Bathroom and kitchen Mellow Pink 2094-70 wall paint, 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

DANIELLE ROLLINS HOME
Custom black chinoiserie coffee table, living room custom daybed, Ming chair upholstery, custom lampshades in Danielle Rollins Home Blush linen and in raffia, custom outdoor sofa in Koi on Blue fabric
danielledrollins.com

DASH & ALBERT ANNIE SELKE
Living room and bedroom rugs
annieselke.com

KRAVET
White Matelasse daybed upholstery
kravet.com

MAGUIRE
Living room vintage coffee table
maguire.com

MAITLAND SMITH
Bedroom vintage tessellated shell desk
maitland-smith.com

MATOUK
Bedding
matouk.com

SCHUYLER SAMPERTON TEXTILES
Living room Eden Sweet Pea, Meadow and Serene pillow fabric
schuylersampertontextiles.com

THIBAUT
Master bedroom wallpaper
thibaultdesign.com

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

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Art Danielle Rollins for Wendover Art Group
onekingslane.com