

All Dressed Up

Elegance meets approachability in this Palm Beach townhome, where designer Lisa Henderson creates a sophisticated and showstopping getaway for a New York family

By Paige Porter Fischer Photographs by Carmel Brantley



The Living Room

The hot pink mohair sofa with tassel trim by Samuel & Sons is the star of this space. Designer Lisa Henderson wove in other shades of pink—in artwork and upholstery—to reinforce the palette. Swivel chairs upholstered in Quadrille fabric wear blue welting, which references the ocean view. “The wall was massive in here, so we used art to make the space feel more intimate,” says Henderson. The 60-inch painting is ringed in textural shell art by Lulu DK. One of the designer’s favorite paint colors, Pale Powder by Farrow & Ball, makes a colorful yet clean backdrop for the more vibrant hues.



Henderson replaced a Plexiglas banister in the dining room with a Chippendale-style one in white, which delineates the space from the living room, a few stairs below it.



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esigner Lisa Henderson had two words in mind when she set out to redesign her clients' Palm Beach town house: fun and dressy. "My clients wanted this house to be comfortable, but they really wanted it to feel refined," says Henderson, who already had designed the family's New York City home and knew their tastes and sensibilities. "They did not want a casual beach house or that vintage Palm Beach look. Instead, they wanted it to be polished. But we didn't want it to look like a showroom, so we focused on layering color, pattern, and texture to make it warm."

Henderson worked closely with an on-site contractor to redo almost every element "except the bathroom," she says, including repositioning the stairway and orienting the kitchen toward the ocean view. Henderson reimagined every single interior finish, from new herringbone floors to the Chippendale-style banister. Then came the fun part—using maximum color via wallpaper and fabrics in vibrant greens, blues, and pinks to express the merry vibe that seems to prevail in Palm Beach, she says. "My client said, 'Give me all the trim, welts, and fringe. I want all of it,'" says Henderson. "And I said, 'Done.' She was speaking my language."

The designer layered pieces from India with antiques and paintings from Paris, married intricate tone-on-tone patterns with bolder florals, and incorporated plenty of woven materials for warmth and texture. "The result is a home that feels dressy, yes, but very happy," she says. "It's all good moods in Palm Beach, and this home is no exception. It's impossible not to feel happy when you walk in the door. The owners told me they can't seem to stay away, regardless of the season, which for me is the most rewarding outcome possible."

The Dining Room

"Since this is a pass-through room from the entryway to the living room, I wanted to try to define the space as its own," says Henderson. She chose a whimsical Ferrick Mason fabric for the dining chairs that mimics all the colors in the living room beyond it. Needing art that could fill the wall space, she framed a pair of 80-inch-tall archival prints (far less expensive than the originals) by Arienne Lepretre. The palm tree floor lamp was one of the designer's favorite finds in Paris. Although it is playful in shape and spirit, the aged brass material adds formality. Henderson blended in textures with a grasscloth console table (inset) from Society Social and a jute scalloped rug to relax the more formal elements of the room. "It's a mash-up, but it works," she says.



Farrow & Ball's Pale Powder on the walls works as a neutral shade. "It reads more greenish with lots of natural light and bluer in spaces that are darker," says Henderson.

The Kitchen

Henderson worked with the contractor to reconfigure the kitchen and expose it to the water views. Inspired by that view, she painted the new cabinetry (right) Green Blue by Farrow & Ball and accented it with simple round knobs for hardware and Carrara marble for the counters and backsplash. "It's essentially a wide galley space," she says, "so we wanted it be clean and efficient, yet still stylish." Wicker chairs from Soane Britain hug the breakfast table (above). Henderson dressed up the cushions in a Carolina Irving fabric that honors the home's color palette. An airy light fixture from Coleen and Company illuminates the space, and a wide herringbone pattern on the white oak floors delivers its own drama.



The Daughter's Bedroom

Henderson wanted this room to be magical and sophisticated. "I love this fabric," she says of the bold pink-and-green print from Quadrille. "I think it has such a quintessential Palm Beach quality—making it the perfect choice for this happy, fun, beachfront bedroom." Henderson paired the floral pattern with another bright green Quadrille fabric for the headboard, canopy, and drapes. She found the pair of bedside tables at Palm Beach Regency.





Quadrille Home Couture's Lorraine fabric in Turquoise and Green draws the eye outside and perfectly matches the blue of the ocean, reinforcing the coastal locale.

“I love sourcing the fabrics we use for custom lampshades—everything from linens to voiles or fabrics I bring back from Paris. A colorful, pretty fabric shade is one of my favorite ways to elevate a space” —Lisa Henderson

The Guest Bedroom

Henderson wanted the space to deliver a dramatic first impression because this bedroom is off the main corridor that runs from the front door to the living room. “We did the entire room in the same pattern—from the headboard to the upholstery, walls, and window treatments,” she says. To keep things cohesive visually, she repeated the same Quadrille fabric on the window treatments in the living room. “When you have spaces that correlate to each other, using one fabric in both rooms helps to maintain continuity.”



The Primary Bedroom

“This bed took on a life of its own,” says Henderson. “It was quite the thing.” Using a photo from a favorite design book as inspiration, the designer commissioned the one-of-a-kind, handcrafted four-poster bed from The Raj Company in India. The Quadrille fabric on the headboard, canopy, and drapes was the starting point for the room’s palette. Tone-on-tone wallpaper creates a subtle patterned backdrop without stealing the show from the hero fabric. Henderson chose a pair of Christopher Spitzmiller lamps in bright yellow to deliver an element of surprise, giving each a custom shade made from fabric she found in Paris.



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The Back Patio

Chippendale-style furniture from Brown Jordan is shaded by Boutique Tents scalloped umbrellas. “Those were a must,” says Henderson. Artificial turf between the large pavers makes outdoor maintenance easy.