

PALM BEACH COTTAGES & GARDENS

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**Great
Wallpaper
Ideas**



TRAVEL BY DESIGN:

Taking the Waters

JANUARY 2006
PALM BEACH COTTAGES & GARDENS



SORBET COLORS LIFT
A NORTH END HOME;
TIFFANY'S DESIGN
DIRECTOR TAKES TWO;
BOLD NEW PAPERS TO
DRESS UP PLAIN WALLS;
FAMILY LIFE IN A
SEASIDE PIED-A-TERRRE
AND INSPIRATION FOR
BATHROOMS IN
OLD WORLD SPAS.

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LOCAL COLOR

VINTAGE FURNISHINGS SET
AGAINST A PALETTE OF SORBET COLORS
ENERGIZE A 1950S BUNGALOW

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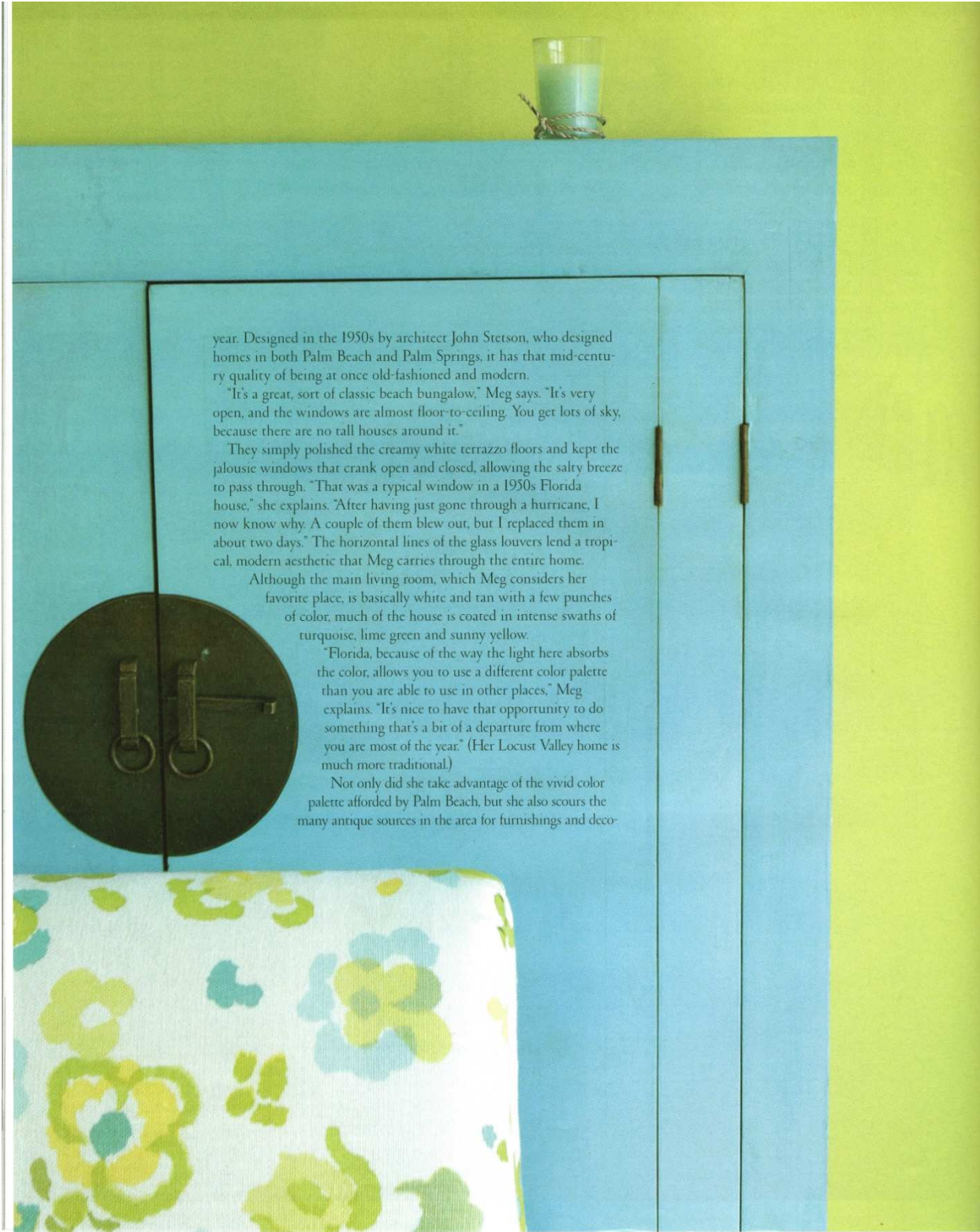
FOR MUCH OF THE COUNTRY, JANUARY INEVITABLY MEANS the winter doldrums. Here, however, winter is just hitting its temperate peak, and on any given weekend you can find one or more of Meg and Doug Braff's four boys zooming down Lake Trail on their bikes and scooters, reveling in the warmth and color of Florida. At night in their home on a small lane connecting Lake Worth and the Atlantic, they can even hear the surf rolling in on the beach.

72 | The Braffs live full time in the Northeast and fly to Palm Beach for the holidays and sometimes just for a weekend to escape the cold. For 15 years, Meg and Doug have been visiting his mother in Hobe Sound on Jupiter Island, and like many other young couples they've been charmed by the area's awakening urbanity—a sophisticated scene with a tropical twist.

"I love the architecture," says Meg, a Mississippi native who is an interior designer in New York City. She lives with her family in Locust Valley, New York, on the Gold Coast of Long Island, and this is exactly what drew her to their current winter retreat, which they've occupied for just over a



Blue Crush | Seabell prints in mirrored frames (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) from the Tronbridge Gallery in London pop against turquoise walls in the dining room. The chairs surrounding the chrome and glass dining room table (PREVIOUS SPREAD RIGHT) from Erhard Danenberg Antiques, are upholstered in Leopard from Bob Collins in West Palm Beach. The Capiz shell chandelier is by Oly Studio. **Tropical Tease** | Turquoise and lime green silk pillows from Crate & Barrel (OPPOSITE) dress woven furniture. **Seascape** | Windows in the loggia living room (THIS PAGE) drench the interior with light. Carpets with a Greek key green border are from the Horchow Collection. See Resources.



year. Designed in the 1950s by architect John Stetson, who designed homes in both Palm Beach and Palm Springs, it has that mid-century quality of being at once old-fashioned and modern.

"It's a great, sort of classic beach bungalow," Meg says. "It's very open, and the windows are almost floor-to-ceiling. You get lots of sky, because there are no tall houses around it."

They simply polished the creamy white terrazzo floors and kept the jalousie windows that crank open and closed, allowing the salty breeze to pass through. "That was a typical window in a 1950s Florida house," she explains. "After having just gone through a hurricane, I now know why. A couple of them blew out, but I replaced them in about two days." The horizontal lines of the glass louvers lend a tropical, modern aesthetic that Meg carries through the entire home.

Although the main living room, which Meg considers her favorite place, is basically white and tan with a few punches of color, much of the house is coated in intense swaths of turquoise, lime green and sunny yellow.

"Florida, because of the way the light here absorbs the color, allows you to use a different color palette than you are able to use in other places," Meg explains. "It's nice to have that opportunity to do something that's a bit of a departure from where you are most of the year." (Her Locust Valley home is much more traditional.)

Not only did she take advantage of the vivid color palette afforded by Palm Beach, but she also scours the many antique sources in the area for furnishings and deco-



Sky Light | Braff found a robin's egg blue Chinese cabinet (OPPOSITE) at Blue Moon Antiques on South Dixie Highway, one of her favorite local antique shops. She placed it in the study near a chair upholstered in a colorful linen by David Hicks. **Sun Kissed** | The eye-catching entryway (THIS PAGE) features a vivid yellow wallpaper from Clarence House. The seashell-framed mirror from Erhard Damenberg Antiques reflects the chinoiserie staircase. On the table is a pair of branch candlesticks from Arteriors. See Resources.

Topsy Turvy | Braff recognizes the sculptural kitsch of a collection of vintage woven furniture (BELOW LEFT). Cushions are all that's needed. **Green Thumb** | Lime green walls and curtains in Bamboo Foliage by F. Schumacher & Co. keep the mood of the master bedroom (BELOW RIGHT) fresh. **Citrus Twist** | Vintage accessories, like these mellow yellow porcelain lamps from Jay Milstein on South Dixie Highway (OPPOSITE), give old Palm Beach charm to newly decorated interiors. See Resources.



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rative pieces. "People move here from all over the world, and a lot of times it's a last stop for some of the pieces you find," she says. "It's just a treasure trove. I find things here, and I send them back to New York for clients."

Braff filled the home with furnishings that lean towards Art Deco—a sun burst mirror in the living room and a mirrored chest in the master bedroom. For a bit of fun, she even threw a shag rug in her furnishings mix. The only guideline she really adhered to, beyond making it everything her New York home was not, was to keep it low-maintenance and kid-friendly.

"I tried to use a range of very practical decorative elements, knowing I was going to be here with these four little munchkins dragging sand in," she

explains. "A lot of the carpets and things are from places like Crate & Barrel. It's a real hose-it-down beach house."

She also continues searching for items to keep the interiors fresh—perhaps another bit of white coral or a mirrored chest. It's something she always advises her clients to do after she finishes a project.

"I like it when I've worked with a client and I return two years later to discover that they've purchased new things," Meg says. "I like the fact that they didn't let what we did together just sit there. I love evolving interiors, because your life is evolving and your tastes are always changing—and hopefully for the better." 🌻

