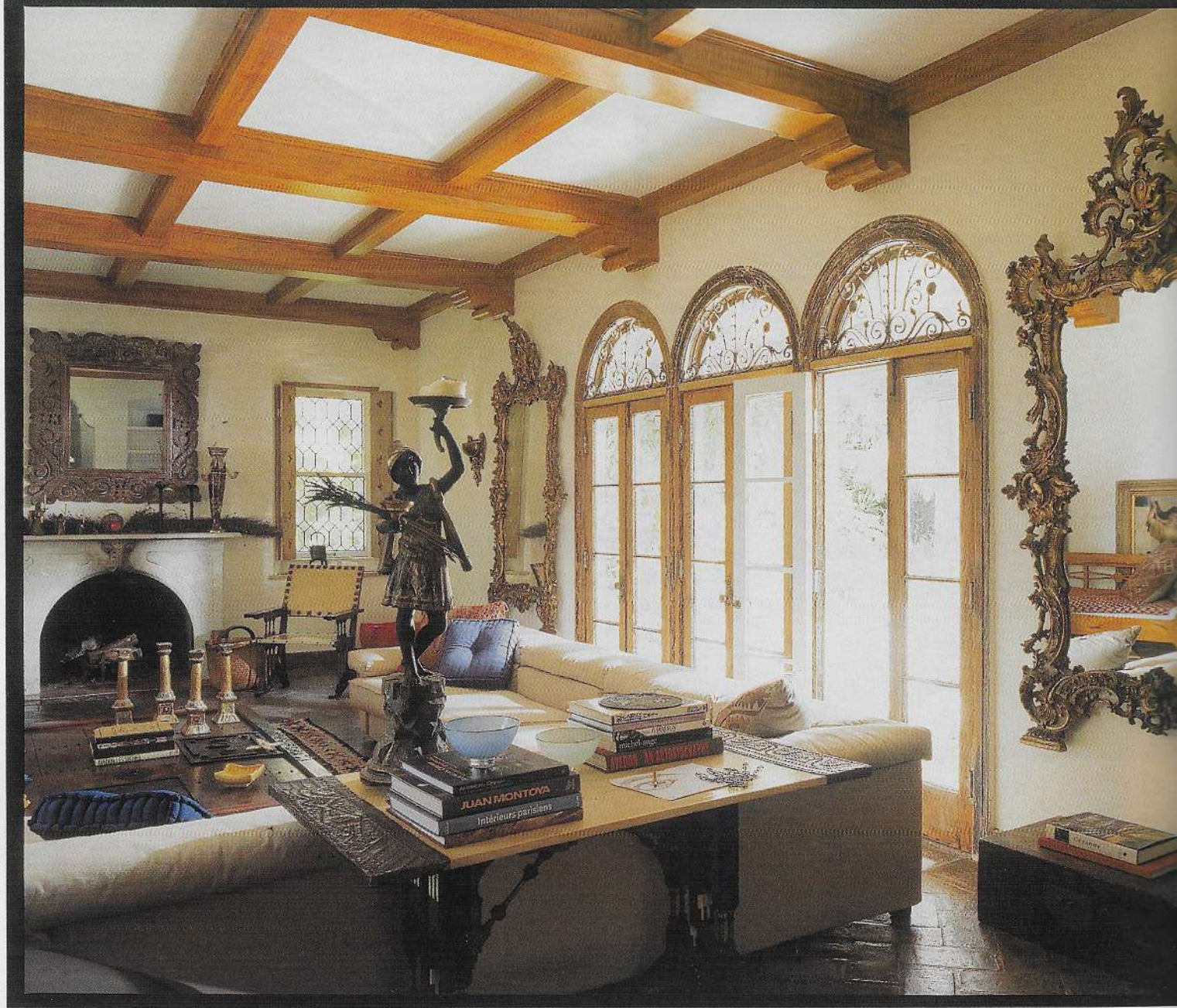


A World of Possibilities

AN ADVENTUROUS GLOBETROTTER BRINGS THE WORLD TO HER PALM BEACH HOME







In a time when

one of the most popular catch phrases is, "The world is getting smaller," Lisa Rowan strives to make hers ever larger. Given her natural gift for adventure, it's not as if she has to struggle to do so. Lisa has spent most of her career in the fashion business, though there have been the occasional side trips into such diverse pursuits as the USA Field Hockey Squad and a stint as a translator for the Tour de France for CBS television.

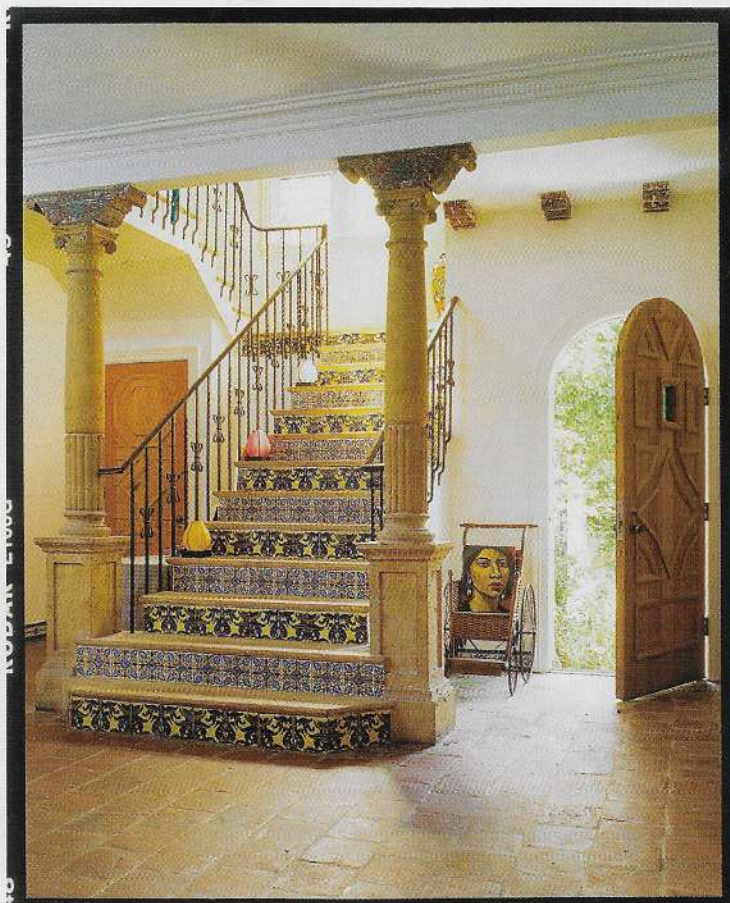
"After my training with the field hockey squad ended, I began a career in fashion with Willi Smith in New York," she says. "I stayed in fashion for the next 15 years, traveling the world for different companies." In Paris, it was Dior; in Tokyo, Revlon and in Milan, Armani, for whom she helped develop a presence in Japan. Fluent in Italian, French and English, Lisa soaked in the cultures around her as she used her creativity to put fashion in its best light. It's no surprise that her surroundings are a reflection of the worldly life she's led.

Living in Milan in 1994, Lisa returned to the United States to accompany her mother to Palm Beach. Pregnant at the time, a checkup revealed that she should not fly back to Europe. Instead, she stayed put and used her time searching for a home for a friend.

"I was touring with a realtor who needed to drop something of house," she remembers. "It was the end of May and it was noon, so it seemed oppressive, possibly worsened by the fact that I was eight months pregnant and his car didn't have air conditioning." Lisa decided to look at the 1925 neo-Mediterranean home. Once in the entryway, she had a moment. "It was so cool when I walked through the door," she explains. "I closed my eyes and said, 'I know this house: living room over there, room straight ahead, kitchen to the right....'"

By September, the house, which only had one previous owner, was hers, and she began a renovation that would remove layers of yellow paint

Spanning the Globe | "I don't find things, they find me," says Lisa Rowan about her worldly assortment of treasures collected from travels near and far. She found a set of metal-rimmed ceramic bowls from India (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) at an antique shop on Dixie Highway. **Where the Wild Things Are** | The 1925 neo-Mediterranean house (PREVIOUS SPREAD RIGHT) had only one owner before Lisa moved in. The entry boasts a table from the Incurable Collector in West Palm Beach. **That's Italian** | While working in Milan for Giorgio Armani, Lisa purchased a dining room table (OPPOSITE), which she found at a flea market. An 18th-century chandelier is also from Milan. **Fashionable Quarters** | In the living room (ABOVE), French doors flanked by two ornate Italian mirrors open to the loggia and pool area. See Resources.



Uncommon Objects | Lisa uses an antique stroller from upstate New York (TOP LEFT) to display artwork in the entryway. The Portuguese tiles on the stairs are original to the house. **Bathed in Sunshine** | The master bathroom (TOP RIGHT) includes a tub from Kobler and an enamel and metal embellished armchair from India. **Near and Far** | The dining room painting (ABOVE LEFT) is by Paul Manes, a Brooklyn artist. The drying rack underneath came from a hotel in upstate New York. **The Great Divider** | Lisa found a decorative wrought-iron screen (OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT), dividing the master bedroom from the other upstairs bedrooms, at a salvage shop in West Palm Beach. **Family Treasures** | The side tables (OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT) in the master bedroom were made by Juan Montoya, a family friend. The chair is from The Church Mouse consignment shop in Palm Beach, and the bench comes from central France. See Resources.





Design Rescue | Lisa discovered the table and chairs on the loggia (left) at two different West Palm Beach antique shops. **Natural Air Conditioning** The poolside hut (OPPOSITE) was built by Seminole Indians to maintain air circulation on even the hottest days. The thatching has lasted through many hurricanes," says Lisa, who also designed the pool and outside tile work. See page 70.

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virtually everything and uncover a casually elegant canvas upon which to make her mark. Lisa and her infant son Krystofer, now 13, were ensconced in their new home by January. "This is home for us," she says, "so my main goal with the interiors was comfort."

That doesn't mean she sacrificed anything in terms of style, as the combination of things she gathered on her travels fits together in the most naturally gracious way. "I would say 90 percent of the things in this house have a story," she remarks. "This is all my vision. The main task I had when renovating was to uncover what was already here."

The few improvements she chose to make include adding a swimming pool, fitting the second-floor Florida room off the master bedroom with stationary glass windows and replacing a non-working Roper range with an Aga. "I'm not joking when I say that everything was covered in yellow," she says. "Even the range hood over the Roper was painted a dreadful shade of it!"

An abundance of pecky cypress in the home had also been bathed in

sunny hues. Lisa was able to recover the natural feel of the wood by the molding of the dining room, but the beams in the coffered ceiling of the room were too fragile to risk stripping them. "I had a beautiful Biedermeier bench that I was going to place in the living room," she says, "so I hired a faux finish artisan who could make the beams match the bench."

Lisa avidly mixes styles and periods. Along with that Biedermeier bench in the living room is a coffee table made from a Japanese lacquer table and chairs by Carlo Bugatti. "The mix of what I have in the house is a reflection of all of the places I've been," she says. "What I love is that when I shut my door, I don't feel as if I'm in Palm Beach."

That said, Lisa is happy to live in what she deems a creative community. "Palm Beach is a wonderful place to raise a child, and my favorite time here is in the summer, because it reverts to a beach town. Indeed, it's this small-town feel that makes Palm Beach such a great place for globetrotters like Lisa Rowan. ☀