

# PALM BEACH COTTAGES & GARDENS

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## House of Mirrors!

### FEATURES

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with California Roots

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MEET THE DESIGNER

# Darren Henault

by Sophie Donelson



**Past Modern** | A living room with stained walnut floor (LEFT) sports a 1940's-style, leather-wrapped coffee table from Roman Thomas, plus custom upholstery and antiques in 19th century French and English designs. **The Designer** | An avid horseman, Darren Henault (BELOW LEFT) has clients in fashion, finance and entertainment. **Chevron** | Tumbled limestone tiles mixed with marble tiles from Ann Sacks (BELOW RIGHT) give texture to a bathroom wall. **Hideaway** | The window seat (BOTTOM) is upholstered with a Rajasthan sari and hides a queen size bed. See Resources.



**Where do you live in Palm Beach?** I'm here for six or seven weeks each year for the horse shows in Wellington, and I get lots of invitations to stay at friend's homes. Basically, I freeload. **Do you have a favorite place in the Palm Beach area?** The horse show is inspiring. Riding and competing gives me a great rush, a resource of energy which I can sustain and carry over to other aspects of my life. **Where did you receive training?** My friend's dad, an architect, noticed that I had a genuine interest in design—that the way I spoke about buildings and doorways and fabrics showed an innate talent. Three months later I quit my job and went back to school at F.I.T. (Fashion Institute of Technology). **Where is home?** New York during the week and Westport, Mass. on weekends. **Describe your home.** I recently overheard someone else describing it as stimulating but soothing. He wanted to go back because he knew he missed so much. That was the best compliment. **What's your favorite color?** Any color from the Farrow & Ball collection. **What are your favorite materials?** Any kind of stone and cast bronze. I get most excited when I have to design a bathroom, because I know I'll use a lot of stone. **When is your most creative time of the day?** Late afternoon. **What inspires you?** An iron crown moulding in a turn-of-the-century brownstone, Sir John Sloane's crazy town house in London, 19th century French upholstered furniture, glass beads and Palladian architecture. I have *some* reaction to everything I see. I'm *not* visually passive. **Who is your favorite fashion designer?** Madeleine Vionnet. She's credited with inventing the bias cut. The woman knew how to give fabric life, to make it flow. **What's your design philosophy?** I want to expand a client's idea of what's beautiful, and in the process create something for them that feels like their own. **Where and when was your last vacation?** Christmas and New Year's in Buenos Aires and Punta del Este, Uruguay. **Have you designed (or plan to design) any products?** While I've done many individual custom designs, I'm starting to think about a rug collection. I'll always cringe when I see... Anything made after 1948. I strongly believe... That I'm making the world a more beautiful place one room at a time.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER VITALE, WOUTER VANDERKOL, DANIEL AUBRY AND PAUL WICHELOE