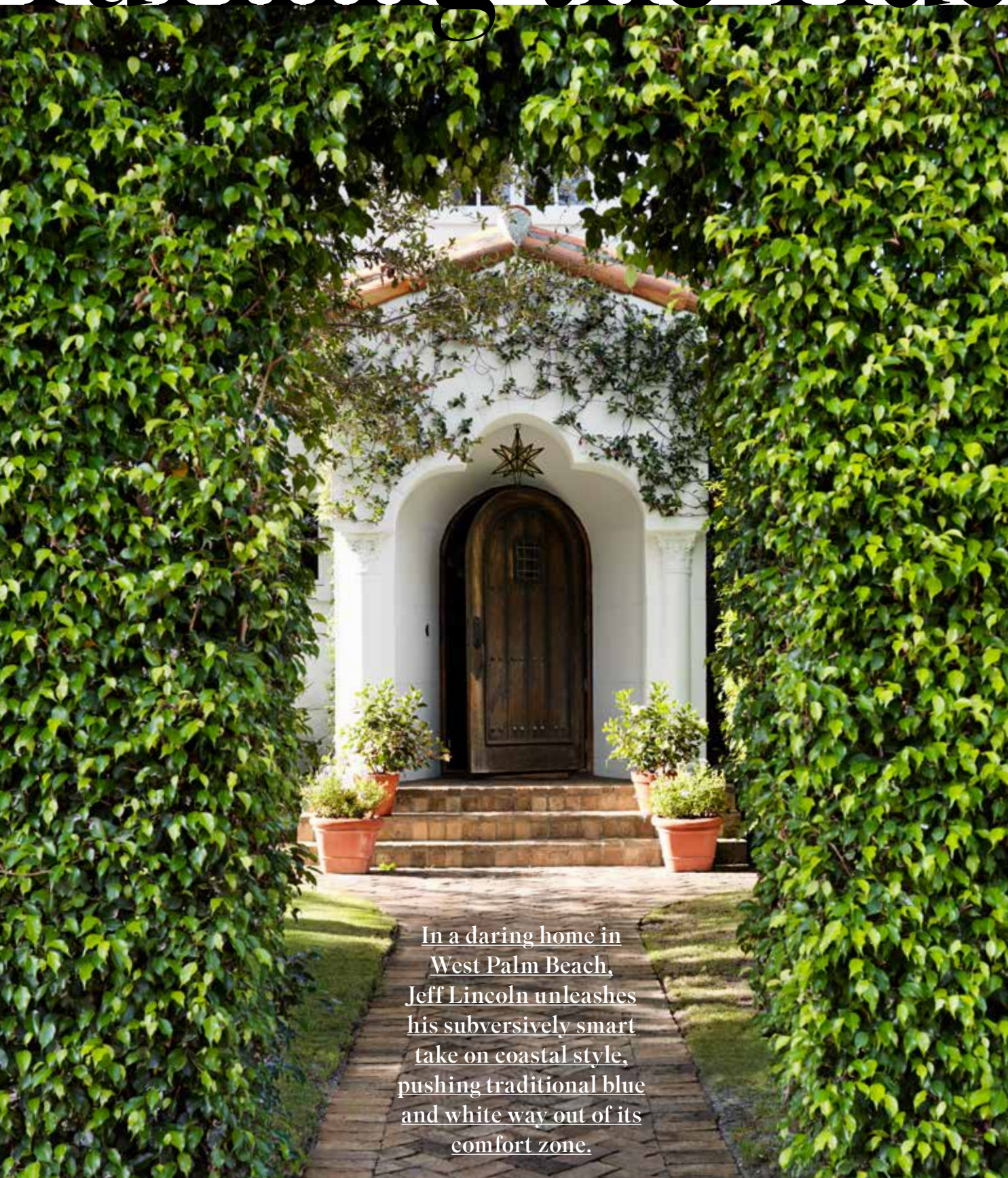


# Turning the Tide



In a daring home in West Palm Beach, Jeff Lincoln unleashes his subversively smart take on coastal style, pushing traditional blue and white way out of its comfort zone.



In the living room of a 4,500-square-foot Spanish-Mediterranean home in West Palm Beach, Florida, designer Jeff Lincoln chose a dark navy wall-covering—a Phillip Jeffries hemp embellished with gold—to bring “a feeling of respite from the strong Florida sun.” Console, Hollywood at Home. Lamp, Arteriors. **OPPOSITE:** Beyond the arched ficus hedge, potted plants on the steps say, “People live here. Come in!” Lincoln says.

Interior Design JEFF LINCOLN Interview DAVID A. KEEPS  
Photography JONNY VALIANT Producer DAVID M. MURPHY

WHAT FEELS FRESH

## Layered Lighting

Mixing a geometric chandelier, plaster sconces, and 1940s French lamps, the tiered illumination in this living room artfully delivers utility and style in triplicate.



# a

**As a third-generation New York City designer, have you seen it all?**

**JEFF LINCOLN:** I've definitely witnessed the coming and going of so many trends and period styles, from English country to midcentury modern. We're past all that now. We're post-trend. That's the biggest difference between my predecessors and myself. American decoration today allows the freedom to incorporate history in an unfussy, contemporary way. The owners of this West Palm Beach, Florida, home craved that liberty; they wanted a carefree house with effortless style.

**DAVID A. KEEPS: Doesn't everyone?**

The ultimate luxury is being able to relax and enjoy your home—not to have to swan around, plumping pillows and rearranging flowers. Who, in this day and age, needs custom lampshades? I don't want people to feel encumbered by their things.

**Is that why you use ceramic garden stools for side tables?**

That's part of the easy-living, indoor/outdoor sensibility of West Palm Beach. The stools are inexpensive and durable, and if you set a sweating drink on them or leave a puddle of gin, that's easily resolved with a paper towel.

**What's the history of this property?**

It's a Spanish-Mediterranean house, built 15 to 20 years ago, that harkens back to Addison Mizner and Maurice Fatio, the

two architects who established the Palm Beach style in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. They introduced ceilings made of pecky cypress, which is a very distressed wood that looks like Alfred Hitchcock's birds got to it. It's hard to find these days, but this house has it in the loggia.

**Why are there antlers lining the walls in that room?**

I wasn't trying to evoke an Austrian hunting lodge! It was a neat device to avoid using typical curtain sheers over the French doors that lead to the pool on one side and a garden sitting area on the other. You can really live indoors and out in this space.

**It's chic, but it doesn't look too precious for casual entertaining.**

The owners often host pool parties with friends and kids. The furniture is waterproof, so you can sit on it in a soaking-wet bathing suit. You can pull the sofas and club chairs outdoors by the pool and even leave them there in the rain.

**You love symmetry, don't you?**

I'm a big believer in creating visual triangles in a space. In the master bedroom, I have a pair of night tables flanking the bed and, on the opposite

side of the room, two sofas with a console between them. It's an organizing principle of two overlapping triangles that form a star.

**You also seem to gravitate toward star-shaped lanterns and constellation chandeliers.**

There's often an underutilized space near the ceiling. An overhead fixture fills that emptiness while putting the other furnishings in context. In the living room, the chandelier creates a pattern that makes sense of everything else in the room. I always favor anything that references an architectural look, such as the terra-cotta floors that came with the house. The

wool-and-raised jute rug looks tribal and contemporary. It takes the formal edge off the room without having to resort to sisal for the umpteenth time.

**There's a strong burst of blue in that space, but less color elsewhere.**

I'm not a beige kind of guy, but if you have too much strident, bombastic color, you get sick of it. Navy blue and white are timeless. For me, a no-color scheme is the new color scheme. I want the architecture and collections to carry the day.

**How do you choose furniture?**

Matisse once said that his work was the sum of everything he'd seen. That is my approach. I start with a talisman—in the living room, it's the 18th-century Swedish gilt mirror. Below it, I put a curved modern sofa and then just continued to yin and yang my way through the space.

**Was that your strategy in the entry?**

The foyer is a pure exercise in juxtaposition—blending the best of the past and present: a midcentury Italian chandelier with a contemporary center table, a neo-classical wooden sphinx made into a lamp, a 1940s French mirror and a rattan canopy chair. It's the opening act of the house, and I like to start with a bang.



**OPPOSITE:** "It's the most formal room in an informal house," Lincoln says of the living room. Large-scale pieces, like a mirror from David Duncan Antiques, and creamy upholstery from Dune brighten the space. Chandelier, Roll & Hill. Lincoln designed the Giacometti-style sconces. Lamps, Lucca Home. Rug, J.D. Staron. Stool, Mecox. **RIGHT:** "The foyer is like a cabinet of curiosities," he says. Table, RT Facts. Chair, Hive. Mirror, Coup d'Etat.

WHAT FEELS FRESH

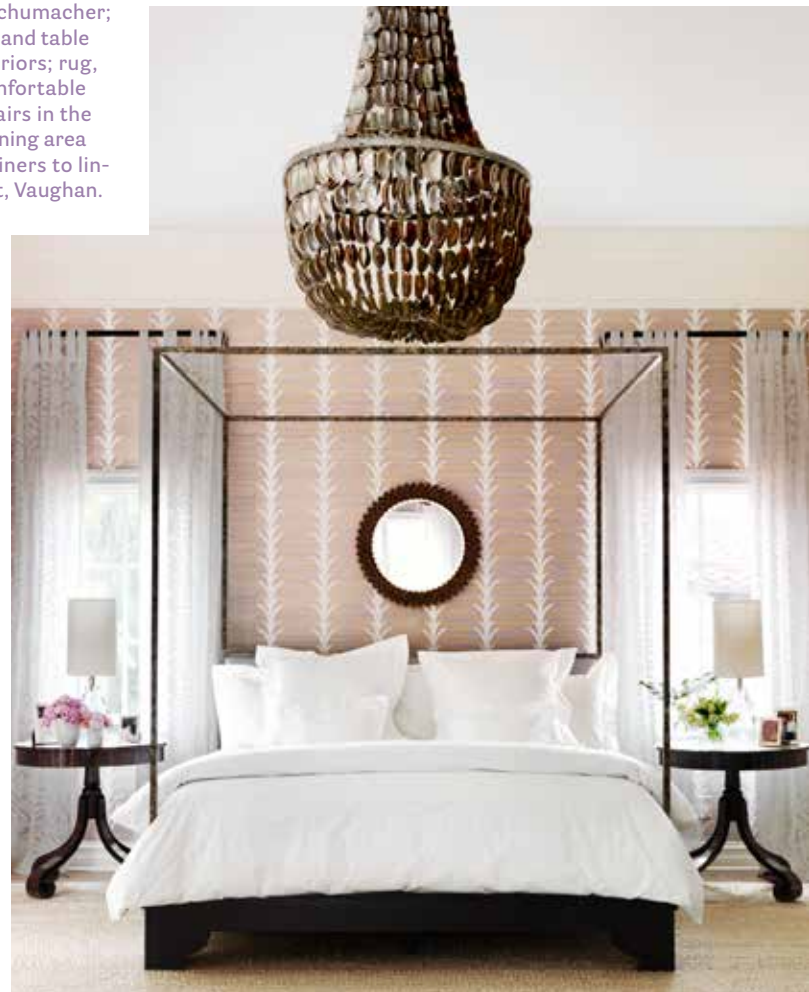
## *Blurring Outside and In*

With sofas covered in a performance fabric, this pool-adjacent loggia acts as a sunny living room or a wet bathing suit-friendly cabana, depending on the moment.

**RIGHT:** Designed for easy indoor/outdoor entertaining, the loggia retains its original terra-cotta floor tiles. The space evokes "the laid-back, loungy vibe of Ibiza," Lincoln says. The George Smith sofas, chairs, and ottoman are upholstered in a Perennials fabric. Pillows, Roberta Roller Rabbit. Ceramic side tables, Mecox. Chandelier, Paul Ferrante. Antlers, John Salibello.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** A view to the pool from the loggia. The checkerboard tray and colorful glassware are from Mary Mahoney. In the master bedroom, the bed is by Dessin Fournir; wallcovering, Celerie Kemble for Schumacher; chandelier and table lamps, Arteriors; rug, Stark. Comfortable Gloster chairs in the outdoor dining area encourage diners to linger; pendant, Vaughan.



A carpet of crushed seashells makes a hedged garden feel beachy. Outdoor sofas, chairs, and ottomans, McKinnon and Harris. Stool, Mecox. Lanterns, Authentic Provence. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

WHAT FEELS FRESH

## *A Wink to the House*

It's an architectural in-joke: The designer picked garden furniture with a Moorish motif for its subtle reference to the home's Spanish-Mediterranean style.