



interiors magazine, Feb/March, 2010  
design by Olivia OBryan  
photo by Jessica Klowski  
PierceMartin Thai lacquer container



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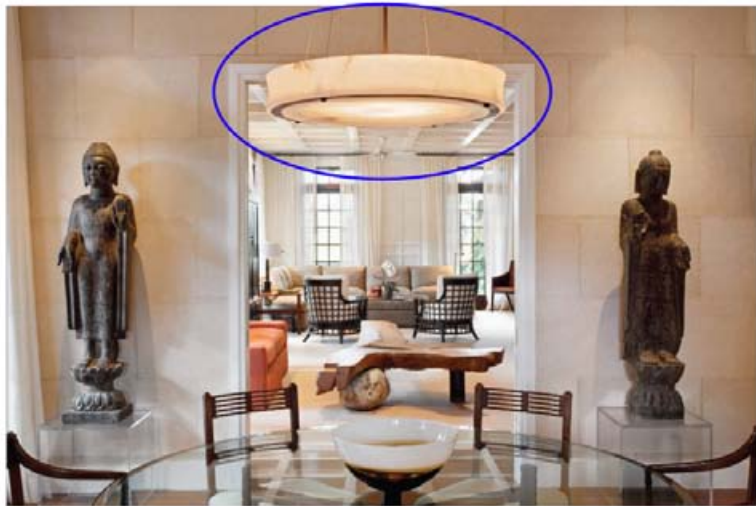
design by Olivia OBryan

photo by Jessica Klewski

PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Thai cabinet

PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Indonesian column base

PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Indonesian trough



"I have seized the light. I have arrested its flight!" declared Louis Daguerre, inventor of the Daguerreotype. What the French artist knew was that light and form reveal the essence of a photograph, just as designers Ashley Olivia Waddell and Courtney O'Bryan Whatley created their own composition: a Florida residence, conversant in Chinese elements, and captured in luminous, soft focus.

"We wanted to create a refuge...surrounded by beautiful things and incredible light," says Waddell. The Vero Beach-based sisters, who joined their middle names to form their firm, Olivia O'Bryan, Inc., were enamored with the natural light. "The way it threw patterns on the floor captivated me," says Waddell.

To embrace the radiance, they selected whispery shades of white and delicately introduced texture

with tone-on-tone geometric motifs in the paneling and coffered ceiling. Rattan chairs echo the warm patterns of the mullioned French doors and transom windows. "We duplicated the linen draperies throughout so the backdrop would remain as simple as possible," Whatley remarks.

But their quiet canvas is far from silent. The homes most personable attribute is Whatley and Waddell's ability to respect the old and conjure the new without mimicking the austere atmosphere of a museum. A pair of centuries-old reproduction Buddha statues from southeastern China, hand carved from a single block of limestone, speaks in the dialect of the Eastern Wei Dynasty (534-550 A.D.). Found in a shop in Roslyn, NY, their acrylic bases gave them a faint, but lingering contemporary accent amidst the owners' collection

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**JH Lighting alabaster light fixture through  
PierceMartin**





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PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Indonesian dulang



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PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Indonesian daybeds

PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Indonesian weaver table

PierceMartin one-of-a-kind Thai finials



The siren with the most sensual voice sits above the fireplace. The commissioned painting from Chinese artist Wen-Guan Chen uses the technique known as *nihonga* to paint with powdered minerals, shells, coral and semi precious stones such as malachite, azurite, and cinnabar. The raw materials are powdered and bound with a glue substance to create layers of incandescent glow, further illuminated by the rich terra-cotta of the stairwell.

Despite the focal presence of the Chinese art and objets, "The most important piece to me in the living room is the coffee table from the Japoneseque Gallery in San Francisco," reveals Waddell. "One week into the project, our clients took us to the art gallery to look at it and see if we could use it. We immediately fell in love with the table." The living room really needed an anchor and "although this piece does not read 'Asian', it has such simple,

beautiful lines and was very raw. The combination of the freely formed wood top supporting a large stone was so natural, it was just what the space needed."

Ever mindful of its Florida locale, the retreats connection to the outdoors was strengthened by the loggia that envelopes the curtained outdoor room that welcomes guests. "It was important that the loggia be imbued with chic comfort, just like the interior rooms," Waddell explains. The architect, Clem Schaub of Clemens, Bruns, Schaub Architects, applauds the success of the space. "This is the quintessential tropical home because you enter it while you're still outside," he remarks. "Listening closely to each object, their design exceeds the parlance of residence, living, instead, as shelter" ■ Olivia O'Bryan, Inc., 49 Royal Palm Pointe, Suite 200, Vero Beach, FL 772 299 1662

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