

COLOR CRUSH

Part Retro, Part Modern
And Decidedly Fun, Nisi
Berryman's Miami Beach
Bungalow Asserts Itself In
Bold, Vibrant Fashion

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEN HAYDEN



The entrance door to Nisi Berryman's 1950s bungalow home in Miami Beach is a bright fuchsia, hinting at what's in store inside.



A sofa covered in Osborne & Little's striped fabric lends visual interest against a chartreuse wall in the living room. Berryman's favorite space in the house. LEFT: The dining room showcases Berryman's creations, including the chandelier and the cornice.

One look inside Nisi Berryman's 1,100-square-foot South Beach home, and her love affair with color reveals itself unabashedly. Hot pink, juicy green and orange, deep purple and neutralizing white create a jazzy backdrop for plump furnishings, sumptuous fabrics and lustrous surfaces that lend a romantic modern zeal to the stylist's beachy abode. Ask for her inspiration and she'll reply, "A little Dorothy Draper, a little Kelly Wearstler, a little Barnum & Bailey."

In an active house filled with teenagers, a circus might otherwise not have been far-fetched. But Berryman's careful choice of color and toned-down elements keeps the design grounded in sophistication. "They are all my favorite colors," she says. "I just had to find a way to live with them." The dining room, for instance, originally donned a vibrant-orange hue, "but it was too loud, so I went for a deep violet/aubergine, and the walls recede now. I love it with the brown and white stripes."

Ebonized wood flooring unites each room and provides a solid foundation for designer furnishings and secondhand treasures. Cocktail and occasional tables, and lamps from flea markets make their way through the chartreuse living room; important designers like Eero Saarinen and Michael Taylor leave their mark in various rooms; and the home's signature fuchsia color reappears in the master bedroom, which has a bold and enchanting overtone. "It's pretty femme, I know, but I love it,"

Berryman says. "The mirrored desk is just like one that Sarah Jessica Parker has."

The homeowner first fell in love with design when she sold antiquarian furniture reference books in New York. During the 1980s, she took a position with designer Dakota Jackson, and later moved to Miami to work for Holly Hunt. An admirer of such talents as T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, Christian Astuguevieille, Vicente Wolf and Kevin Cherry, Berryman's involvement

An orange Velleren chair and pillows from NiBa Home add color to the media room, where a Stark Carpet area rug anchors the otherwise neutral setting.

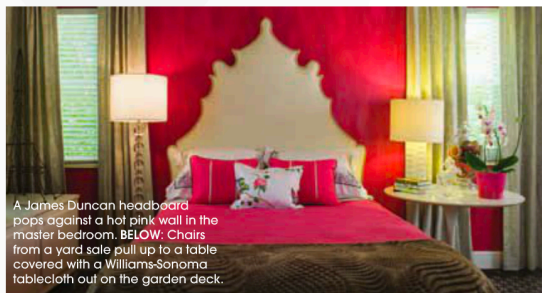


with design has come a long way since her New York beginnings. She now serves as the Miami city editor for *Metropolitan Home* magazine and as a member of the advisory board of the Miami-Dade County public school, Design and Architecture Senior High.

But it's her showroom in the Miami Design District that most shows her fanciful sense of style. Her 1950s bungalow is a prelude to NiBa Home, an emporium of whimsical rugs, lighting, furniture, art and accessories brimming with sculptural shapes, unusual materials and timeless pieces. "Miami is a young city embarking on a design adventure," she says. "Often, it's conservative but very open to new ideas, and right now we are having a surge of amazing architecture and design right at our doorstep."

It's the perfect place for an artistic, fun-loving, seriously design-minded aficionado to find her living and working muse. ○

Editor's Note: For more information about NiBa Home, call 305-573-1939 or visit nibahome.com.



A James Duncan headboard pops against a hot pink wall in the master bedroom. **BELOW:** Chairs from a yard sale pull up to a table covered with a Williams-Sonoma tablecloth out on the garden deck.



To the right of the living room, a gilded mirror punctuates a fuchsia wall in the foyer. "I love the gold-leaf mirror on that color," Berryman says.