

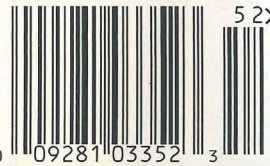
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WORLD TOUR

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DESIGNER LORRAINE LETENDRE FOUND HER FISHER ISLAND CONDO BECAUSE SHE WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO STEP INSIDE. "It had been neglected and was in such disarray that no one would even walk through the front door," she explains. "No one looked at it; I walked in and looked at the view.

INTERIOR DESIGN Lorraine Letendre, Lorraine Letendre Associates, Inc.  
HOME BUILDER Jerry Rowland, Handcraft Construction Management  
BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS 3 SQUARE FEET 2,500





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It had 60 feet of glass overlooking the Atlantic Ocean." Letendre, who began her career scouring the globe as a furniture buyer, had been designing high-end residences on the exclusive island for years. She knew that, with such a commanding view, everything else about the apartment could be fixed. "I gutted it to a concrete block and created a space for myself," says Letendre, president of Lorraine Letendre Associates, Inc., in Miami.

Keeping the ocean as the focal point, Letendre collaborated with Jerry Rowland of Boca Raton-based Handcraft Construction Management, to rebuild the interior architecture with far fewer walls and spaces that flowed easily from one to the next. "There were a lot of small rooms," explains the designer, "and I wanted open space." The new layout revolves around a long front room, which stretches across east-facing windows and glass doors overlooking the beach. A dining area on one side of the room spills into a living area and then a second sitting area,

**SECRET KITCHEN**

Designer Lorraine Letendre gave her Fisher Island condo a cohesive look by sheathing the walls with wire-brushed oak panels. Kitchen appliances are hidden behind doors made with the same paneling for a seamless finish.



**HOLD EVERYTHING**

A 19<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese herb chest adds interest and storage to the living area. The Dora Maar drawing was purchased at an auction in Paris, and the Bactrian disk is from Axel Vervoordt.





**STONE AGE**

Letendre filled the apartment with antiques collected on her global travels. She found the Thai stone head, dating between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, at Tomlinson Antique House in Singapore.

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which faces a built-in media cabinet. From the media area, a pocket door slides away to reveal the master bedroom and bath, while on the opposite side of the apartment, the kitchen branches off of the dining area. A guest bedroom is tucked in the center, behind the living area wall.

"I wanted it to have a casual, resort feeling that was in harmony with the beach," says Letendre. For inspiration, she looked right outside her windows. "Along the coast of Fisher Island are these tiki hut palapas that were built by the Seminole Indians," she explains. "I wanted my apartment to look like those tiki huts." While no one would mistake her sleek interior for a tiki hut, the elemental materials of the humble structures guided her palette. Panels of straw-colored wire-brushed oak line the walls, and limestone flooring mimics the sand outside. Those two textures sheath most of the residence for a soothing sense of continuity. "Once you start breaking surfaces, the space feels smaller, she says. "This way, the whole apartment is synergized."



**TABLE MANNERS**

The dining area, occupying one end of the large front room, is furnished with a walnut-and-chrome-plated table by Mallet-Stevens and ipe chairs, with suede corset detailing, made-to-order from Zele Company. The painting is a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century Belgian oil-on-canvas.





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Letendre took a similar approach in choosing furnishings. “I’m sort of anti-decoration,” she says. “I really only used things that I’d purchased throughout my travels.” In the living area, her yew wood-and-stone low table was plucked from the media room of Axel Vervoordt’s Belgium castle, and blocks of petrified wood act as side tables. She ordered sofas and chairs from Vervoordt’s son and her longtime friend, Boris Vervoordt, and left them covered with raw muslin. A Mallet-Stevens dining table bought in Paris is paired with two 19<sup>th</sup>-century zitan cabinets the designer found in Singapore, and a large tortoise shell mounted on a stand in the media area was flown back from Senegal in the designer’s lap as a teenager.

“Since I’m in the design business,” she explains, “I wanted the apartment to feel serene and calming. I didn’t want anything visually stimulating. So I deliberately kept everything very neutral.” The muted sensibility carries through to the master bedroom, where the walls were painted white and

**SOAK IT IN**

Limestone flooring flows into the master bath, where a concrete tub plays off a wire-brushed oak vanity and shagreen side chair. A 20<sup>th</sup>-century steel torso from Belgium ties the room into her collection.



**STYLISH SOUVENIRS**

A 1939 watercolor by Eileen Gray hangs with two other watercolors given to Letendre by her vendors in Paris. She brought the tortoise shell back from Africa as a teenager.





**DARK ROOM**

Walls of Lagos marble slabs give the small powder room elegant presence. The mirror is 18<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch, and the Lingham stone dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century.



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a row of antique-nickel-glass closet doors adds texture. Rowland built a low platform bed and a simple console that stretches across one wall, doubling as a headboard. The room remains quietly spare save for a 1940 oil painting of the ocean by Dietmar Ulrich, 6<sup>th</sup>-century Ghandaran torsos and a 14<sup>th</sup>-century standing Buddha.

"The objective is always to keep the energy flowing in a space and not box yourself in," explains the designer. "So when you open everything up, there has to be a dialogue between the pieces. Everything has to be at the same level, no grandstanding, no hierarchy." And by choosing pieces that act as complements rather than competitors, Letendre created an environment that feels balanced, sophisticated and personal. "I didn't really design the apartment," she says. "I just took a look around and put things together that inspired me." **L**

**WHITE SPACE**

Letendre created a soothing atmosphere in the master bedroom with white walls, a custom platform bed dressed with Anichini linens and a single armchair found at the Paris flea market. The torsos are Ghandaran, and the Buddha is Cambodian.