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A GRECIAN ESTATE IN PALM BEACH

INTERIOR DESIGN

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The first time Scott Snyder met Della Rounick at her new home, she greeted him looking very much like a magazine cover. She made quite an impression.

"I was struck by her individuality, good looks and true sophistication," says Snyder, owner of Scott Snyder Inc. in Palm Beach. Rounick invited him to her new Palm Beach home in 1992 to discuss what could be done with its interior. The pair sat on the marble living room floor of the empty house for three hours, sharing their ideas. Snyder's first recommendation was to position living room sofas back-to-back, a very European idea that immediately appealed to Rounick.



Della Rounick and interior designer Scott Snyder. The Rounick interior clearly reflects a successful collaboration between the client and designer.

LEFT: The large living room, draped in dramatic falls of striped silk, is furnished in the Regency Empire style. The placement of back-to-back sofas allows for easy conversation and a choice of views.

"It was just after that first decision on the placement of the sofas that Della and I realized we had similar and compatible ideas for the house," Snyder says.

Rounick, who is Greek by birth, has traveled to all parts of the world, but says she felt an instant connection to her home in Palm Beach. "When I entered, I knew this was my place," she says.

The home reflects not only Rounick's taste, but also her energy and background. Even the palette is based on her coloring.

"The melon damask that we chose to cover the dining room walls is very glamorous by candlelight and extremely flattering," Snyder says. "In the living room we chose silk window treatments, Italian brocades and colors of pale salmon - strengthening the melon theme - and then celadon, mustard, and walls and woodwork glazed in pale peach."

Rounick wanted to create a home distinctive from her other houses in Acapulco, Manhattan, the Hamptons and Greece.

"Your taste evolves," she says, "because your needs and knowledge evolve. You are born with a certain taste which is, of course, limited. We compare and reject as our exposure increases. Being Greek, I have a natural tendency toward a classical look. For this Palm Beach house, I wanted a softened Empire style, which has a lot of classic Greek and Egyptian lines."

FACING: Melon damask covers the walls and silk taffeta drapes the French doors that provide a view of the garden. A 19th century French chandelier, signed Millet, lights the room.

"Della wanted an exotic feel to her sitting room/office," says Scott Snyder. Inspired by a recent trip to Morocco, Snyder created such an ambience with architectural details such as the window treatment, silk pillows and sensuous colors of mustard, saffron and sienna.







A French Empire sideboard, sporting ormolu, holds a bronze doree candelabra, circa 1860, and Baccarat with bronze doree handles of birds and garlands filled with exquisite still life.

As her home suggests, Della Rounick is a complex, vivacious woman. She serves on the board of her family's fashion business, which has factories in China and offices in New York and Hong Kong. Black Tie by Oleg Cassini is one of the company's labels, as is Nightline by Della Rounick. Rounick's own label, which is sold at major department stores throughout the country. She works out of New York, but travels overseas yearly for business.

It is in her Palm Beach retreat, though, where she indulges two of her passions: painting and writing. She works in oils on large canvases each day in her island studio, from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. She also devotes long hours to poetry - she has been published - and writing musical lyrics, a passion that has resulted in platinum records in her native Greece.

It was Rounick's varied interests, Snyder says, that led the way in the design of her Palm Beach home.

"An office was needed that could serve as a comfortable sitting room," he says. "And Della needed an artist's studio for her painting. Entertaining is also very important to Della. A formal dining area that could seat at least 14 was decided upon."

Rounick, who loves to plan menus and table settings,

rarely gives large parties, preferring to keep the guest list to about a dozen friends. "When I receive," she says, "I like to create an interesting mix of people. I prefer to be the audience while I install and provoke conversation among my guests. Dinner for me is ceremonial. I like to please all the senses at the same time: to see a beautiful presentation, to hear good words, to eat well."

Entertaining outdoors is particularly appealing in Palm Beach, so Snyder and Rounick agreed on generous seating in the patio area. As many as 14 guests can be seated outdoors for garden parties and brunches. They also created a special niche on the patio, with breezy curtains that can be closed for an afternoon nap.

It was the tropical charm, in fact, that first drew Rounick and her late husband to Palm Beach. Its sophistication, which Rounick considers similar to Monte Carlo, was the island's other strong attraction.

Most of the home wears subtle and sophisticated pale shades appropriate to its tropical location. But Snyder suggested a departure for the library.

"We decided upon a very dark glazing of the woodwork in terra cotta," he says. "I always think that when you have a

In the library, dark woods and high ceilings set a mood that is appropriate for cerebral pursuits, as well as after-dinner coffee.



house of this size - 16 rooms - it is nice to have one dark room, even in Florida."

Perhaps because of its special ambience, the library has become a favorite room. "Guests often gather there for drinks and coffee after dinner," Snyder says. "The library dictated itself to a certain richness."

Richness of a different flavor also manifested itself in Rounick's office. She decided on a Moroccan theme, from window treatments to the structure of the room. The walls are painted with a mustard glaze, accented by saffron and sienna fabrics. A leopard carpet, which was inspired by Valentino's house in Italy, extends the exotic feeling of the room.

"I took everything Della gave me - all her ideas, personality and desires. This particular work was easy," says Snyder, "because we met minds."

SOURCES

Living Room

Curtain fabric - *Kirk Brummel, DCOTA, Dania*

Curtain fabrication - *Paul Maybaum, Lake Worth*

Sofa fabric - *Brunschwig and Fils, DCOTA*

Chair fabric - *Scalamandre, DCOTA*

Upholstery - *Ronald Jonas, New York*

Passementerie - *Tassel and Trims, New York*

Antiques - *Kentshire Galleries, Agostino Antiques, Object Plus, New York*

End tables - *Scott Snyder Inc., Palm Beach*

Dining Room

Wall and chair fabric - *Lee Jofa, DCOTA*

Dining chairs - *Ronald Jonas*

Curtain fabric and passementerie - *Brunschwig and Fils*

Curtain fabrication - *Paul Maybaum*

Chandelier - *Nesle, New York*

Candelabra and Centerpiece - *R.J. King, Palm Beach*

Subtle and sophisticated shades envelop this master suite, making it an inviting retreat.





A private area of the patio is perfect for long afternoon reads and the occasional nap.

Master Bedroom

Curtain and bed fabric - Christopher Norman, New York
 Curtain and bed fabrication - Paul Maybaum
 Armoire and desk designs - Scott Snyder Inc
 Antique pillows - Partridges, London
 Custom upholstery - Ronald Jonas

Library

Sofa and chair fabric - Clarence House, Jerry Pair, DCOTA
 Custom upholstery - Ronald Jonas
 Ottoman fabric - Decorators Walk, Miami
 Custom linen and silk carpet - Stark Carpet, DCOTA
 Antique pillows - Terry Morton, New York
 Lamps - Florian Papp, New York
 Accessories - Kentshire Galleries, New York
 Cabinet designs - Scott Snyder Inc.

Office

Curtain and sofa fabric - Summer Hill, Design West, DCOTA
 Curtain fabrication - Paul Maybaum
 Pillow fabric - Quadrille and Manuel Canovas, Design West
 Custom upholstery - Ronald Jonas
 Panther desk - Baker Furniture, DCOTA
 Leopard carpet - Jack Walsh, West Palm Beach
 Arm chairs - KPF International, New York

Loggia

Antes - Michael Taylor, San Francisco
 Curtain and sofa fabric - Giatti, Santa Barbara, CA
 Pillow fabric - Osborne and Little, Design West
 Coffee table - Scott Snyder Inc.
 Camel bowls - Guenevere, London, England
 Umbrellas - Santa Barbara Designs, Santa Barbara, CA