

MARIO BUATTA

Fifty Years of American Interior Decoration



MARIO BUATTA *with* EMILY EVANS EERDMANS

Foreword by PAIGE RENSE

RIZZOLI
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Hilary and Wilbur Ross
Principal Residence Palm Beach, Florida

When Mr. and Mrs. Ross decided to add an entertaining pavilion to their Palm Beach residence, Mario urged the couple to build a large oval ballroom at the structure's front. The result is a pleasing semi-elliptical neoclassical facade fronted with five sets of French doors facing the water. The decorator and the pavilion's architect Thomas Kirchoff won the 2010 Elizabeth L. and John H. Schuler Award from the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, recognizing excellence in new construction "in keeping with the character of Palm Beach." The interior's color scheme recalls a seashell, with a pale pink ceiling, a buff and off-white stone floor, and soft white walls. The neutral space puts the dazzling water views—and Mrs. Ross's guests and table decorations—at center stage. When one long table is set up to seat up to forty guests, the two large Schiaparelli sofas are firm enough to offer seating at the table's ends.









PRECEDING SPREAD *Plaster wall lights, designed after a black lacquered Baguès sconce, are mounted on the room's twelve pilasters, with indirect lighting behind. Sets of French doors are mirrored to bring in light and water views.*

OPPOSITE *A round table, layered in purple, red, and pink and surrounded by silver bamboo ballroom chairs, is set for an intimate lunch party.*



ABOVE *The pavilion's powder room is painted off-white with faux-marble decoration and inset with mirrored panels. A silver-leaved Italian mirror and a striped chinoiserie lantern continue the cinematic palette. The vanity is from Nancy Corzine, and the marble floor is inset with roundels.*





LEFT *Green hand-painted Gracie Chinese panels cover the walls of this guest bedroom. Scalamandr  multicolor striped silk curtains frame the windows and French doors leading out to the terrace and gardens, punctuated by a Lalanne black stone sculpture of a gorilla. The four-poster bone bed is open to the pale pink ceiling.*

BELOW *Blue and white foliate garlands cover the walls of the light-filled master bathroom. His-and-hers mirrored vanities flank the marble tub.*

