

At first glance, Rinfret's raw space was, in a word, overwhelming. The massive, double-height entry featured vaulted ceilings, archways—and a bulky, unseemly bar. "I said if you let me rip the bar out I'll do it," recalls the designer, who jokes, "Me being the farthest away, of course I got the biggest room" (Rinfret is based in Greenwich, Connecticut). To better define the large space, she covered the walls with patterned paper and panels that she custom-designed with her friend Nicolette Mayer. "I wanted an update on these Mediterranean houses, to feel fresh and cool," Rinfret explains. "People aren't born in Palm Beach; they end up here. They're sophisticated and well traveled. So this is all about that influence." To bring in that traveled feel, Rinfret added a pair of Moorish arches found at the Stamford Antiques Center ("I had been eyeing them for a year and thought I had to find the perfect place for them," she recalls), a 1970s Jansen palm tree chandelier, and inlay furniture, then hung three sculptural Currey & Co. chandeliers in the center of it all.