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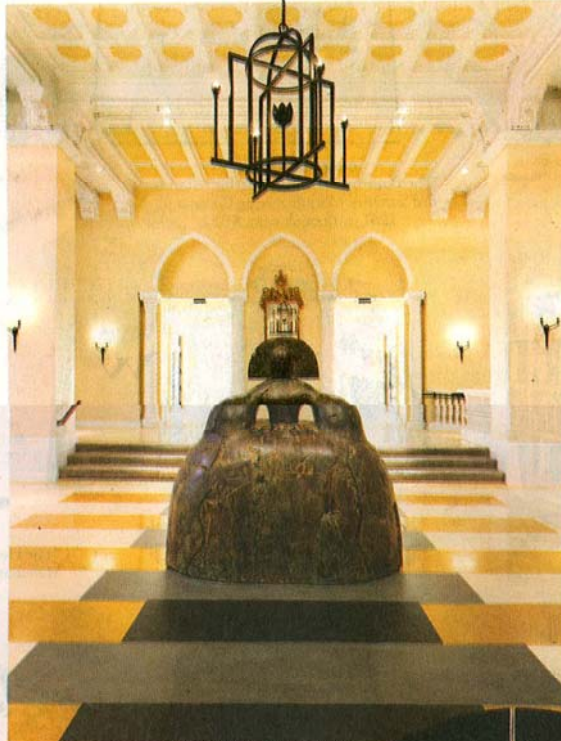
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CURRENTS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS HART SHELLEY

ROOMS

A High-Tech Roof for a 1926 Palm Court

When Thierry W. Despont, the Manhattan designer commissioned to renovate the Boca Raton Resort and Club, began work on the Palm Court, top left, he had to enclose it so it could be used on inclement days. Still, he wanted to create the illusion that it was open to the sky, the way Addison Mizner, the architect of the 1926 building, had intended.

"I wanted to do something light and spacious with a modern vocabulary and with a modern technology," Mr. Despont said. The transparent ceiling he created, above left, is made of Texlon ETFE, a material with multiple layers of plastic film; the steel structure supporting it was designed to recall palm trees. It proved impossible to open the Palm Court further by demolishing its arched entry in the passage to the lobby, above right, so instead he installed Manolo Valdés's six-foot bronze "Infanta Margarita." "If you can't open it, you put something in front of it, so you forget about what's behind it," he said. The Palm Court reopened last month at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Boca Raton, Fla.; (888) 491-2622 or bocaresort.com.

ELAINE LOUIE



RUGS

Patched Together, but Not at Random

Patchwork rugs are nothing new. In Turkey, reusing remnants of old rugs to make new ones is a craft that is at least 500 years old. What makes Stark Carpet's Oriental Turkish Patchwork rugs new is the color combination, said Ashley Stark, the creative director of Stark Carpet in Manhattan. Unlike traditional patchwork rugs, where "they would just throw everything together, a red with a blue or a green," she said, Stark's rugs have a single color theme: "all reds, or all beiges, or all blues."

The rugs, made from pieces considered semi-antique (no more than 50 years old), are less expensive than rugs of a similar age in their original, intact form — \$65 a square foot versus about \$125 a square foot. They range from 6 feet by 9 feet to 14 feet by 25 feet (the 8-by-9-foot one below is \$4,680); custom sizes are also available. Stark Carpet, 979 Third Avenue (59th Street), (212) 752-9000 or starkcarpet.com.

ELAINE LOUIE



LIGHTING

The Virtuous Glow of Recycled Plastic

Heath Nash's recycled plastic lamps "are much harder to make than you'd think," he said. "I'm working with as many as seven different colors, in two layers, that have to be arranged to get the right translucency in the right place, while balancing the colors." Mr. Nash, who lives in Cape Town, was inspired to create the lamps after meeting a Zimbabwean man named Robert Mondongwe who made flowers out of plastic bottles. The flowers, Mr. Nash thought, were the design element he had been searching for, because they "looked and felt like a South African product." The lamps, which he hired Mr. Mondongwe to help him produce, come in multi-colored and all-white plastic, left, and range in price from \$450 to \$4,950. Each one takes as long as three months to make, because every component, from the wires to the flowers, is handmade. Available at Amardian, 31 Howard Street (Crosby Street), (917) 463-3719 or amardianusa.com.

RIMA SUQI