

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Page 70: Arawaka and Opposite: Chino, in the front parlor of their Casa Mil home.

Pages 80 and 81: Original pocket books appreciate the front and back panels, not one to adhere to period details. Kowalka hung a fabric brass light fixture, at left, from the ornate ceiling medallion. A print by Felix Gonzalez-Torres hangs upside down over the fireplace. "The burner got the hook in the wrong place, and I just left it there," says Kowalka. She designed the forty-five pound table lamp, which requires shaping and adjusting to maintain its shape.

Opposite: Chino's bathroom, which serves as her studio when she's not away at art school, spans the front of the house. "It's very fortunate to have so much light and space," she says.

Pages 84-85: The assemblage on the crest of drawers in Kowalka's bedroom perfectly captures the designer's originality. The leather choker was part of her 2011 collection inspired by Maori. She found the oil painting on ebony and the decorative boxes in Copenhagen, where they are used to package coconuts. A bundle of glass braces holds a photograph, "Beauty of China,"

Pages 86 and 87: At left, in her studio, Kowalka emphasized the volume of the space—and the design "regular" appliances. Kowalka made the red cabinet on the left and, at right, from a fabrication brought back from India. She had the steel frame made by a woman's cooperative in Coahuila. Here, "it's the only place I have seen that blends Indian—a perfect union of Spanish and Japanese aesthetics," she says.

Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



The Drama King

Carl Hancock Rux, Fort Greene

When Carl Hancock Rux's favorite salvage dealer closed up shop, he was so bereft that he showed up on the store's final day with a lit candle. "I almost shed a few tears," he says. An admitted interiors junkie, the Obie Award-winning playwright, novelist, poet, essayist, musician, actor, and radio host has a soft spot for "old things." "Pieces with history offer insight as to how people lived in a way that a book can't," he says. It's doubtful that Peggy Guggenheim ever stood at her shop sink, but Rux loves that it is now in his kitchen. Jacqueline Kennedy once worked at his dining room table, albeit when it was ensconced in New York's Society for Ethical Culture.

Rux's theatrical gifts are on full display in the Italianate brownstone he shares with his partner, Patrick Symon, a lawyer and gifted gardener and floral stylist. He describes his aesthetic as Gertrude Stein with an obsession with African art. "I imagine Picasso stopping by to check out a new piece Stein has bought," he says. He jokes, but Rux is constantly setting a scene. His guilty pleasure in the neighborhood is a drink at the dive bar Alibi, where there was once a player piano. "When I think about it, the bar would have been a watering hole where Henry Miller, John Steinbeck, Gertrude Stein, and Marianne Moore would meet. That place is loaded with history," he says.

Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com

Art Department



Matthew Williams

www.art-dept.com