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HIGH DEFINITION

MICHAEL FORMICA AND BOB HIEMSTRA PAINT IT BLACK—AND WHITE—IN SUNNY PALM BEACH
TEXT BY MARK WELSH · PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB HIEMSTRA



Facing page: Interior designer Michael Formica in the poolside cabana of the Palm Beach vacation home he shares with his partner, photographer Bob Hiemstra. This page: The apartment's black-and-white aesthetic is especially pronounced in the living room's two seating areas. In one, *Noll #1* and *Noll #2*, 2000, photographs taken by Hiemstra of Alexandre Noll sculptures, gaze out over a sofa and chairs designed by Formica and a vintage cocktail table by Pierre Cardin; in the other, geometric Ettore Sottsass vases rest on a milk-glass-and-stainless-steel cocktail table. See Resources.



The contrast is most keenly felt in the living room, where Formica established two seating areas—each with an all-white sofa and slipper chairs of his own design and vintage side tables. Black Mongolian-lamb and zebra-print pillows are arranged on the sofas, geometric black-and-white Ettore Sottsass vases sit atop a milk-glass cocktail table across the way. Even the artwork is black and white. Hiemstra photographed the pair's New York collection of Alexandre

Noll sculptures before they headed South for the winter. "In the old days people traveling to Palm Beach would bring their entire art collection for the season," he says. "We decided that it would be a lot easier for me just to photograph our favorite pieces." Among the images on display are *Noll #1* and *Noll #2* above one of the sofas and *Noll #3* in the adjacent dining area.

But just when every sign points to black and white's winning out over Technicolor, traces of the rainbow creep in. The dining table is

resources

bathroom, **Tara faucet** by *Dornbracht USA* (for information: 800-774-1181; dornbracht.com).

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Pages 174–77: Interior design by *Michael Formica* of *Michael Formica Inc.* (for information: 212-260-8511).

Page 174: Noll #1 and Noll #2, photographs, 2000, by *Bob Hiemstra* (for information: studio@bobhiemstra.com).

Vintage stainless-steel cocktail table by *Pierre Cardin* from *Galere* (3733 S. Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach, FL 33405; 561-832-3611; galere.net).

Page 176: In cabana, Bubble Club plastic sofas and table by *Philippe Starck* for *Kartell US Inc.* (for information: 866-854-8823; kartellus.com). **Lucite panels** from *Canal Plastics Center* (for information: 212-925-1032; canalplastic-scenter.com). **Multicolor floral bath sheet** by *D. Porthault*

(for information: 212-688-1660; dporthault.fr) from *Mary Mahoney* (351 Worth Ave., Palm Beach, FL 33480; 561-655-8288). In dining area, **Cab leather chairs** by *Mario Bellini* for *Cassina USA* (for information: 800-770-3568; cassinausa.com). **Vintage stainless-steel-and-glass dining table** by *Tobia Scarpa* from *Galere* (for information: 561-832-3611). **Vintage aluminum lamp** by *Arthur Court*

from *Donzella Ltd. 20th Century* (17 White St., New York, NY 10013; 212-965-8919; donzella.com). **Coral Tulipière porcelain centerpiece** from *Mary Mahoney*. **Noll #3**, photograph, 2000, by *Bob Hiemstra* (for information: studio@bobhiemstra.com). In master bedroom, **vintage lacquered-wood screen** by *Tommi Parzinger* from *Galere*.

Beach tote in Candu canvas by *Alan Campbell* from *Marcie Bond* (Lyford Cay Shopping Center, Lyford Cay, Bahamas; 011-242-362-5275). **Vintage zebra terra-cotta lamp** from *Erhard Danenberg* (4900 S. Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach, FL 33405; 561-588-7288). **Black mohair throw** by *Hermès*

(for information: 800-441-4488; hermes.com). On terrace, **Bubble Club plastic chairs and table** by *Philippe Starck* for *Kartell US Inc.* In guest bedroom, **vintage plaster floor lamp** by *Diego Giacometti* from *DeLorenzo Gallery* (956 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10021; 212-249-7575). **Vintage chrome-plated-steel lounge chair** by *Milo Baughman* from *Beall & Bell* (18 South St., Greenport, NY 11944; 631-477-8239). **Windsor snakeskin telephone table** by *Førssberg*

from *Mary Mahoney*.



from *Mary Mahoney*.