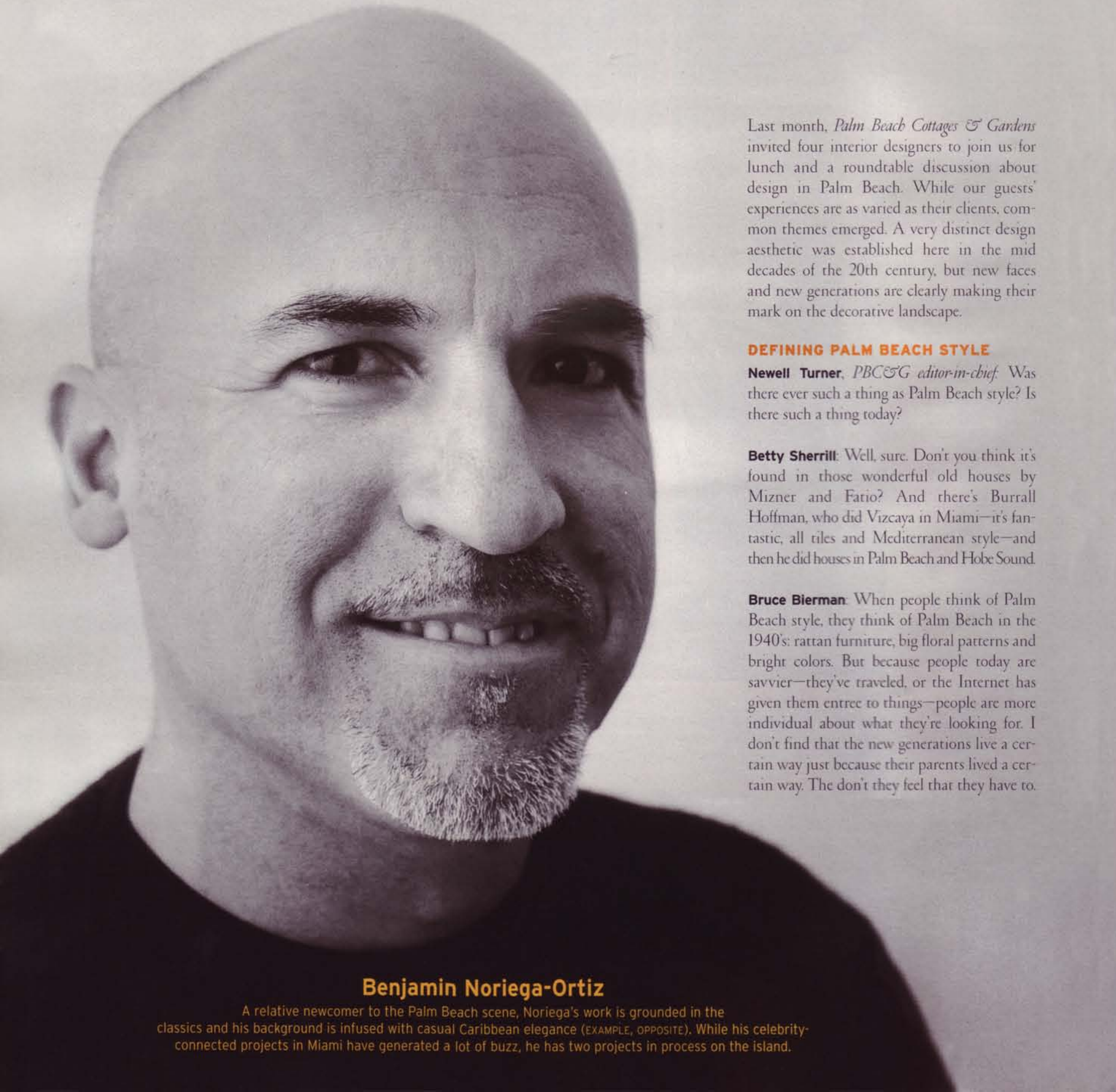


# The State of Design

Four interior designers share their thoughts on the origins of Palm Beach style and what it is today.

portraits by A. Perry Heller



**Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz**

A relative newcomer to the Palm Beach scene, Noriega's work is grounded in the classics and his background is infused with casual Caribbean elegance (EXAMPLE, OPPOSITE). While his celebrity-connected projects in Miami have generated a lot of buzz, he has two projects in process on the island.

Last month, *Palm Beach Cottages & Gardens* invited four interior designers to join us for lunch and a roundtable discussion about design in Palm Beach. While our guests' experiences are as varied as their clients, common themes emerged. A very distinct design aesthetic was established here in the mid decades of the 20th century, but new faces and new generations are clearly making their mark on the decorative landscape.

#### DEFINING PALM BEACH STYLE

**Newell Turner.** *PBC&G* editor-in-chief: Was there ever such a thing as Palm Beach style? Is there such a thing today?

**Betty Sherrill.** Well, sure. Don't you think it's found in those wonderful old houses by Mizner and Fatio? And there's Burrall Hoffman, who did Vizcaya in Miami—it's fantastic, all tiles and Mediterranean style—and then he did houses in Palm Beach and Hobe Sound.

**Bruce Bierman.** When people think of Palm Beach style, they think of Palm Beach in the 1940's: rattan furniture, big floral patterns and bright colors. But because people today are savvier—they've traveled, or the Internet has given them entree to things—people are more individual about what they're looking for. I don't find that the new generations live a certain way just because their parents lived a certain way. The don't they feel that they have to.

