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Drawing inspiration from 1960s-era beach clubs, designer Amanda Lindroth restores a Harbour Island hotel to its former glory



The Dunmore beach club's signature cabanas have been aqua and white since 1963.



In the resort's dining room, vintage photos taken in the Bahamas during the mid-20th century are a nod to The Dunmore's glamorous origins.

The quirky rattan pieces add hip '60s flair to the classic beach look the designer likes to call "under-decorated"



In the club's living area, slipper chairs from Pier 1 are covered in a chic China Seas print.



Amanda used a zany tangerine hue for the large framed photos and inside the hanging lantern in the dining room (left). She covered the banquette in durable outdoor fabric—Rowdy Stripe from Perennials.



nassau-based interior designer Amanda Lindroth is quick to name her current decorating obsession: antique and vintage rattan. The outdoor furniture, found in grandparents' attics all over America, reached its zenith of popularity in the 1960s, when fashionable society began wintering at tropical resorts from St. Tropez to Harbour Island in the Bahamas, and A-listers were photographed lounging in splendor on rattan seating. So when Amanda was enlisted to make over The Dunmore beach club on Harbour Island's eastern shore, she was quick to order up a truckload of her favorite element—rattan side tables and chairs, barstools, ottomans, and a banquette. The quirky pieces add hip '60s flair to the classic beach look she likes to call "under-decorated."

Having grown up near Palm Beach, the birthplace of American resort glamour, Amanda is fluent in iconic midcentury style. She romanticized the interiors and fashion of the 1950s and '60s, such as those captured in Slim Aarons's photographs of the rich and stylish at play in a flawless, sunny past. At The Dunmore, she saw an opportunity to create a new place that spoke of that old elegance. So she recommended that the inn's newest owners save and restore the circa-1963 clubhouse and surrounding guest cottages, right down to the beamed ceilings and louvered jalousie windows.

"Harbour Island is all about charm, and there was oodles of it here," says Amanda. "The place still had an incredible air about it, albeit in a crooked,

meet amanda

With 20-plus years spent beneath Caribbean skies and a portfolio full of resort makeovers, designer Amanda Lindroth is a restoration queen.

- Q What is the defining characteristic of island style?**
An open-air environment, even in the summer. There's no point in being here if you're going to sit in an air-conditioned space!
- Q What are the must-haves?**
I love woven island mats, vintage rattan, piles of books, driftwood and shells, candles at night, a raging fire in winter—and a well-stocked bar.
- Q Tell us some of your go-to sources.**
For rattan, check out Paul Aronson's Bamboo & Rattan, Circa Who, and FS Henemader Antiques in West Palm Beach. For linens and fabrics, I like John Robshaw Textiles and Matouk. Shopping is limited in the Bahamas, so I'm all over Pariscope Design's offerings at 1stdibs.com.

In the poolside pavilion (right), aluminum outdoor furniture by Janus et Cie complements the blue water. A unique upholstered rattan piece from Bamboo & Rattan in West Palm Beach grounds a seating area (below).



The outdoor reception pavilion is outfitted with a high-backed wicker settee by Celerie Kemble for Lane Venture, upholstered in a handsome black-and-white cabana stripe.

falling-down sort of way." Amanda enlisted the help of Coral Gables-based architects Maria de la Guardia and Teófilo Victoria of DLGV to revamp the property, including restoring the clubhouse and guest cottages, constructing a swimming pool and covered poolside pavilion, and reconfiguring the hotel's main entry to accommodate a new outdoor reception area.

Throughout, Amanda kept the furnishings simple and versatile. "Having many rooms for gathering isn't always necessary," she says. "One terrific room can create coziness and suit a variety of purposes." A series of love seats combines to form a substantial 16-foot-long sectional sofa in the living room, where it turns the corner beneath slatted windows like a banquette. "It's comfortable enough for morning OJ but sexy enough for cocktails at night," Amanda says. "Lightweight side chairs can be easily shifted

around the sofa, morphing the room into whatever it needs to be." The same is true for a pair of caned drinks tables purchased from Bamboo & Rattan, one of Amanda's favorite West Palm Beach haunts. Retro prints give the casual furniture a style upgrade. "The geometric Quadrille fabrics are just about the only thing that lends this project an 'of the moment' look," she says.

Amanda layered each room with island memorabilia evocative of the 1960s resort glam and its tribe of well-heeled visitors. "As recently as the '50s,

An exterior porch is converted into a lounge. "The bar was sanded, stained, and varnished by hand," says Amanda.

"I wanted the design to reflect the most glamorous time to vacation in the Bahamas"

—AMANDA LINDROTH



The Dunmore

Everything you need to know to go

The club is no longer for members only. Since the 1980s it has been run as a hotel, although it retains a clubby atmosphere.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Sixteen cottages house well-appointed rooms and suites with ocean or garden views. Guests can also reserve slightly larger deluxe cottages, including Ocean House, which accommodates up to seven people.

RATES: From \$400 to \$1,900 (fall/winter) and \$340 to \$1,200 (summer)

AVAILABILITY: November 16 through August 14

LOCATION: Harbour Island, Bahamas

HOW TO GET THERE: Connect via Miami or Ft. Lauderdale to North Eleuthera International Airport (ELH) on American Airlines or Continental Airlines.

AMENITIES: Kayaks, paddleboards, massage

therapy, and snorkeling are available. The property includes an oceanfront swimming pool, tennis courts, bar, restaurant, and fitness center.

NEED-TO-KNOW INFO: Three-night stay minimum and seven-night stay minimum at New Year's, Christmas, and the month of March

CONTACT: 877/891-3100 or dunmorebeach.com



On the dune deck, vintage seating is upholstered in a striped fabric by Perennials. The tables are custom from Bamboo & Rattan.

A large clamshell from Shell Horizons stands in as a sink in the beach cabana's powder room.



Guest cottage interiors (below and bottom) include custom Lucite tables and pillows in a China Seas ikat print. The bedrooms feature Indian quilts from John Robshaw Textiles.



resorts in the Caribbean were still hard to reach and were thought of as remote," says Amanda. "Only the true 'jet set' could travel there regularly. I wanted the design to reflect the most glamorous time to vacation in the Bahamas." Maintaining the vintage aesthetic, she lined the dining room walls with photos recovered from a '60s Bahamian ad campaign interspersed with vintage record albums. "Rooms should be filled with a certain frivolity—things to look at, books to read," says Amanda. "We junk-shopped all the way from Miami to Palm Beach." On built-in bookshelves throughout the property, she stocked more than 1,000 used books scored from a Boca Raton shop. The hotel's pendant drum shades are inverted Bahamian baskets, wired and suspended from chains.

Savvy design details extend beyond interior walls. From the tailored staff uniforms and handcrafted cottage signage to the aqua-and-white beach cabanas, every nuance points to what might have existed at The Dunmore decades ago. "From the beginning, this project was about far more than designing a fashionable look," says Amanda. "It was about re-creating a feel and capturing a certain timelessness." Not surprisingly, the club has proven itself well worth saving. "This is one of the most popular places on the island, and many of the hotel's original guests have returned for vacation," says Amanda. "That's the best compliment I could have received." 🌿 For more information, see Sources, page 110.

