

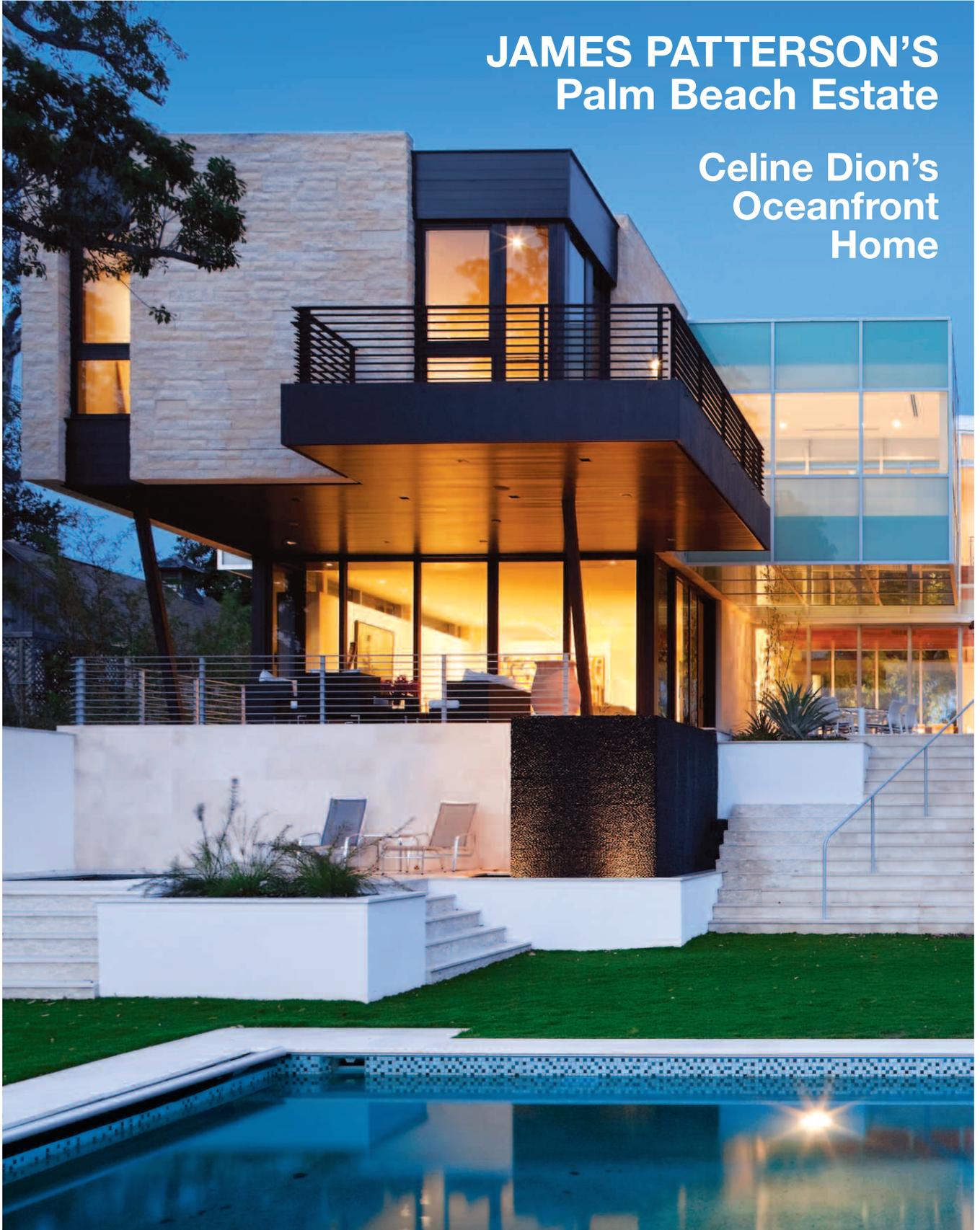
# FLORIDA DESIGN

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## JAMES PATTERSON'S Palm Beach Estate

## Celine Dion's Oceanfront Home





LEFT: Andrew Moore's *Irkutsk, Russia* — a personal favorite of Sue Patterson, a photographer and photo art collector — decorates the wall in the living room. To keep the space open and vistas wide, the owners decided against lamps, illuminating the room with chandeliers from Wilson Antiques and cached lighting.

BELOW: A muted Venetian plaster wraps the walls in the dining room, where an area rug from ABC Carpet captures the serenity the Pattersons value. Turning again to Moore's photography, *Rose Pavilion, Pavlovsk, Russia* hangs above the original stone fireplace.



But the couple, who at the time already had a Palm Beach house, saw the superb views that the abandoned property perched 20 feet above sea level possessed. And with the team of Bridges and Marsh, Hedrick Construction and decorator Cynthia Thomas, they committed. "Due to its Landmark status, it was necessary to keep the somewhat boxy exterior unchanged," Thomas says. "But we were at least able to change out 1920s mullioned windows for those with expansive full panes that really opened up the view and brought in the natural light."

"We planned this house for ourselves, this place is about family and friends," Patterson says. "We simply wanted it to feel comfortable, bringing plenty of the outdoors in — and again, create a sense of home."

Eschewing the formal grand entrance, the Pattersons most often enter through a lower foyer that leads to the Escher-like stairwell. With delicately

turned wrought iron balustrades, the stairway leads to the second floor that holds the living room, dining room, kitchen, parlor and media room, while the floor above is for Jim's office, bedrooms and sitting rooms. A 10,000-square-foot guesthouse adjoins the main home.

"Sue and I are both visual thinkers. For instance, right now, I'm working on 40 manuscripts — novels, screenplays — they're all alive in my head. I can go from one to another, sort of seeing the whole thing mapped out the way it's going to be. And that's how we were with this house," the author says. "We discussed every piece of furniture, the fabric, the art, the layout of the rooms ... we told the contractors that we would not make any changes ... wouldn't change our minds. They didn't believe us, but we didn't make even one change."

In the living room, the Pattersons left the original Cuban tile flooring. And above, thick coffers were added. Parts of the original living room ceiling, with