



# Suspending Reality: Interiors by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz

*Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz, Linda O'Keeffe*

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The first monograph of one of today's most influential interior designers, with dazzling residences designed for Sean Combs, Lenny Kravitz, and Mexican novelist Laura Esquivel.

*Suspending Reality* draws on over sixty of Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz's projects, designed over his firm's twenty-year history, to provide both a long-awaited peek into the creative mind of a celebrity designer, and a generous dose of advice for those inspired to decorate show-stopping rooms of their own. Lively chapters cover everything from how to evaluate an empty room or use a client's Pinterest page to generate a storyboard, to how to create a sense of procession in an entryway or hall, and specific tips for lighting with a mix of incandescent, LED, and even florescent lights.

This comprehensive book includes projects from Noriega-Ortiz's own famed all-white Manhattan apartment—in a stunning chapter on all-white rooms—to luxury spaces in the Dakota, Mark Seliger's former factory loft on New York's West Side Highway, a Paris pied-a-terre, a modern house in Venice, California, Lenny Kravitz's Mediterranean-style mansion, and a beach house in Quogue whose kitchen cabinets are studded with Swarovski crystals. Learn the stories behind iconic designs for the Mondrian hotels around the country, inspired by Jean Cocteau and the Garden of Eden, find transformative tricks for mirrors, or simply daydream about the luminous glass and metal roof over the *Like Water for Chocolate* author's study and writing room.

Noriega-Ortiz explains how he captures the unusual sense of openness, light, and positivity in his projects—whether with works by Cindy Sherman and Louise Bourgeois, or furniture from West Elm—through his use of color, materials, and spatial sleight of hand. An ethereal curtain creates unexpected mystery, a bold splash of color invigorates the senses, and a seat upholstered in a tactile material like Mongolian lamb beckons to be touched. Each space is tempered by a whimsical element meant to pull us out of everyday life and to inject a moment of fantasy and delight, to defy expectations and create the kind of comfort that suspends reality.

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