



HOUSE OF ALONSO, PART 1

Baroque-inspired cornices and furniture complement the living space's aged charm.

Tweed jacket; spectator shoes



HOUSE OF CHINO, PART II

Beautifully weathered furniture in sharp contrast to the posters and pictures of Cuba's revolutionary figures.

Tweed backpack; Panama hat



TEATRO VERDUN
Formerly a theatre, today, this picturesque area is a rehearsal space for an experimental dance troupe.
Chain slides; spectator shoes

If serendipity could strike at the most opportune time, it had to be the night before I boarded my flight to Havana, Cuba, for Chanel's magical cruise show. I chanced upon an invite to the Lumas Gallery in Singapore, showcasing the works of renowned travel and art photographer, Werner Pawlok. Titled simply as "Viva Cuba!", the exhibition showcased his incredibly detailed architectural and interior shots of homes and spaces in Havana. Pawlok first visited Cuba in 2004 and, employing his unique painterly approach in photography, began a long-term series of works which he compiled in his book, *Cuba - expired*. Returning to Cuba twice over the past 11 years, his work was picked up by international art agent Lumas and added to the portfolio of artists they represent.

I was immediately drawn to his photographs and excited by the prospect of what Havana offered architecturally. Speaking to Pawlok in Singapore right before I boarded my flight, I asked if he would be interested in collaborating on a still-life shoot for *Harper's BAZAAR* in Havana, featuring the collection I was about to witness. Knowing how Karl Lagerfeld employs strong local references in his experiential shows in far-flung destinations, I instinctively knew this would be a perfect marriage—juxtaposing high fashion against the most beautiful crumbling buildings. Having previously worked in fashion, Pawlok has created campaigns for Nicole Farhi and editorials for international fashion magazines in the past. He was interested to get back into editorial work, but

this time around, taken from his own unique point of view. Employing his photography technique of multiple exposures and multilayer post-editing, the saturated and detail-rich pictures you see here are all shot with natural light.

On 3rd May, when I saw what Lagerfeld brought out in sultry, sexy Havana: Chic monochromatic tuxedo ensembles, cropped trousers, Panama hats and two-tone metallic brogues, I knew I could edit the best of the collection for a very different still-life shoot. Cropped tweed jackets, satin cummerbunds, white socks and loafers all looked like they had come straight off the backs of dancers in the surrounding salsa clubs. The military presence was also strong on the runway, with olive green cotton romper suits and touches of camouflage tones scattered throughout. The highlights were the soft pastel tones on delicious separates and the most desired item: Coco Cuba t-shirts. Worn under the House's signature multi-hued tweed pastel suits, the teens spoke of youth and a nostalgic nod to the halcyon '50s days of summer. The vintage car prints, reflective of what runs on the busy streets of Havana today, in lollipop and sorbet shades were as refreshing as ice cream on a hot balmy evening.

This cool, pop culture-inspired fashion, lovingly realised by Lagerfeld, was perfect for a shoot in dilapidated spaces where time stood still. In these pages, you will witness the splendour of high Parisian fashion set against the faded glory of Havana. If fashion can be said to break down borders, this has to be it. ■



HOUSE OF BERMUDEZ
With a curved staircase, in-built bar, vibrant furnishings and marbled tiles, this century-old villa's interiors drip with European decadence.
Wooden clutch; cuff; bracelet



HOUSE OF ALONSO, PART II

The warm, inviting colour scheme of the retro patterned tiles, rusty spiral staircase and wooden furniture draws your eye into this kitchen.

Panama hat; tweed jacket; chain slides



SOLAR HABANA Y AMARGUA

Robustly-coloured courtyards with gilded staircase railings are typical of living spaces in Havana.

Spectator shoes; tweed backpack

Production and styling: Bettina Hermann
Production (Cuba): Odalys Garcia
Production assistant (Cuba): Lorena