

# Designer Show House

A COLLECTION OF SOME OF THE FINEST ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS IN THE HAMPTONS SHARE THEIR SECRETS TO CREATING LIVABLE AND BEAUTIFUL SPACES—INDOORS AND OUT.

By Jean Nayar

In a waterfront home in North Haven, the designers aimed for a sense of “effortless luxury,” and in the foyer, a custom-designed art moderne-influenced lantern in nickel and iron, a bronze elephant by Roger Godchaux and a pair of large-scale Nick Brandt wildlife portraits reflect the casual tone of the residence.

**Rorie Tobin**  
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BRADFIELD & TOBIN PHOTO BY SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY;  
APD PHOTO BY TRIA GIOVAN

## FOYER

### What are the keys to creating a positive first impression?

The entrance hall is a designer’s opportunity to introduce the tone for the entire residence. In the Hamptons, a neutral palette and elegantly simple furnishings give the immediate feel of a summer retreat.

### What’s your take on making a grand entrance?

The scale of a large double-height foyer calls for an important light fixture. Double-height windows with a commanding view also provide tremendous drama.

Designed by APD Architects, the foyer in a shingle-style home features floating balustrades and monumental stone stair treads that make it both contemporary and timeless.

**Stuart Disston**  
PRINCIPAL, APD  
APDARCHITECTS.COM

### What are the keys to creating a positive first impression?

The scale of the space must be appropriate for the architecture. Too grand for a not-so-grand house is wrong. Too small for a large house does not work either. One has to find the Goldilocks scale. Detail and what the eye gazes through to the sequential spaces are also key.



LIVING ROOM

Elsa Soyars

PRINCIPAL, ELSA  
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What sets the idea of  
'easy living' apart in  
the Hamptons?

In the Hamptons we are surrounded by beautiful beaches and beautiful light. It's impossible to not feel relaxed in this environment. Of course, the decor of a home, when well done, follows suit with this feeling of relaxation and enjoyment. Color is also very important when it comes to creating the tone in a space and can have a magical effect on one's well-being.

How does lifestyle  
affect your approach  
to designing  
living spaces?

It's very important to understand a client's way of living—and the design needs to incorporate their wish list. This is the successful formula for good interior design.

In the living space of a home in Southampton, designer Elsa Soyars deployed elements with a mix of textures, including "curtains in a sparkly Kravet fabric that resembles rock candy and Lucite hardware that brings in a beautiful and light vibe," she says. The coffee table injects a shot of color.



LIVING ROOM PHOTO BY BOB FRAMIE FOR ELSA SOYARS; BATHROOM PHOTO BY RAIMUND KOCH

James Merrell

PRINCIPAL, JAMES MERRELL ARCHITECTS  
JAMESMERRELLARCHITECTS.COM

Which materials matter most?

Every bath should have natural stone floors with radiant heat.

What is a must-have in today's Hamptons bath?

An organic stone free-standing tub.

In a modern home in Southampton designed by James Merrell Architects with Kelly Behun Studio, the master bath was designed to look and feel like an indulgent private spa.



BATHROOM



## KITCHEN



### MAUREEN MCDERMOTT

PRINCIPAL, WINTER MCDERMOTT DESIGN  
WINTERMCDERMOTT.COM

#### What does a kitchen need to be the heart of the home?

It's essential for kitchens to be planned correctly so that everything has a place and the appliances are all in functional locations. We also always allow for a large pantry to house small appliances like toasters and coffee machines.

#### What can a designer do to enhance the art of entertaining in the Hamptons?

A good layout is everything. When we plan, we analyze the flow and really immerse ourselves in how our clients will live in and use the space.

In her renovation of a waterfront Cape in Sag Harbor, designer Maureen McDermott crafted a modern kitchen with traditional roots. "The cabinetry is a take on a traditional Shaker style but paired with more modern touches like the quartz stone, Gubi pendants and oversize shiplap paneling," she says.

PHOTO BY READ MCKENDREE



### PAUL MASI

ARCHITECT AND PRINCIPAL  
BATES MASI + ARCHITECTS  
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#### What are the essentials in crafting a sweet retreat?

Waking up to the sun instead of an alarm is a luxury, as long as it is on your schedule. Provide large windows with blackout shades that open on a timer.

#### What's your take on beach house bedroom basics?

Design the house to maximize privacy for the bedrooms, including separating the guest bedrooms from the family bedrooms. Ensure the utmost peace and quiet by using loaded vinyl acoustic separation in the walls and floors, as well as acoustic seals on the doors.

In a waterfront retreat designed by Bates Masi + Architects in Sagaponack, a restrained sleeping space enclosed with walls and ceilings clad in wood opens on one side to the spectacular water view and rising morning sun.

### TAMARA FRASER

PRINCIPAL,  
E. LILY HOME  
ELILYHOME.COM

#### What are the essentials in crafting a sweet retreat?

Lots of layers, lots of textures, soft light and cozy corners.



In a modern home on a lot that backs up to a nature preserve in Sagaponack, Tamara Fraser's design for a compact bunk room maxes out the space for sleeping and storage with custom beds that make the most of every inch. "The clean lines and wood finish complement the millwork in the rest of the house," she adds.

## BEDROOM

E. LILY HOME PHOTO COURTESY OF E. LILY HOME



OUTDOOR SPACE

As a modern intervention to an older 3,400-square-foot house in East Hampton, architect Blaze Makoid created a trellis leading to the pool lounge. "It feels monumental and permanent—not super fussy or delicate—so the proportions of the primary archways are purposefully heavier than are structurally required," he says.

BLAZE MAKOID

PRINCIPAL, BLAZE MAKOID ARCHITECTURE  
BLAZEMAKOID-ARCHITECTURE.COM

**What are your thoughts on the art of crafting a connection with nature?**  
It's sort of like the 'fourth wall' in acting. We try to design spaces that reach out, through the glass, looking to develop uninterrupted perspectives that carry the eye from inside the house to the most distant focal point.



PHOTO BY ATTIC FIRE



JOE EISNER

ARCHITECT AND PRINCIPAL, EISNER DESIGN  
EISNERDESIGN.COM

**How has the Hamptons lifestyle reshaped the way we live and you design?**

Even a basement space can be made to feel light and airy through the use of reflective surfaces, light wells and a walkout area that keeps it from feeling subterranean. In the Hamptons, families are often in the same spaces when entertaining. So even a basement

play area needs a sophisticated approach, as parents can be nearby entertaining friends.

**What's the key to creating a room unlike any other?**

Mixing differing activities in a novel way within a space, finding the unique and positive qualities of the existing space and unleashing them in the design.

In a contemporary home in Water Mill, architect Joe Eisner crafted a multipurpose open loftlike recreational space that allows for kids to play in a sophisticated environment with spaces for adults to lounge and relax nearby.

UNIQUE SPACE