

AD

MAGAZINE

Step Inside This Magical Long Island Home

At the North Fork dwelling of an art-world insider, too much is
never enough

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Gray, silver, and blue plantings define the entry garden. Landscape architecture by Ahmad Sardar-Afkhami. Gate by Baker Structures. Paint throughout by Benjamin Moore.

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It's hard to find *le mot juste* to describe this country home belonging to an éminence grise and tastemaker in the worlds of art and design. The terms *eclectic*, *polyglot*, and *eccentric* definitely apply, but they all feel too anemic in capturing the property's mad medley of color and decor, its fairy-tale landscape and myriad coups de théâtre, and the outlandish imagination of the homeowner and his merry band of designer/enablers. Even the owner himself seems a bit astonished surveying the outré finery of his waterfront wonderland. "This house was an invitation to fulfill a fantasy I didn't know I had," he says blithely.



A Garouste & Bonetti chandelier crowns the living room. Dmitriy & Co. sofas in Kelly Wearstler for Lee Jofa fabric face off across a pair of 1970s patchwork leather benches used as cocktail tables; vintage Swedish kilim.



Chairs by the English Arts and Crafts architect John Campbell surround a Rose Uniacke drapery table beneath a Naomi Paul pendant in the dining area.



Melange Pendant

\$4,379 AT CIRCA



Antiguan Sky Paint

\$80 AT BENJAMIN MOORE

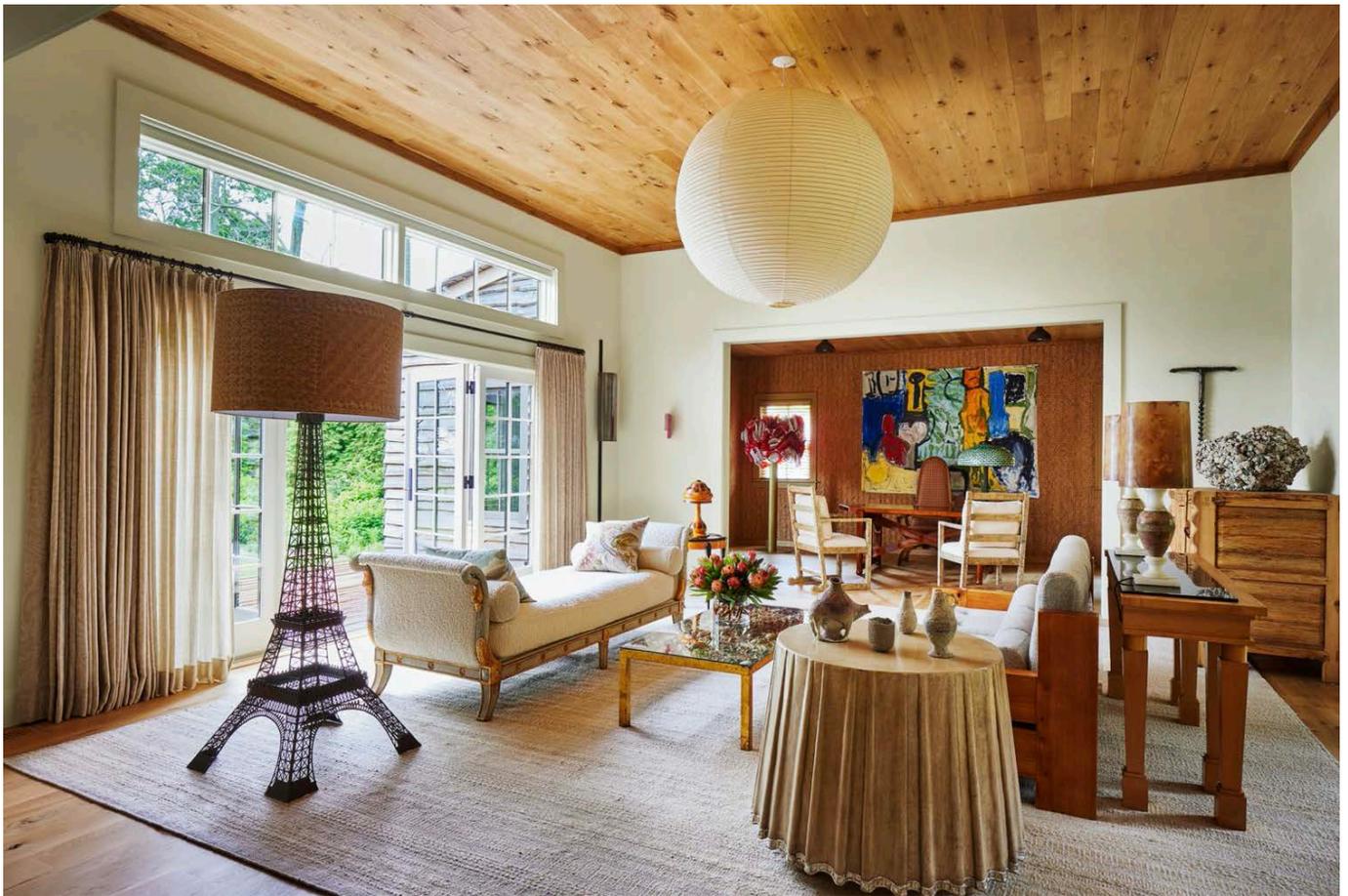


Simple Shade 03 Pendant

\$7,550 AT NAOMI PAUL

First, a little background. The residence, built in the early 1900s, is improbably situated on the North Fork of Long Island, an area traditionally regarded as the calm, unpretentious yin to the raging, extravagant yang of the Hamptons. Equally improbable is the dwelling's Adirondack-inflected architecture, a style endemic to the forested mountains of northern New York, certainly not the Peconic Bay. "The house was a wreck, but it had such great, weird character and presence, it just said, 'Buy me!'" the homeowner recalls.

After heeding that siren call, he quickly set about assembling a team of designers to conjure his vision of a modern Bloomsbury, chockablock with bewitching hues, lavish patterns, artisanal details, and romantic inspirations from far-flung sources. That roster of collaborators included interior designer Hadley Wiggins, color wizard Eve Ashcraft, landscape architect Ahmad Sardar-Afkhami, and architectural designer Louis Yoh. From there, it was off to the races.



The poolhouse's great room has a [Dorothy Draper](#) occasional table, an Alain Gaubert sofa from [Maison Gerard](#) in Rose Uniacke fabric, and an Empire daybed from H.M. Luther.



Malaga Chair

\$1,495 AT JAYSON HOME



Assamese Blanket

\$400 AT COMMUNE DESIGN



Feltri Chair

\$9,900 AT 1ST DIBS

Structural changes to the main house involved the addition of a new front elevation that mirrors the rear façade and facilitates a more gracious entry procession; the removal of a decorative lattice-panel ceiling below the attic level to create a triple-height living room illuminated by new copper-framed skylights; recladding the structure with new cedar shakes; and blowing out walls to create more generously scaled spaces for the kitchen, dining room, and bedrooms. Those architectural emendations set the stage for the decorative drama that unfolds the moment one passes through the front door into a foyer bathed in a shade of brilliant coral.

The rainbow coalition of wall treatments on the ground floor includes a butter-yellow limewash in the drawing room, indigo-dyed linen in the living room, turquoise paint for the kitchen, and a coat of a cool blue-gray in the adjacent dining area. On the second level, the joyous medley expands to limewashes of dirty mauve and pale green in the main and guest bedrooms, respectively, and an eruption of saffron, inspired by the color of Christo's 2005 gates installation in Central Park, in the primary bath. "I couldn't get away with this with conservative clients or anyone who cares about what the neighbors think. [The homeowner] would tell me, 'Do whatever you want to do. Make it magical.' The more color we put in, the more the house could take," Ashcraft notes.



The poolhouse spa is outfitted with Moroccan zellige tiles by Clé, an early-20th-century alabaster pendant lamp, a Victorian turners chair, and Egyptian Revival sconces.



Color maven Eve Ashcraft hand-painted the walls of a guest bedroom furnished with a Chinese Chippendale bed, a chandelier from M. Alexander, Max Kuehne demilune tables, and a Tuareg mat rug.



Zellige Riverbed Mounted Square Terra-Cotta Tiles

\$33 AT CLÉ TILES



Paradise Canopy Bed

\$2,250 AT AMANDA LINDROTH



Tuareg Mat

\$2,100 AT BAZAAR DU SUD

Wiggins applied the same multiplication principle to the time-tripping, nation-spanning decor, which is elastic enough to encompass a voluptuous French console by Jean Muhl in the entry, a 12-foot-long Garouste and Bonetti columnar pendant light in the living room atrium, a Gaetano Pesce Feltri chair reimagined by Raf Simons for Calvin Klein in the drawing room, and an 18th-century Italian painted and parcel-gilt carved headboard in the main bedroom. “The farther afield we went, the more we were able to find harmonies and synergies within all these different notes,” Wiggins observes. “It’s all a reflection of the client, his incredible eye for art and objects, and his comfort with rejecting any limitations on what’s suitable,” she adds.



An early-20th-century Scandinavian chair from [Maison Gerard](#) stands by the putty-green sleeping berth in the poolhouse.



Varykino Linen by Décors Barbares; *to the trade*.
[johnrosselli.com](#)



Porcelain Vase; *price upon request*.
[lairdgough.com](#)



19th-Century French Quilted Cushion; \$923 for a pair.
[katharinepole.com](#)

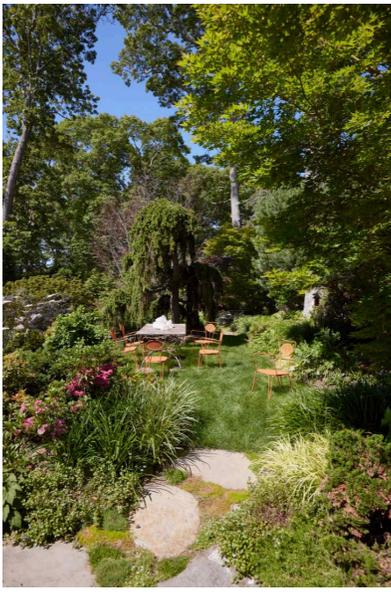
The capacious poolhouse, clad in live-edge wood planks, is a pleasure dome of a different stripe, visually connected to the architecture of the main residence, but distinct in its details and spirit—think Hans Christian Andersen by way of 1stDibs and Art Basel, with a Turkish bath thrown in for good measure. Although the interior color palette is deliberately more subdued, Wiggins and Ashcraft clearly had their way in countless textural flourishes and finishes, from the rush mats that line the walls of the sitting room and study to the zellige tiles that envelope the spa to the ethereal clouds hand-painted by Ashcraft on the ceiling of the pale green sleeping berth. “That’s my escape from my escape,” the homeowner quips, describing the dreamy, cloistered daybed.

The back of the poolhouse opens out to a startling North Fork Shangri-la, a secret garden where the owner conducts business meetings amid the exotic splendor of weeping spruce and beech trees, dwarf red pines and ginkgoes, and a variety of moon- and cut-leaf Japanese maples. “We were inspired by Chinese scholars’ gardens to create a contemplative space with a meandering pathway that leads to various intimate moments of beauty and discovery,” Sardar-Afkhami explains. “I’ve had enough of doing polite gardens. When [the homeowner] said, ‘Let’s do a riot of color,’ I was in. He likes the unusual, the accidental, and he’s not afraid of changing his mind,” the landscape architect adds, again ascribing the giddy delight of the estate to the client’s freewheeling spirit and cultivated taste.



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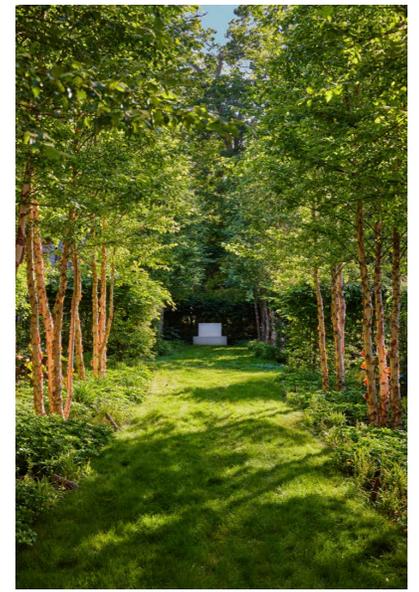
The drawing room has a Raf Simons for Calvin Klein Gaetano Pesce chair, a George Sherlock sofa in Rogers & Goffigon fabric, and a William Haines cocktail table from Liz O’Brien.



A Jansen table and midcentury Italian chairs are nestled among specimen trees in the secret garden.



In the entry, a 1960s Yki Nummi pendant hangs above a Jean Muhl plaster-and-travertine console.



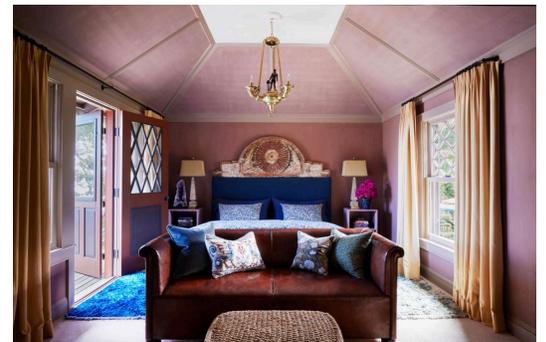
Sardar-Afkhami planted an allée of river birches backed by hornbeam hedges in a side garden.



The primary bath in the main house has Adolf Loos sconces for WOKA and a Waterworks tub filler.



A collection of rocket models graces the mantel beneath a pendant light from DimoreGallery.



Looking into the primary bedroom.



Santa Barbara Designs umbrellas and Brown Jordan chaise longues and chairs covered in outdoor fabrics by Kelly Wearstler for Lee Jofa and Perennials line the pool lawn.



Vintage Karl Springer wicker seating mixes with other antiques on the screened porch.



The walls of the primary dressing room are upholstered in a Zoffany fabric.



The house overlooks the Peconic Bay.



Colorful battens create a rhythm along the rear façade of the poolhouse, where a secret garden unfolds.



The game room in the poolhouse is outfitted with Carl Bergsten chairs, a Melchiorre Bega midcentury Italian table, an Adam Kurtzman pendant from Blackman Cruz, and Zoffany wallpaper.



The study in the poolhouse has an early-20th-century Swedish table, a Tiffany lamp on the table, a Campana Brothers floor lamp, and walls covered in rush mats. The painting is by Claude Lawrence.



A Pierre Frey wallpaper envelops the powder room. Waterworks sink and fittings; vintage mirror.



A Mario Ceroli slatted pine sofa and a vintage Phyllis Morris cocktail table rest on a Moroccan kilim in the poolhouse's sitting room.



Retro-Chic Double Decker Umbrella

\$4,800 AT SANTA BARBARA DESIGNS



The Dryad Rattan Leighton Table

\$7,625 AT SOANE BRITAIN

The homeowner, for his part, returns the compliment. “I work in a creative field, but I’ve never had, nor sought, a project like this for myself. It unintentionally triggered a wonderful, indulgent journey into color, furniture, landscape, and all the disparate things that are fused together here,” he concludes. “I evolved this vision jointly with the team I assembled. This house is an egg we all hatched together.”