

# HAMPTONS

CELEBRATING  
35  
YEARS

## RALPH LAUREN

THE MASTER OF FASHION  
ON BUILDING THE AMERICAN  
DREAM By Fern Mallis

*Happy July 4th!*

AMERICANA  
INSPIRED FOOD,  
FASHION AND  
FESTIVITIES

HIP HOTELIERS  
*The Chic Set*  
*Retreats Out East*

**PLUS**

Liza Minnelli, Sam Talbot,  
Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss,  
Marc Murphy, Michael Bruno

# HAMPTONS

## Fourth of July 2013

### home & design

#### 297 Village Oasis

Set on a pristine plot in a storied Southampton spot, a sprawling estate affords glimpses of undisturbed nature right in its backyard.

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274 The Ultimate Curation  
The Southampton home of Michael Bruno features unique finds from his website, 1stdibs.

Designer Bradley Stephens (INSET) helped design this Bridgehampton home, which features a pool, pergola, and a tennis court.



## a family affair

BY EMPLOYING ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, STEPHENS DESIGN GROUP CREATES A BRIDGEHAMPTON SUMMER HOME TO ACCOMMODATE THE FULL, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES OF TWO SISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. BY STEPHANIE MURG

Two families building one house could have been a recipe for disaster—arguments over the layout, jostling for space and privacy, a bifurcated aesthetic. But it turned out to be a pleasurable challenge for a pair of sisters who sought an elegant, comfortable, and practical escape from the city for themselves, their husbands, children (a total of five), parents, and a steady stream of houseguests. Their luminous Bridgehampton home, now in its second summer, can transition from hosting a kids’ soccer camp to a formal dinner for 20.

After a decade of sharing rental properties in the Hamptons, the sisters started from scratch with two acres set back from Ocean Road. They brought on designer Bradley Stephens of Stephens Design Group after seeing several of his Manhattan residential projects.

Working in collaboration with architect Rich Granoff (*Granoff Architects, 30 W. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT, 203-625-9460; granoffarchitects.com*),

Stephens began what would be a two-year designing and building process, including work by local contractor Hobbs, Inc. (*2273 Montauk Hwy. Bridgehampton, 537-8620; hobbsinc.com*), not by sketching floor plans but with a series of detailed conversations with the sisters. “We talked through the sequence of the home, area by area,” says Stephens, who probed the families’ functional needs along with their aspirations and what their previous homes had lacked. “I liken it to writing a novel about their lives in this new place,” he explains. “That was the foundation, so before we made one decision or stepped into the first showroom, we knew all about their preferences.”

The priorities that emerged from the initial discussions called for a design balancing act: Create a retreat that would be grand yet breezy, equally comfortable in high summer and the dead of winter, open and convivial, but with ample private space. “We knew we needed something that

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The “bunk room,” inspired by a ship’s quarters, sleeps 11 and features bleached-wood accents, antiqued bronze handrails, and leather-wrapped stair treads.

**INSIGHT**

.....  
 **Tempting as it may be... to never leave this house, here are nearby family-friendly spots to visit:**

- Mecox Beach
- C&W Mercantile
- Children’s Museum of the East End

mirror-image staircases that bracket the house to concealed lighting elements that connect one space to another. Bold, sculptural statements come from a suite of custom fixtures by Chad Jacobs of Bone Simple Design (23-07 38th Ave., Long Island City, 212-627-0876; *bonesimple.com*), who worked with Stephens and Pier Glass (499 Van Brunt St., Brooklyn, 718-237-2073) to develop the three dazzling fixtures that illuminate the great room. Inspired by rice paper and sea

glass, the dangling cylinders evoke the work of artist Eva Hesse.

The central common area transitions easily into the open family room and a kitchen built for entertaining, with abundant storage in rift-cut oak cabinets stained a moody gray, double refrigerators and dishwashers, and grab-friendly sliding baskets for bread and produce. The breakfast room, oriented around an oval dining table and chairs, found at Antiqueria Tribeca (129 Duane St., NYC, 212-227-7500; *antiqueria.com*), easily transforms into a screened porch adjacent to the poolside outdoor dining area. “I probably feel most comfortable in the kitchen/family room,” says one of the sisters. “I just love how it can absorb 10 or 15 people and still be comfortable and cozy.”

**The priorities that emerged: Create a retreat that would be grand but breezy.**

That design feat continues upstairs, where the sisters’ two master suites (a third, for their parents, is on the ground floor) reflect their personalities. “I tend to be more whimsical, and she tends to be more clean and modern, but we start at a similar place,” says one sister. “And Bradley has a fabulous ability to find the common ground between two strong opinions.” Although their suites diverge, one infused with Art Deco flourishes and the other more contemporary, the sisters agreed on bathroom finishes, including full-slab walls of creamy Stellar White marble from Stone Source (215 Park Ave. South, NYC, 212-979-6400; *stonesource.com*). “We killed ourselves finding just the right material,” says Stevens. “It’s like being in a cloud.”

In addition to a suite of softly stunning rooms for the young daughters of both families, there are two guest rooms and a nautically flavored “bunk room” that can sleep as many as 11, allowing the shared home to function as something of a boutique hotel for friends and extended family. “It turned out better than I could have ever imagined,” says one sister. “I envision years of happiness here.” **H**



LEFT: The custom chef’s kitchen has rift-cut white oak cabinetry and a 14-foot island that opens to the adjoining family room.

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was going to be formal enough for parties, events, and dinners—that is very much a part of their lifestyle,” says Stephens. “But it also needed to function for two big families. At any given time there are 10 kids staying over [but the house can accommodate up to 19]!”

Even with Wii tennis tournaments underway in the upstairs game room and a backyard pool full of cousins, serenity is the prevailing vibe of the three-level, 13,000-square-foot home. The front door opens directly into the great room. “There’s very little procession to this house,” says Stephens, who layered rich furnishings and finishes with resilient flooring and outdoor fabrics. The rear wall of glass-paneled doors, lined with reclaimed wooden beams, looks out on to covered terraces and spacious grounds. The expansive interior is both warm and airy, thanks to a hand-lacquered ceiling by JJ Snyder Studio (12 Hampton Pl., Brooklyn, 347-678-5009; *jjsnyderstudio.com*) and walls paneled in gold-flecked Little Dipper Metallic Sprinkled wallpaper by Amagansett-based Elizabeth Dow (11 Indian Wells Hwy., Amagansett, 267-3401; *elizabethdow.com*). The sandy gleam in the paper picks up on the colors of the wood floor and, come evening, glows like candlelight.

Stephens is a wizard with lighting (he is quick to credit his partner of 13 years, an architectural lighting designer, for “hammering every lighting theory into my head”), from the quartet of Lindsey Adelman Studio’s (195 Chrystie St., NYC, 212-473-2501; *lindseyadelman.com*) Branching Bubble chandeliers, studded with handblown glass orbs that illuminate the two