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THE LUSH LIFE





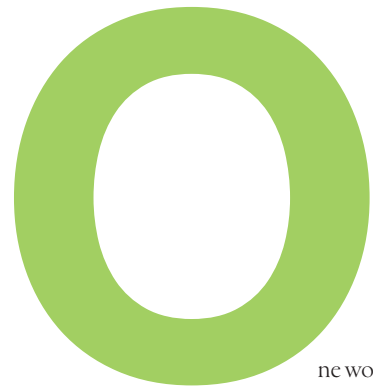
CLIFF HANGER

At his own brand-new house overlooking Gardiners Bay, decorator Scott Sanders reaches for the sky

BY HEATHER BUCHANAN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK SARGENT



Flying High
A precipitous 93-step stairway connects the house to a private beach below. See Resources.



One would think that leaving a storied home and exquisite gardens on East Hampton's prestigious Further Lane might be a heartbreaking endeavor, but for interior designer Scott Sanders and his husband, retired corporate lawyer Peter Wilson, the time came to embrace their wild side. "Peter has always had a desire to live on the water," recounts Sanders, who keeps offices in New York and Palm Beach, "and unbeknownst to me, he had been looking [for another property] for a number of years." Wilson eventually stumbled on a stunning cliffside setting overlooking Gardiners Bay, reached by a steep 93-step stairway leading down to a private beach. "I remember it was very cold and raining when we drove over to see it," Sanders continues. "I said, 'If it's this beautiful in the rain, then it must be incredible in the sun.'"

During the nearly 15 years that the couple lived on Further Lane, Sanders says, the road "got busier and busier," and this new parcel provided them with an opportunity to "create a space that was very quiet, all about nature and openness, light and air." Designing the home from scratch presented an added bonus, since they used the same architect and builder as the Further Lane house, BarlisWedlick and Trunzo Building Contractors. "I give them a lot of credit for working with a couple who have a ton of opinions, one of whom is an interior designer!" Sanders says



Airy Appeal

In the foyer, a work by David Maisel hangs above a Milo Baughman bench. The vintage Adrien Audoux and Frida Minet rope chair is a score from Wyeth. See Resources.

“I incorporated a lot of items from our previous house, which I either reupholstered, repainted, or reused. This home has a connection to our 17 years together as well as our earlier lives. It has a sense of continuity”



with a laugh, adding that he and his husband are generally sympathetic when it comes to decision-making. “The two of us collaborated on the architecture and the gardens and the overall feel of the house, and as for the decorating, I incorporated a lot of items from the previous house, which I either reupholstered, repainted, or reused. This home has a connection to our 17 years together as well as our earlier lives. It has a sense of continuity.” It’s also a fitting new showcase for Sanders’s “greatest hits”: furnishings he has aggregated

during the last two decades and longed to find a permanent place for. These come from various favorite sources including Wyeth, Orange in Los Angeles, and ShowPony in Palm Beach.

Ample in size, the house is surprisingly intimate, thanks to a floor plan that essentially comprises two separate, linked structures, so that “when you are in a space it’s about that one space, and you can see to the next space through a division or a pathway,” says Sanders, whose smart color sense, anchored by a pal-

Blue’s Clues
(OPPOSITE) In the dining area, Patrick Naggar chairs from Ralph Pucci International surround a Warren Platner table. (THIS PAGE) In the living room, matching sofas from Wyeth are covered in a Thibaut linen. Decorator and homeowner Scott Sanders designed the rug, which was produced by Sacco Carpet. See Resources.



Of particular note in the living room is a Sanders-designed rug whose pattern is meant to evoke “either oars or waves in the water,” and in the kitchen, blue stone and tile work in tandem with warm wood cabinetry to create a cocooning effect



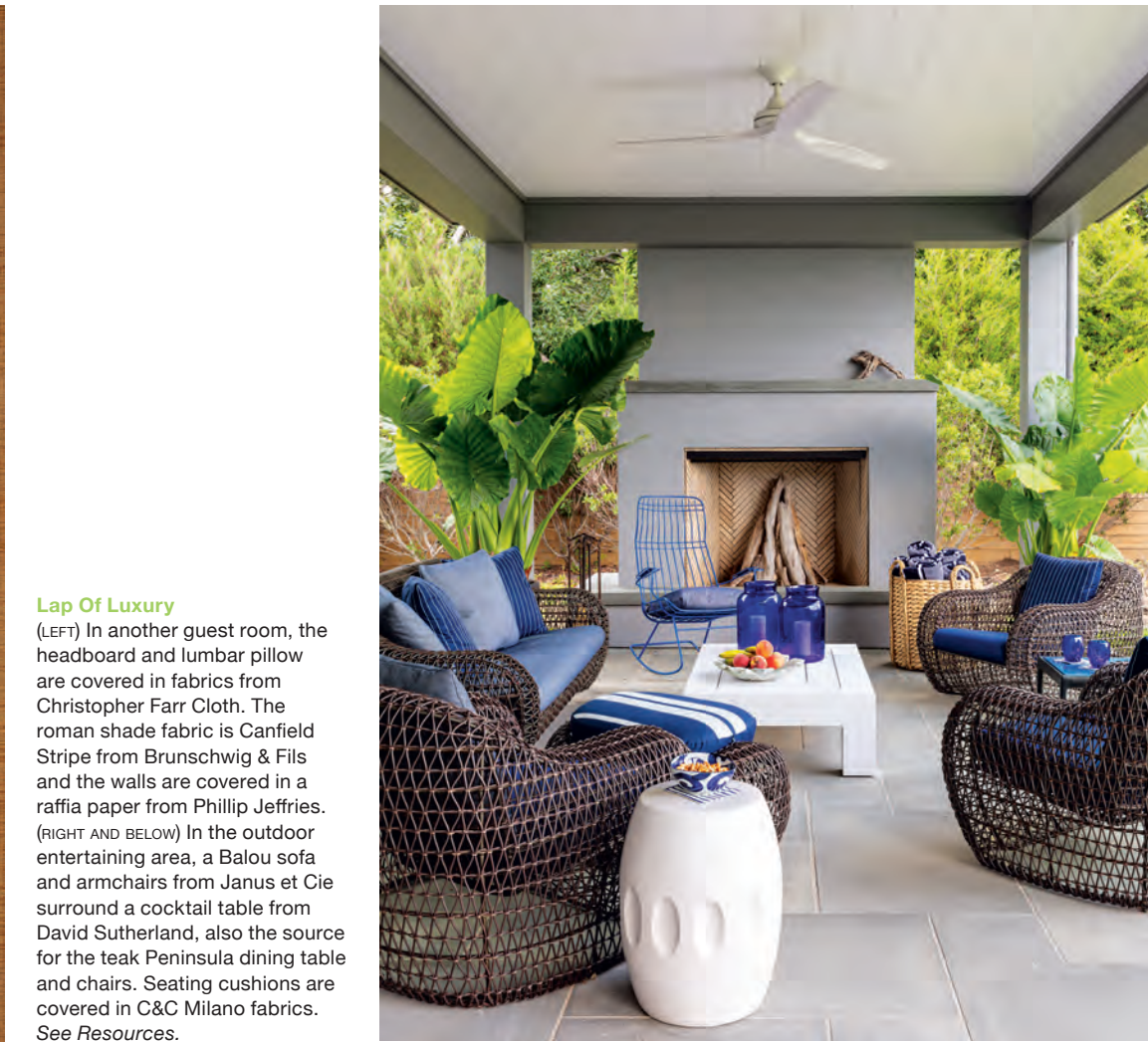
Homey Charm
 (OPPOSITE) In a corner of the living room, Bailey the dachshund curls up on a banquette sofa designed by Sanders and covered in a Peter Fasano linen. A Richard Mosse C-print hangs above. (THIS PAGE ABOVE AND LEFT) In the kitchen, pendants from Studio Van den Akker hang above a custom island topped in Soapstone Fantasy from ABC Stone. Vintage Edward Wormley chairs from Wyeth surround an latesta Studio table from John Rosselli & Associates. See Resources.



Quiet Corners

(OPPOSITE TOP LEFT) In a hallway, a work by artist and close friend Sean Mellyn hangs above a vintage 1960s cabinet. (OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) Sanders's office features a vintage Dunbar desk, a distressed pedestal table from Ralph Lauren Home, and a vintage rattan mirror from Baker above a Charles Fradin console. (THIS PAGE) The bed in a guest room is from Palecek. The sheets are from Matouk. See Resources.

“While you want a cohesive thread with any project you might be working on, you also want the rooms to have their own feel. Each pavilion and each wing here, for example, has its own shade of blue”



Lap Of Luxury
 (LEFT) In another guest room, the headboard and lumbar pillow are covered in fabrics from Christopher Farr Cloth. The roman shade fabric is Canfield Stripe from Brunschwig & Fils and the walls are covered in a raffia paper from Phillip Jeffries.
 (RIGHT AND BELOW) In the outdoor entertaining area, a Balou sofa and armchairs from Janus et Cie surround a cocktail table from David Sutherland, also the source for the teak Peninsula dining table and chairs. Seating cushions are covered in C&C Milano fabrics. See Resources.



“Peter has always had a desire to live on the water. It was cold and raining when we first saw this property, and I said, ‘If it’s this beautiful in the rain, then it must be incredible in the sun’”

ette of nautical blues, further connects the rooms into a seamless whole. “Peter, whose favorite color is green, was a very good sport about everything. He said, ‘I suppose you are going to do blue, since we’re on the water.’ But while you want a cohesive thread with any project you’re working on, you also want the rooms to have their own feel. Each pavilion and each wing here, for example, has its own shade of blue.”

Of note in the living room is a Sanders-designed rug whose pattern is meant to evoke “either oars or waves in the water,” and in the kitchen, blue stone and tile work in tandem with warm wood cabinetry to create a cocooning effect—most appropriate for a couple who love to entertain, cook, and bake.

Such a spectacular setting also calls for spending much time outdoors, so the couple enlisted landscape designer Craig Socia to make a plan that would be the antithesis of a formal garden. Invasive wisteria was replaced with a native plant palette centered on beach grasses, which went into the soil even before construction began. Now it forms an undulating field of green framing the infinity-edge pool. “It looks effortless, but it wasn’t effortless,” Sanders says with a smile. “It’s all about the view and how you get to the view. On some projects, things just click into place, and everything came together on this one. To have that happen while you are working on your own house is wonderful. All the surprises were pleasant surprises, which is very rare.” *



Infinite Best
Swaddled in a framework of beach grasses, the infinity-edge swimming pool stretches toward Gardiners Bay. The chaises and ottomans are from David Sutherland. See Resources.

STELLE LOMONT ROUHANI
ARCHITECTS



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OUR CROWD



GIDEON MENDELSON

The project featured in this issue's "Pattern Play" (page 78) "was really just a lot of fun" for interior designer Gideon Mendelson, who says "its eclectic palette and mix of patterns took me out of my comfort zone." Mendelson, who holds degrees in architecture from Columbia University and in design from the New York School of Interior Design, has decorating in his blood. "My mother was a decorator and showed me the ropes, and then a technical drawing class in high school got me hooked."

SCOTT SANDERS

An Ohio native who divides his time between East Hampton and Palm Beach, decorator Scott Sanders hails "from a family of builders," a lineage that undoubtedly came in handy as he and his husband began constructing their dream home on a majestic rise overlooking Gardiners Bay ("Cliff Hanger," page 84). Sanders cut his teeth at Ralph Lauren, describing his 10-year stint there as "pivotal, since during that time I was made the brand's first in-house designer, which eventually led me to go out on my own."



RORIC TOBIN

In this issue's "Village Charmer" (page 98), interior designer Roric Tobin invites readers into his own North Fork home, "a truly special residence because my husband and I have found the perfect showcase for an art collection that we have been putting together for years. This house is a source of joy." The Manhattan-based decorator, who also works out of Greenport and Miami, describes art as "central to my design work. I always find so much inspiration from art fairs, galleries, and museums." —Shannon Assenza

