# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

JUNE 2016

# THE GREAT DESIGN ISSUE

DAZZLING HOMES, BRILLIANT PRODUCTS, SMART SOLUTIONS



BUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE IN MIAMI





learly a labor of love," the electrician wryly noted after probably his 15th visit to our house. It's a refrain my husband, Chris, and I heard often over the two and a half years we spent renovating our East Hampton, New York, weekend home. We suspected that even our nearest and dearest friends, who've endured some of our most ambitious projects (a derelict 1885 brownstone in Park Slope, Brooklyn, being the most recent), were secretly shaking their heads in disbelief, grateful this wasn't their money pit.

The historic 1890s house was one we knew well, having pedaled past it for some 20 years on the way to our favorite beach. It was in danger of being torn down, as our bidding foe was a builder who, like any rational buyer, would have replaced the whole thing with a new house. In a part of the country where land value often exceeds home value, newbuild mansions, engorged to their maximum footprint, have supplanted many older dwellings. We, however, are hopeless architectural romantics, and the chance to own an original Shingle Style "cottage" was too tempting to pass up.

But the truth is we'd never tackled anything this big. At first we considered a stopgap refresh, doing just enough so that Chris and I and our sons, Henry and Willem, could enjoy the place immediately. But when we invited Tamer Pepemehmetoğlu, a friend of a friend and the owner of a Sag Harbor contracting company, to advise, he cautioned us that any improvements would be undone when we inevitably had to install a proper foundation for this sagging white elephant. So we inhaled deeply and jumped right in, starting with having the house temporarily lifted while the new foundation was dug and poured.

The rest of the project was a case study in improvisational decisionmaking. With Tamer acting as our designbuild partner, and my husband, organized to a fault, managing the renovation, we let the house dictate its own update. Determined not to lose its character, we proceeded carefully. A warren of little rooms off the kitchen and an adjacent rotting porch became one lanternlike breakfast area, with mullioned windows on three sides and a 12-footlong leather sectional sofa inspired by a favorite Kaare Klint chair. A nearly windowless wall in the living room became an expanse of French doors opening to the terrace and the backyard beyond. But otherwise we left the bones largely as we found them. We liberated the living room's beamed ceiling from beneath a layer of Sheetrock. Old windows were restored, as were all of the doors-including the entryway's massive oak Dutch door, which surely would have been easier to replace than to painstakingly rebuild.

For the kitchen, what we had in mind was more Remains of the Day than a Nancy Meyers film, which is to say a real turn-of-the-century workhorse-one where you would find copper saucepans in every size and dough rising for the day's bread. In our version the primary work space is a six-by-12-foot table with a two-inch slab of Carrara marble atop a band of shallow drawers. Free of overhead cabinets, the tiled walls take center stage. We found a couple in Portland, Oregon, whose company, Clayhaus, customized a warm white glaze for us and handproduced the 6,000 ceramic tiles needed.

This house was meant for friend-filled weekends, so we wanted to keep the public areas invitingly informalas welcoming to kids with Legos as to adults with martinis. We are longtime collectors of midcentury Danish furniture, and the empty rooms gave us an excuse to hunt down some of our favorite pieces. Over the course of our project, crated examples would arrive and be added to the trove of vintage Børge Mogensen, Hans Wegner, and Aksel Kjersgaard furnishings stacked to the rafters in the old garage. On move-in day, with our sons, then 8 and 11, put to work, we watched our collection of warm teak, natural linen, and bridle leather blend with the living room's bleached-fir floors and crisply painted moldings. We knew the overall effect we wanted-sort of prewar Stockholm flat-but couldn't have anticipated the easy kinship of Scandinavian and cottage styles. The layers of sheepskin rugs and floor pillows scattered throughout are invitations to flop, read, or do nothing at all, and they lend the house a feeling that is at once beachy and modern, refined and unfussy.

In the end, our wary friends and patient neighbors-and, yes, even that overloaded electrician-admit that this labor of love was decidedly worth it. a

> Opposite: Chris, Pilar, and their sons, Henry (left) and Willem, begin their day in a sun-drenched corner of the breakfast area. The pendant lamp is by Lindsey Adelman, the Tolix chairs and Saarinen table are from Design Within Reach, and the rug is by BDDW.













Above: Some prerenovation sleuthing in the living room revealed a beamed ceiling that had been covered with Sheetrock, which the couple promptly had removed. Pairs of vintage chairs by Børge Mogensen (left) and Kaare Klint are grouped with a sofa by John Derlan; Saarinen side tables by Knoll from Design Within Reach are topped with lamps by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort, and a painting by Jennifer Ament hangs above the mantel.

Near left: Willem and Henry kid around in the living room.

Far left: Matching Mogensen chairs face a vintage Hans Wegner table and a rug by BDDW in another living room sitting area; the chandelier is by Lindsey Adelman, and the curtains are of a Libeco linen.





Above: The master bedroom includes an RH
bed and table lamps;
the bedding is by Libeco
Home, the floor lamp
is by Isamu Noguchi, and
the sheepskin rugs
are from Overland. The
walnut-top Saarinen
table and the Wilhelm
Kienzle chair are both
vintage, and the artwork
is by Jennifer Ament.

Left: The lawn offers plenty of room for base-ball games.

Opposite: The Carraramarble-lined master bath is accented with a vintage Sori Yanagi stool. An RH sconce is installed above the tub, which is equipped with Lefroy Brooks fittings.

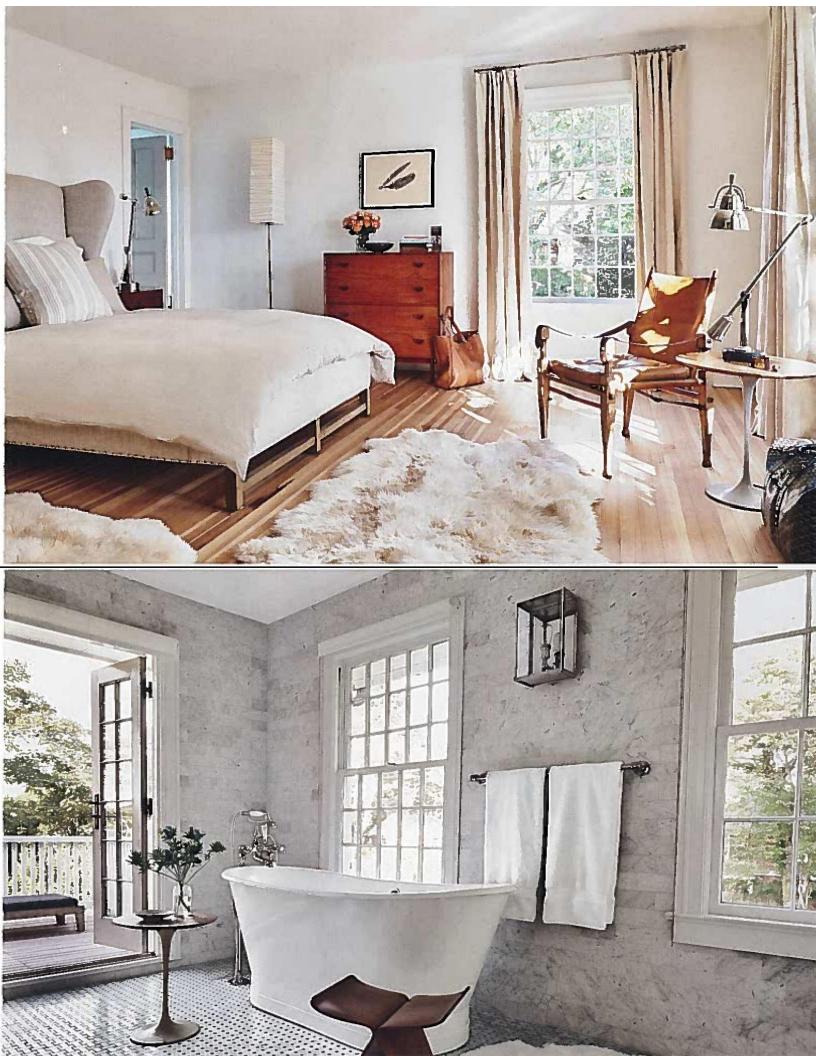




The boys' room is autitited with Mulli beds, an RH celling light, and Ralph Lauren Home sconces.

Above: The stair landing—
illuminated by a David Weeks Studio light fixture and the home's original stained-glass windows—features an antique trestie table.

Above: In the dining room, a Crate and Barrel table is surrounded by vintage Arne Jacobsen chairs draped with sheepskin throws from Design Within Reach; the chandelier is by David Weeks Studio, an artwork by Mary Matson is displayed above the Jamb mantel, and the rug is by Safavieh.



# SOURCES

Items pictured but not listed here are not sourceable. Items similar to vintage and antique pieces shown are often available from the dealers listed.

(T) means the item is available only to the trade.

### HOME RUN

PAGES 108-19: Architecture by Choeff Levy Fischman Architecture + Design; clfarchitects.com. Interiors by Briggs Edward Solomon; briggsedwardsolomon comains solomon, physicowardsolomon-com. Construction by Newport Property Construction; newportpropertyconstruc-tion.com. Landscape architecture: christopher Cawley Landscape Architec-ture; christophercawley.com. Art consulta-tion by Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn of Salon 94; salon94.com. Grooming by Taryll Atkins for Artists by Timothy Relancy after com. for Artists by Timothy Priano; abtp.com. PAGES 108-9: Chalse longues by RH; rh.com. Sofa and chalrs by James Perse; iamesperse.com, PAGES 110-11: In entrance half, light fixture by Michael Anastassiades from Luminaire: luminaire: com. Table by B&B Italia; bebitalia.com. Corner chair by Rick Owens; rickowens eu. In living room, fireplace by Spark Modern Fires; sparkfires.com. Gérard Van Kal Mon sculpture from Holly Hunt (T); hollyhunt-com. Custom-made sofas by Briggs Edward Solomon; briggsedwardsolomon com: In St. Germain cotton velvet by Créations Métaphores from Brunschwig & Fils (T); brunschwig.com. On vintage Milo Baughman chairs, cashmere by Holland & Sherry (T); hollandsherry.com. Angora carpet by Woven Accents; wovenonline.com. PAGES 112-13: In dining room, chairs by PAGES 112-13: In dining room, chairs by Cassina; corn. Table by Santambro-giomllano from Luminaire; luminaire.com. Custom-made chandelier by Remains Lighting; remains.com. Cylindrical urns by Rick Owens; rickowens.eu. In kitchen, cabi-netry by Italkraft; italkraft.com. Sink fittings by Waterworks; waterworks.com. PAGE 114: Florence Knoll pedestal table and Saarinen armchairs by Knoll; knoll.com. Carpet by Diane von Furstenberg for The Rug Company; therugcompany.com. Sconces from Flos; usa.flos.com. PAGE 115: Multipanel television by Luxus AV; luxusav.com Eric Slayton concrete bench from Holly Hunt (T); hollyhunt.com. Warren Platner lounge chairs and ottoman by Knoll; knoll.com. Wall unit and Living Divani bench from Luminaire; luminaire.com. PAGE 116: Wall light by Flos; usa flos.com. Warren Platner side tables by Knoll; knoll; com: PAGE 117: Bed by Anthropologie; anthropologie.com. Hide carpet by The Rug Company; therugcom-pany.com. PAGES 118-19: In bath, sink fittings by Waterworks; waterworks.com. Vintage Senufo chair from Jalan Jalan Collection; jalanmiami.com. Malayer carpet from Woven Accents; wovenonline.com. In mas-ter bedroom, nightstands from Luminaire; luminaire.com. Rug by Woven Accents.

# **FAMILY TIES**

PAGES 120-31: Architecture by Ike Kligerman Barkley; ikekligermanbarkley-com. Interiors by Todd Klein Inc.; toddklein com. Select furnishings upholstered by Luther Quintana (T); laupholstery com. PAGES 120-21: On armchair, Tudor leather by Dualoy Leather (T); dualoy com. PAGE 122: On matching club chairs, Kazak Stripe linen by Bennison (T); bennisonfab-rics.com. Madeleine accent tables by

Mattaliano from Holly Hunt (T): hollyhunt.com. On sofa, Downey flocked linen by Christopher Farr Cloth (T); christopherfarrcioth.com. On armchair (at far end) and sofa pillows, Pomegranate linen by TylerGraphic (T); tylergraphic.com. Curtains of Sheer Stripe linen by Kathryn M. Ireland; kathrynireland .com, Turkish patchwork carpet from Rug & Kilim; 212-829-9995. Jute rug by Stark (T); starkcarpet.com. PAGE 123: On antique chairs. Velours Neptune cotton blend by Clarence House (T); clarencehouse.com.
PAGES 124-25: Handmade silk wall coverir in lagoon, by Gracie (T); graciestudio.com. On sofa, Veneer linen by TylerGraphic (T); tylergraphic.com. On Regency armchair, Collobrières viscose-linen by Pierre Frey (T); pierrefrey.com. On club chair, Peony Garden linen by TylerGraphic (T). Vintage bubble lamps by Silvano Pantani from Swank Lighting; swanklighting.com. Stuart BLB rug by Beauvais Carpets (T); beauvaiscarpets. .com. PAGES 126–27: In dining room, on chairs, Demi Cow leather by Edelman Leather (T); edelmanleather.com. In kitchen, Terrarium pendant lights by Lindsey Adelman Studio; lindseyadelman.com. Hood by Vent-A-Hood; ventahood.com. Range by Wolf; subzero-wolf com. Sink fittings by Rohl; rohlhome.com. Top stools by Altura Furniture from Dennis Miller Assoc. (T); dennismiller-.com. On walls, Cottage tile by Waterworks; waterworks.com. PAGES 128-29: In powder room, Star Moderne sconces by Chameleon Fine Lighting (T); chameleonhome.com. Julia sink fittings by Waterworks; waterworks-.com. On walls and ceiling, Rivulet paint by Sherwin-Williams; sherwin-williams.com. In master bedroom, Oppede four-poster by Rose Tarlow Melrose House (T); rosetar low.com. On headboard. Orso linen blend by Larsen (T); cowtan.com. On armchairs, Ikhat Ilnen by TylerGraphic (T); tylergraphic.com. On Louis XV chaise longue, Ottoman Stripe fabric by Rose Cumming (T); dessinfournir.com. Curtains of Great Toile linen by Bennison (T); bennisonfabrics.com. Sigma carpet by Beauvais Carpets (T); beauvaiscarpets.com.

# THE PERFECT PROJECT

PAGES 132-43: Architecture by Anne Sherry Architect; annesherryarchitect.com. Landscape design by Geoffrey Nimmer Landscapes; geoffreynimmerlandscapes .com. PAGES 132-33: Chaise longues by Barlow Tyrie; teakcom. Teak umbrella by RH; th.com. Cushlon covers and umbrella of outdoor fabric by Sunbrella; sunbrella.com. On terrace, teak table by RH. Tolix chairs from Design Within Reach; dwr.com. PAGE 135: Hair and makeup by Mary Guthrle for Artists by Timothy Priano; abtp. .com. Knotty Bubbles pendant lamp by Lindsey Adelman Studio; lindseyadelman-.com. Tolix chairs and Knoll's Saarinen table, both from Design Within Reach; dwr.com. Rug by BDDW; bddw.com. PAGES 136–37; Chandelier by Lindsey Adelman Studio; lindseyadelman.com. Curtains of linen by Libeco; libeco.com. Sofa by John Derian Co.; johnderian.com. Saarlnen side tables by Knoll from Design Within Reach; dwr.com, Terri lamps by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort & Co.; circalight ing.com. PAGES 138-39: Bespoke tile by Clayhaus Ceramics; clayhausceramics com Ceiling lights by RH; rh.com. Range by Wolf; subzero-wolf.com. Sink fittings by Waterworks; waterworks.com. Tolix stools from Design Within Reach; dwr.com. Mercer

Long Box sconces by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort & Co.; circalighting.com. PAGES 140-41: In dining room, Big Sur table by Crate and Barrel; crateandbarrel .com. Sheepskin throws from Design Within Reach; dwr.com. Chandeller by David Weeks Studio (T); davidweeksstudio.com. Weeks Studio (T); dayroweens Mantel by Jamb; jamb.co.uk, Rug by Safavieh; safavieh.com. In landing, light fixture by David Weeks Studio (T). In boys room, beds by Muji; muji us. Ceiling light by RH; m.com. Sconces by Ralph Lauren Home; ralphlaurenhome.com. PAGE 142: In master bedroom, bed and table lamps by RH; rh.com. Bedding by Libeco Home; libecohomestores.com. Floor lamp by Isami Noguchi; shop.noguchi.org. Sheepskin rugs from Overland Sheepskin Co.; overland .com. In master bath, sconce by RH. Tub fittings by Lefroy Brooks; lefroybrooks.com

### CLEAR THINKING

PAGES 144-53: Architecture by Toshiko Mori Architect; tmarch.com. Landscape design by Edwina von Gal; perfectearthproj-ect.org; and Richard Herbert; richardher-bertla.com. Automated systems by bertla com. Automated systems by InnerSpace Electronics; innerSpaceelec-tronics.com. Glass walls by Schüco; schueco.com. Chinese art throughout from Tom Swope Gallery; tomswope.com. PAGES 146-47: In main house, Jean Prouvé EM dining table and Maarten vag Severen .03 dining chairs, all by Vitra; vitra com. Leather-upholstered 620 seating by Dieter Rams for Vitsoe; vitsoe.com. In kitchen. Masterchef cooktop and oven kitchen, Masterchef cooktop and oven and Perla II series dishwasher, all by Miele; mieleusa.com. Sinks by Boffi; boffi.com. Sink fittings by Vola; vola.com, PAGES 150-51: Ultra-Premium grill by Viking; wkingrange-.com. 1966 Collection side chairs and table by Richard Schultz for Knoll from Design Within Reach: dwr.com, PAGES 152-53: In master bath, tub by Lacava; lacava.com.
Tub fittings by Vola; vola.com. Alvar Aalto
60 stool by Artek; artek.fi. Towels by RH; rh.com. In master bedroom, .04 office chairs by Maarten van Severen for Vitra; vitra.com. Bedding by RH. Icelandlo sheepskin rug/throw by CB2; cb2.com

# A TAILORED FIT

PAGES 154-63: Interiors by David Netto; davidnettodesign.com. Architecture by Hottenroth + Joseph Architects; hinyc.com. Construction by John Hummel and Assoc.; johnhummel.com. Custom finishes throughout by Christopher Butler; 516-909-9384. PAGES 154-55; Rug by Beauvais Carpets (T); beauvaiscarpets.com. Cocktall tables by Miml London (T); mimilondoncom. On sofa, Twinbrook linen by Clarence House (T); clarencehouse.com. Cushlons of Illusion silk by Jim Thompson (T); imthompsonlabrics.com. PAGES 156-57: In entry hall, rush basket from Mecox; mecox.com. Pendant light by Charles Edwards; charlesedwards.com. Vintage sconces from JF Chen; jfchen.com. In dining room, chandelier by Stephen Antonson; stephenantonson.com. Vintage truss table from JF Chen. Balustrade floor lamp by Carole Gratale Inc.; carolegratale.com. PAGES 158-59: In kitchen, custom-made tiles by Tile Guild Inc.; tileguildinc.com. Pendant lights by Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.; schoolhouseelectric.com. Hood designed by Hottenroth + Joseph Architects; hinye.com; fabricated by RangeCraft; rangecraft.com, Refrigerator

by Sub-Zero: subzero-wolf com. Range by Wolf; subzero-wolf.com. BassamFellow tractor stools from Design Within Reach; dwr.com. In breakfast area, table by Soane Britain; soane co.uk. PAGE 160: In changing room, curtain of High Voltage linen-cotton by Schumacher (T); fschumacher.com. Table lamp by Waldo's Designs; waldosde signs.com. Carpet custom made by Beauvais Carpets (T); beauvaiscarpets com. In children's room, Independence Toile linen-cotton and wallpaper by Quadrille (T); quadrille/abrics.com. Bunk bed by Room & Board; roomandboard.com. Vintage Kjærholm armchairs from Dansk Møbelkunst Gallery; dmk.dk. Carpet by Stark (T); starkcarpet.com. PAGE 161: On walls and headboard, Indhira cotton by Le Manach from Claremont (T); claremontfurnishing.com. Pillow shams of Granada Rojo fabric by Rosa Bernal Collection from Claremont (T). Lamp by Rose Tarlow Melrose House (T); rosetarlowcom. Mahogany nightstand from Sutter Antiques; sutterantiques.com. PAGE 162 Tub by Wetstyle; wetstyle.ca. Tub fittings by Waterworks; waterworks.com. Spool chandeller by Paul Marra: paulmarrade. sign.com. Roman shades of Sandstone linen blend by Larsen (T); cowtan.com. Chair from Cove Landing; covelanding.com. PAGE 163: For bed upholstery and Roman shade, Fig Maize fabric by Raoui Textiles; raoultextiles.com. Mirror from Naga Antiques; nagaantiques.com

## ARTFUL APPROACH

PAGES 164-73: Architecture by Selldorf Architects, selldorf.com. Interiors by Fox-Nahem Assoc.; foxnahem.com. Landscape design by Miranda Brooks Landscape Design; mirandabrooks.com. PAGE 164: Branch side chairs by Janus et Cie; janusetcie.com, PAGES 166-67; Antique Turkish rug from Doris Leslie Blau; dorisleslieblau.com. PAGES 168-69: Chandeller by Venfield; venfieldnyc.com. Table by George Nakashima Woodworker; nakashimawoodworker.com. Solo dining chairs from the Future Perfect; the future per-fect com, in Sonnet fabric by Knoll Textiles; knoll.com. Rug by Martin Patrick Evan; martinpatrickevan.com. PAGE 170: In kitchen, backsplash tile by Heath Ceramics; heathceramics.com. Matteo pendant lights by Seguso for Studio Van den Akker; stu-diovandenakker.com. Island by Bulthaup; bulthaup.com. Range by Wolf; subze-ro-wolf.com. On settee, Jet Set leather by Holly Hunt (T); hollyhunt.com. Chairs from the Future Perfect; thefutureperfectcom, in Sonnet fabric by KnollTextiles; knoll.com. In study, fireplace screen by Marie Surl from Liz O'Brien (T); lizobrien com. PAGE 172: In master bedroom, celling fan by Boffi; boffi.com. Custom-made bench by Donna Parker Habitat Ltd. Antiques; 1stdibs.com. In master bath, sea-grass baskets by RH; rh.com. PAGE 173: Teak tables and seating by Sutherland (T); sutherlandfurniture.com. Cushions of Slubby outdoor fabric by Perennials (T); perennialsfabrics.com. Rug by Martin Patrick Evan; martinpatrickevan.com.

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VOLUME 73, NO. 6. ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST (ISSN 0003-8520) is published monthly by Condé Nasi, which is a division of Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. PRINCIPAL OFFICE: Condé Nasi, 1 World Trade Center, New York, NY 10007-SI, I Newhouse, Jr., Charman Emerturs; Charles H. Townsond, Cheirman, Robert A. Saundberg, Jr., President and Chiel Extractive Officer: David E. Gettner; Chief Francial Officer; Jill Bright, Chief Administrative Officer: Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and all additional mailing offices. Canade Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 4084-803. Canadian Goods and Services Tax Registration No. 12324-2895-170001. Canadean Post: Return undeliverable Canadean addresses to P.O. Bos 874, Station Main, Markham, ON L3P 8L4.

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