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LABOR DAY 2022



# contents Labor Day 2022









# Cover Property Presented by

Presented by Rachel C. Martin of Town & Country Real Estate.

## 28 Publisher's Letter

# Hampton Habitués

Good news gossip about our notable friends and neighbors.

# 36 Realty Check

Hot Sales & Listings... With a Dollop of Gossip.

## 56

## Design

Some tips for turning your patio into an autumn-friendly space.

## 64

# **Designer Showcase**

Made to Measure — Purvi Padia's Bridgehampton home is a bespoke retreat.

# 70

## **Hampton Classic**

Now in its fifth decade, the Hampton Classic is the perfect end to the perfect summer.

# 76 Artist

What is Home? — East Hampton Artist Richard Mothes explores the impermanence of the everyday.

#### 86 Markat

# Marketwatch Listings increase for fourth

Listings increase for fourth straight month, with median prices 19% higher than a year ago.

#### 92 Snotli

# Spotlight

The Water Mill Museum offers a look into the rich history of the hamlet.















here are a multitude of ways that the architecture and interior decoration of a vacation compound of generous proportions in the Hamptons can go wrong. As an interior designer, Purvi Padia was well aware of the perils and pitfalls. So when she and her husband found the perfect plot of land in Bridgehampton some time ago — five acres

on a quiet lane with views of Sagg Pond — she knew there was only one sure means to ensure that their future home would be a masterpiece. Rather than cede creative control of the project, she would choose an architect with whom she could collaborate — ultimately, she tapped Blaze Makoid — and she would design the interiors herself.

After all, no one was more familiar with her family's wants and needs than she was. And then there was her own trained eye and cultivated sense of style. "I had a clear vision of what I wanted the house to look like," explains Padia, who imagined three connected pavillion-style structures. One of them — a flat-roofed building with soaring twenty-two-foot high windows on one floor — is the 17,00-square-foot compound's center of gravity. That space is book-ended by two gabled structures that are two stories high, one for the family of four and the other for guests and staff, respectively. There is also a pool house.

"The concept was very much 'indoor-outdoor living," says Padia, whose intention was for the architecture to inform the interiors. As she saw it, the two would overlap in a seamless way. To achieve this, the materials on the exterior of the house are repeated

throughout the interior. Jerusalem limestone extends from the patio to the interior floors of the glass-enclosed entry atrium. Handchiseled stone clads the exterior walls and some of the interior walls of the house are faced with it as well. Metal channeling, blackened steel railings, cedar, and a great deal of glass are featured throughout. Taken together, the compound's constituent parts — both architectural and decorative — share common points of reference and form a cohesive whole.

"For me, it was all about making a home that was appropriate as a vacation retreat and that had a resort-like feel," says Padia, who worked on the project for five years. Five years doesn't seem excessive given that many of the elements were custom-designed by Padia — from the oversized glass doors to the hardware to the millwork. An elaborate

chandelier took ten months to complete.

"Even though it is a grand space, comfort and coziness were important to us," Padia notes. For many designers, comfort and coziness might seem like a tall order in rooms of such size and scale, but Padia remained true to her vision. To offset the hard quality of the architectural materials, she chose soft furnishings that warmed up the monumental space in such finishes as shearling, fur, tweed, rope, silk and brocade. The custom lighting helped, too, imbuing the home with what Padia calls "delicacy and finesse."

"Not everything has to be heavy," she says, referring to a branch light with hand-blown glass orbs that hangs in the family wing. In spite of its size, the piece makes the space feel airy and light. So does the white oak flooring and the décor's limited palette of neutral colors. "People think you put a bunch of neutral colors together and they'll work," says Padia, who adds that a truly warm and welcoming white room can be hard to get just right.

In the kitchen, leathered granite countertops add a tactile note as does the plaster staircase that connects the kitchen to the second story of the family wing. Just off the family wing is a light-filled game room with upholstered stadium seating. (The room is reached via a glass-enclosed gallery with Jerusalem limestone floors.) It's the sort of space that is more often than not consigned to a basement. But not in Padia's home. "We spend so much time in the game room," she says. "It's where a lot of our dinner parties end!"



