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Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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# SUMMER STYLE!





**Site Specifics**  
(THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE) The house, built by SBP Homes, features ample windows and “invisible walls” of glass by Vitrocsa. Furnishings in the living room include a custom Ritz Upholstery sofa covered in a Cowtan & Tout fabric, a daybed from the Bright Group, and a custom rug from Scott Group Studio. The canvas above the fireplace is by Callum Innes. See *Resources*.



# HEART OF GLASS

A dreamy getaway in Southampton's estate section positively shimmers with possibilities

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY READ MCKENDREE





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he most abundant “building material” employed in the Southampton home featured on these pages is one that neither its architect nor its interior designer could purchase, only harness. “Light,” says its builder and co-designer, SBP Homes’ Jim Hoffman, “is what energizes this house. When you walk inside, you immediately face an 80-foot expanse of glass—and can’t help but be drawn to the landscape that surrounds

the property. Art is what the homeowners collect and value, but glass and windows were even more important to them.”

The residence’s interior designer, Francis Nicdao, chief creative officer of Pembroke & Ives, adds, “It was about getting as much glazing in place as possible, creating a sense of airiness and light everywhere.” In the rear of the house, virtually the entire elevation opens to the outdoors, yet remains sheltered from it via roll-down screens. This vantage point offers unimpeded views of the

**Soaring To New Heights**  
(OPPOSITE) In the double-height foyer, a chandelier from Wired Custom Lighting hangs above an entry table and a custom rug from Stark. (THIS PAGE) In the dining room, oak and leather chairs from Holly Hunt surround a custom table by PIC Contracting. The domed ceiling fixtures are from Trans-Luxe and the artwork is by Jose Dávila. See Resources.



**Culinary Wizardry**  
In the kitchen, barstools from Cliff Young sit at a custom island made from rift-cut oak and white glass. The range is from Gaggenau and the backsplash is from Bas Stone. See Resources.





**Extra Padding**  
 (THIS PAGE) The custom bed frame in the primary bedroom is covered in a fabric from Savel. The chandelier is by Studio Endo.  
 (OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)  
 In a powder room, a sconce by Ochre punctuates a wall covering from Holly Hunt. A guest room's Lawson-Fenning bench is covered in an Edelman leather. The primary bath's fittings are from Dornbracht.  
*See Resources.*



property, sumptuously and subtly designed by landscape architect Mario Nievera.

Both Nicdao and Hoffman have created prior residences for the clients, so the two men easily anticipated how the family wanted the house to take shape. "Our clients are very trusting people and definitely have a vision," says Nicdao. "They don't require many meetings." Although Pembroke & Ives is not an architectural firm, Nicdao had a say in both the home's exterior and interior architecture. "We always say we're not architects," he says with a smile, "but we know enough about architecture to be dangerous."

The collaboration with Hoffman was anything but dangerous, but at 10 bedrooms and 20,000 square feet, the house is just short of daunting. Because the rooms are large and the ceilings high, Nicdao found it necessary to customize many of the furnishings. "The most successful aspect of our work on this project," he says, "is our having properly responded to the home's sense of scale."



# “THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ASPECT OF OUR WORK ON THIS PROJECT,” SAYS INTERIOR DESIGNER FRANCIS NICDAO, “IS OUR HAVING PROPERLY RESPONDED TO THE HOME’S SENSE OF SCALE”

Fittingly enough (no pun intended), every table, sofa, and armchair is perfectly tailored to its space.

In the dining room, which soars a story and a half high, Nicdao clad the ceiling with white-oak boards that “warm up the room and visually make it more intimate.” He also designed a custom table of bleached walnut with inlaid stainless steel—so massive it makes one think of an airport runway. Hanging above, domed lighting fixtures loom appropriately large, accessorized with metal gear-like embellishments. “The immediate family of five usually becomes a family of 15 on any given weekend,” Hoffman notes of the amply proportioned environs.

Nicdao is adept at playing with lighting fixtures for a little interior bling, notably in the entry, where an enormous chandelier with smoked-glass cylinders commands attention. (“I think of lighting fixtures as the jewelry of a room,” he says.) Throughout the home, the designer maintained a neutral palette, applying decorative plaster to monochromatic walls that make the clients’ art collection shine. “We presented the finished interiors to our clients in one big reveal,” the designer recalls, “but because art is both an investment and a passion for them, they’re always acquiring new pieces, which means that we’re still making changes to accommodate them. This house is one that’s ever evolving.” ✨



## Outer Limits

Set off by a series of grass steps, the pool area features Manutti chaises and Tuuci umbrellas from Walters, along with a pair of Canasta daybeds from B&B Italia. See [Resources](#).