

MODERN LUXURY

HAMPTONS



Club

Rules

In East Hampton sits a golf club known for its immaculate grounds and highly selective membership program. Completed years after its societal debut, the clubhouse has become a crowning jewel.

BY ELIZABETH HARPER

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

The exterior of the clubhouse at East Hampton Golf Club is more typical of Hampton residences, with traditional architecture and materials befitting its environs. While the course was opened in 2000, the clubhouse was not completed until 2005. The team included lead architect Barry Coyle of Chapman Coyle Chapman, the late Ben Krupinski of Ben Krupinski Builder and Andrew Sheinman of Pembroke & Sons for the interior design.



I
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Masters Sunday supersedes Christmas morning; the Ryder Cup is a religious experience; the British Open is a rite of passage. When the chance to interview one of the brains behind the notoriously exclusive East Hampton Golf Club (ehgc.com) arose, I couldn't pass up the opportunity—lest the golf gods strike me down. So, journalist cap on, I set out on one of my most thrilling assignments to date: a look inside the uberprivate clubhouse at East Hampton Golf Club.

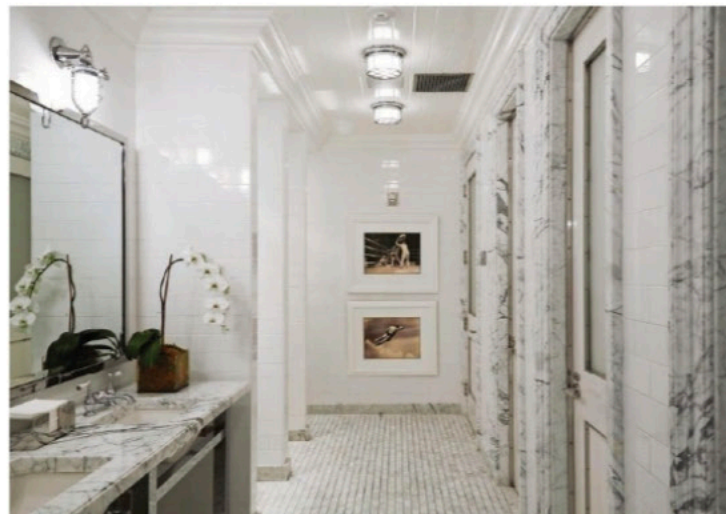
There are only 250—give or take a few—members at East Hampton Golf Club, and in the course's short 20 years, it has garnered a reputation to match. "It has an incredible membership with a very copacetic, cohesive group of people," says Andrew Sheinman. "It's very much a club—very much a club in every sense of the word." But one key thing was missing from this Ben Crenshaw- and Bill Coore-designed 18-hole course: a clubhouse befitting its esteemed members. And that is where Sheinman, of interior design firm Pembroke & Ives (pembrokeandives.com), came in.

He certainly was not there, however, to lend his golf expertise. "I've barely been in a golf club my whole life," he admits. Rather, a former client and managing partner at East Hampton Golf Club, for whom Sheinman has designed homes and yachts, "asked me if I had ever designed a golf club before," he recalls. When the designer answered no, his longtime client responded, "Then you're perfect for this job."

While the exterior of the clubhouse—approved and set in motion prior to Sheinman joining the team—is in the traditional Hamptons shingle style, for the interiors, the client "didn't want it to feel like any other golf club; he wanted it to have a unique look," Sheinman explains. "It feels more like a social club." In fact, it reads more like an extension of members' homes out East. Beyond the locker rooms—which, coincidentally have become the talk of the town thanks to the lockers' yachtlike mahogany and stainless-steel outfittings—and standard pro shop, the dining room, Grille and Library are grand in scale yet thoroughly cozy.

Inspired by 20th century New England interiors, Sheinman brought in handhewn oak beams and intriguing trellis details to warm the space and add

From top: The men's restroom; in the men's lounge, the sofa is by Le Jeune, with chairs by John Russell, carpet by Elizabeth Eakins and coffee table by Holly Hunt. Opposite page: The Library features a custom sofa from Pembroke & Ives, Elizabeth Eakins carpet, Holly Hunt coffee table and Ralph Lauren lounge chairs.



an aura of elegance. Design cues throughout include discreet nods to the client's passions: The essence of classic sailing yachts is brought to life with beautiful wood finishes, stainless-steel accents and a striped ebony and mahogany floor in the Grille. Then there's a tip of the hat to vintage cars with polished lacquer and chrome detailing in select areas. Other architectural elements proved more harrowing. For the centerpiece of a fireplace in the Library, the designer flew to Rochester in a storm to select the solid blocks of soapstone. "They're not just slabs," he says. "It's actual rocks from which they're carved."

Where the architectural details, both on the exterior and interior, are more traditional, the furnishings are altogether more contemporary, a "new traditional" mix that Sheinman says serves to welcome, not alienate, the more classic-design-leaning members. "The interior architecture is quite traditional, and the use of beadboard and wood details is relatively, to the Hamptons, part of the vernacular," Sheinman says. "We made the furniture much more contemporary. ... It was extraordinary to see how many people with very traditional homes came into the club and hired us to redo their homes. They didn't realize they could live with something a little more contemporary."

Now well-established in the East Hampton community, the clubhouse has become a calling card for Sheinman. Ironically, in an effort to not build the standard clubhouse, he says, "We set a new standard for golf clubs. ... The interiors opened the doors for a new era of clubhouse design." In the 15 years since the clubhouse has been completed, it remains a jewel not only for the golf club but also for East Hampton. "The club is not aging," Sheinman says. "It feels like a polished penny at all times." ■

