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Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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SLEEK & CHIC

Pared-Down Panache

(THIS PAGE) Both the vintage Knoll table and the ottoman in the entry are scores from Chairish. The metal sculpture is by designer Kelly Wearstler and the stone sphere is from Made Goods. (OPPOSITE) Dining chairs from Interlude Home surround a Silestone table from Cosentino Group. See Resources.



Retro Reboot

In Westhampton, designer Billy Ceglia gives empty-nester clients a fresh start

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRITTANY AMBRIDGE

Brightly Polished

The kitchen (THIS PAGE) includes cabinetry by Pazera Cabinetry and Silestone countertops. (OPPOSITE TOP) Custom sofas in the living room are upholstered in a Kravet fabric. (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) An elegant floating staircase is constructed of powder-coated steel and wood treads. See *Resources*.



When Stefanie and Jeff Rubin decided they were ready to trade in their longtime summer home for a new one, the quickest and easiest course of action, it seemed, would have been to find a move-in ready house with all the bells and whistles. But where's the fun in that? Hence the couple's choice to stick with their Westhampton property of nearly 20 years and rebuild to accommodate their new empty-nester lifestyle. "We looked at houses all over the South Fork," Jeff recounts, "but we love this spot and have made some great family memories here. Ultimately, we took the 1950s ranch down to the studs and created something that's sleek and minimal on the same footprint."

The plan had humbler, less ambitious beginnings under local architect Craig Arm, but the scope of the project quickly escalated after the Rubins brought in their longtime designer, Connecticut-based Billy Ceglia. "After I came on board," Ceglia says with a laugh, "Jeff and I ended up tearing the house down! The original home had been set up for a different family dynamic. The Rubins' daughters are grown now, and we wanted to create a modern space that's tailored, yet comfortable."

The reborn residence sports a streamlined profile, a new second floor, an open primary floor plan designed with entertaining in mind, a kitchen that's



Quiet Beauty
 (THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP)
 The main bedroom contains a bed from Ralph Lauren Home, a chair and ottoman from Century Furniture, and a rug and curtain fabric from Kravet. A CB2 side table sits next to a tub from Signature Hardware in the main bath. Pazera Cabinetry made the vanity in a guest bath. (OPPOSITE) In a guest room, Sferra bedding covers a Bernhardt bed. The curtain fabric is from Kravet and the rug is from Stark. See Resources.



double in size, and an abundance of glass for an indoor-outdoor feel. "Our previous home was much more traditional, and we also own a hundred-year-old house in Roslyn, so we wanted this new build to be contemporary and current," Jeff says. "We're the house where people tend to congregate, and now it's much more functional for the way we live."

The only sticking point: the pool, which couldn't be moved due to zoning regulations. But the pool's close proximity to the house ended up being a blessing in disguise. "The strong relationship between the pool and the house is actually something you'd find on St. Barth, where the Rubins love to visit," comments Ceglia. "It has the feel of the island, but in a subtle way."

Inside, Ceglia balanced Jeff's penchant for minimalism with Stefanie's desire for character and warmth. "Billy really understands our personalities and our family's needs," says Stefanie, acknowledging the thoughtful, polished mix of contemporary, custom, and vintage pieces. And no surface is too precious, with a focus on performance fabrics and durable materials that can keep up with the wear and tear of beach-house living. "It's a very easy home to be in," she adds. "People are constantly in and out of the pool, and we never have to worry about dripping swimsuits." ❀



Contemporary Cool
(OPPOSITE TOP) *Ipe* wood adds interest along the home's front façade and roofline. (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) The new structure was designed around an existing pool that couldn't be relocated. (THIS IMAGE) The umbrellas and chaise longue are from Janus et Cie and the daybed is from Frontgate. See *Resources*.