

THE HAMPTONS DESIGN GUIDE 2024

YOUR HAMPTONS
DREAM HOME
BUILT TO PERFECTION
FANTASY
KITCHENS & BATHS
THE GREAT OUTDOORS
READY, SET,
DECORATE!
SHOPPING IN STYLE
THE C&G LIST

FROM THE EDITORS OF
HC&G

READY, SET DECORATE!

From selecting the perfect white to finding that just-right accent chair, decorating is a series of decisions. In the Hamptons, a well-styled home is all about the mix. Read on to strike that elusive balance.



AS SEEN IN
THE HAMPTONS
DESIGN
GUIDE
2024
FROM THE EDITORS OF
HC&G

FROM "SLEEK AND CHIC," OCTOBER 2023. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLE FRANZEN.

DECORATING 101: WHERE TO SPLURGE AND WHERE TO SAVE?

“Comfort is the most important thing for a home, and especially your weekend home. This includes comfortable upholstery, whether it is a sofa or chairs.”

— Philip Gorrvan



PANEL OF EXPERTS

Alicia Murphy
Alicia Murphy Design

Katie Lydon
Katie Lydon Interiors

Melanie Calder Russo
Calder Design Group

Michael Del Piero
Michael Del Piero
Good Design

Philip Gorrvan
Philip Gorrvan Design

“It’s always a good idea to splurge on quality upholstered furniture. A well-loved sofa can last forever and can be reupholstered any number of times. Another great place is the key focal piece. Spend on a buffet, for example, or a stunning chest or table, and create the heirlooms of the future. — Katie Lydon

“There is so much out there at every price point nowadays. It’s really amazing, and some of these retail outlets have come a long way. However, I do believe you should not sacrifice and not skimp out on a sofa. Your sofa is the star of your sitting room and you want it to be inviting, comfortable and long lasting. I also love to add some sort of vintage element to homes we design. They add interest and usually have great lines. This is another place to splurge!” —Melanie Calder Russo

READ MCKENDREE (AUGUST 1, 2023)

WHAT DO CLIENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING PROJECTS FINISHED IN THE HAMPTONS?

“Everyone needs to keep this top of mind: summer houses are made in the winter. You need to get organized and make all decisions so contractors can execute. As you get closer to summer, everyone gets overwhelmed with pending deadlines and it’s harder to pull off. Take advantage of the offseason as much as possible!” —Alicia Murphy

“Time is of the essence! For a summer move-in, a houseful of furniture must be ordered no later than end of February to ensure a June delivery (sometimes January in custom cases). For our summer projects, we make weekly shopping appointments with our clients starting in September. We suggest shipping all merchandise to a receiving warehouse (who will catalog and inspect all pieces), and once the home is complete we will do one large move-in right before summer starts.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“Like any project, it’s important to know that it’s a process. Anything with stunning results takes time, especially in a community like the Hamptons where there is so much building going on. Beautiful things just take time!” —Philip Gorrvan



“BE REALISTIC ABOUT LEAD TIMES. PLAN FOR THE PROJECT WITH PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE THE SPACE EVERYTHING YOU DREAM OF. IF YOU’VE GOT A QUICK TURNAROUND, STICK WITH A CONCEPT AND PURCHASE IN-SHOP ITEMS WHILE AVOIDING CUSTOM ORDERS, WHICH CAN EXTEND YOUR TIMELINE GREATLY.” —Michael Del Piero

GIEVES ANDERSON (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023)

HOW DO YOU PUT ‘SUMMER’ INTO A HAMPTONS HOME?

“Natural elements. Summer is about lightness and the outdoors, so bring those elements into your house through cerused woods and natural stones in the colors of the Hamptons: sand, bluestone, crisp whites. Just say no to overtly ‘beachy’ things—it seems so obvious.” —Alicia Murphy

“It’s important to make your home feel like it’s your own personal space. This can be done by adding objects, layers and furnishings, making it feel like an escape. Stay away from seaside references. You don’t have to use literal references to have it be a beach house, have fun instead and fill it with things you love.” —Philip Gorri van

“So many are living in the Hamptons year-round. Putting summer into the home comes easily by switching out throws and pillows and rotating your art collections.” —Michael Del Piero

“SUMMER DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN EVERYTHING HAS TO BE WHITE OR TAN. IT’S MORE ABOUT THE TEXTURE OF THE FABRICS (LINENS OVER CASHMERE, FOR EXAMPLE). DON’T BE AFRAID TO ADD BLACK INTO A LIGHTER SPACE. NOT ONLY DOES IT HELP GROUND THE ROOM, IT ALSO ADDS A SENSE OF REALISM. AND, BRING IN SOME NATURAL MATERIALS FOR A SUMMERY FEEL: RATTAN, FLUTED WOODS, ORGANIC TEXTURES.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“A great way to add that summer feeling is with light and natural fibers like linen, cotton and sisal. They will always feel appropriate in a Hamptons home and will provide that relaxed and beachy feel. Color can be a great way, too, obviously blue but also happy prints and stripes.” —Katie Lydon



HULYA KOLABAS (JULY 15, 2023)



HOW TO DECK OUT YOUR HOME BAR?

“I love a good-looking bar! Beautiful decanters, interesting drinking glasses, sleek barware, linen cocktail napkins and a fabulous tray are all wonderful additions. I love to see fantastic liquor bottles and sometimes those designs and labels add a lot of glamor. It is also a great idea to create a bar area, and you can do this with stylish wallpaper, sculptural sconces and built-ins with glass shelving and great lighting. All of these elements can really raise the bar, pun intended.” —Katie Lydon

“First, don’t clutter your bar with too many bottles. If you display the star players on a beautiful tray and add in an interesting ice bucket, you have a home run. For a little something extra, get some large ice molds to make extra large square or round ice. They add a fun touch.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“Every house needs a bar. It represents happy and fun times! One of the things I enjoy doing to personalize the space is using monogrammed bar décor. It’s also nice to use vintage barware that references different periods.” —Philip Gorri van

“STYLING IS EVERYTHING! TOP-SHELF BOTTLES OF LIQUOR MIX WELL WITH SLEEK, MODERN BLOWN GLASS DECANTERS AND PATINATED BRASS VASES FOR SEASONAL FLOWERS, ANTIQUE CORKSCREWS AND STIRRERS.” —Michael Del Piero

BJORN WALLANDER, STYLED BY ROBERT RUFINO (OCTOBER 2023)

TOP 5 WHAT CLIENTS WANT NOW

1 “Durability reigns supreme for rugs and fabrics, and clients want furniture that can be easily cleaned or reupholstered.” —Katie Lydon

2 “Perfecting the home office space by making a cozy but stimulating environment has become a new theme for us.” —Katie Lydon

3 “Clients want easy living. They don’t want to worry about spills, stains, etc.” —Melanie Calder Russo

4 “Saunas and warm-toned plumbing fixtures.” —Michael Del Piero

5 “Comfort, custom and color.” —Philip Gorri van

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE WHITES AND NEUTRALS?



“BENJAMIN MOORE CHANTILLY LACE AND FOR WALLS, DUNN EDWARDS PRECIOUS PEARLS.”
—Alicia Murphy



“My favorite white paint colors are Farrow & Ball Wimborne White and Benjamin Moore Simply White. Both are very fresh whites with just a tinge of warmth and glow that look good just about anywhere.” —Katie Lydon



“Perennials is always our go-to outlet for great whites. And Kravet has expanded its outdoor white/neutral collection and has a ton of options.”
—Melanie Calder Russo



“My go-to’s are White Dove, Light Pewter and Sand Dollar from Benjamin Moore. It is important to remember that the light at the beach favors softer whites and paler grays.”
—Philip Gorri van

“Farrow & Ball’s Shaded White is a soft and approachable white. It works especially well in classic spaces, while Benjamin Moore’s Swiss Coffee lends itself to a modern style home. Favorite neutral shade of the moment: Sherwin Williams’ Anonymous, a dark, muted, complex color that can stand the test of time.” —Michael Del Piero

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE BOLD PAINT COLOR?



“Hague Blue by Farrow & Ball”
—Alicia Murphy

“Farrow & Ball Hague Blue and Brinjal” —Katie Lydon

“I prefer deep saturated colors that are less bold and more moody, creating a sexy backdrop for furnishings and art. Benjamin Moore Narragansett Green is a go-to.”
—Michael Del Piero

“My favorite color is Wenge by Benjamin Moore. It’s reminiscent of the Coca-Cola brown Billy Baldwin used in his interiors.” —Philip Gorri van



“One of my favorite clients is not afraid to incorporate many bold fabric choices in close proximity to one another. Stripes, lush florals and pictorial scenes are all layered together in pillows, curtains and upholstery. Finding the balance can be tricky, but it’s very rich and warm when you get it right, and sometimes the rule is more is more. Two competing fabrics might look off by themselves, but pair them with three others and suddenly each fabric can shine in their own spotlight.”
—Katie Lydon

HOW TO HAVE FUN WITH FABRICS!

“Texture, texture, texture! Layered textures can be so much more interesting than pattern.” —Michael Del Piero

“Choosing a bold fabric color or print can be scary for a client to commit to. But adding a pop of a pattern or bright color in a throw pillow, ottoman or even a chair will add so much interest to a room. A lot of clients fear they will get sick of a pattern or color in time...I say, that’s when we recover! Nothing has to be forever. And most clients are very happy with the end result.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“FOR ME EVERY PROJECT STARTS WITH TEXTILES. THIS IS WHERE I GET MY INSPIRATION FOR THE COLOR AND DESIGN DIRECTION FOR A SPACE. THE MORE FABRIC IN A SPACE THE BETTER—ONE MY FAVORITE THINGS TO DO WITH FABRIC IS A TENTED ROOM; IT IS LUXURIOUS AND TRANSFORMATIVE.” —Philip Gorri van

LEFT: BJORN WALLANDER, STYLED BY ROBERT RUFINO (OCTOBER 2023); RIGHT: PETER MURDOCK (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023)



“I love to use sheers from Larsen Fabrics, furniture pieces from Bonacina and rattan pieces from Serena and Lily. Natural wall coverings are also especially useful in creating a light and airy space.”
—Philip Gorrvan

“Less is more. Using shades of white is a no-brainer for creating airy spaces. Lightweight fabrics and layers of glass objects in the space lend an airy vibe.” —Michael Del Piero

“Declutter your surfaces. Having a lot of objects and tchotchkes around will make a room feel weighed down. Less is more. Lightweight window treatments, simply sheers, are always a way to give your home an easy, breezy feel. I love an arrangement of fresh flowers on the table.”
—Melanie Calder Russo

WHAT SIMPLE DECORATING TRICKS MAKE A SPACE FEEL LIGHT AND AIRY?

“LAYERING LIGHT TO MEDIUM COLORS THROUGHOUT THE ROOM, WHILE RELYING MORE ON TEXTURE THAN ON DEPTH OF COLOR FOR INTEREST, CAN HELP A ROOM TO FEEL LIGHT AND AIRY. MAXIMIZE THE LIGHT COMING THROUGH THE WINDOWS, AND UTILIZE MIRRORS TO CREATE A SENSE OF MORE SPACE AND LIGHT.” —Katie Lydon



TOP: JOSHUA MCHUGH (AUGUST 15, 2023); BOTTOM: LESLEY UNRUH (JULY 15, 2023)

BESIDES A STACK OF OVERSIZE BOOKS, WHAT LOOKS NICE ON A COFFEE TABLE?



“I love this question because you can really go to town here. I recommend thinking about ways to reflect who you are and what travels you have been on. I recently bought a brass American football object for a football fan; it looks great on top of a few books. A tray and/or decorative box to corral remote controls is always nice. A candle with a beautiful scent, which you can light anytime. An arrangement of fresh flowers or branches. A unique sculptural object.” —Katie Lydon

“Depending on the size of the table, a pair of sculptural vases or an interesting artsy object. You also can’t go wrong with a simple box paired with cool bowl. I would say not to use more than two or three items. Again, less is more.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“A STACK OF BOOKS WORKS WELL AS A PLATFORM FOR A SMALL SCULPTURE. ANTIQUE POTTERY AND A GLASS VASE FOR FLOWERS ARE PLENTY TO CREATE AN INTERESTING MOMENT.”
—Michael Del Piero

“Unique additions to any coffee table can be found in ceramic bowls and unique pottery. I love midcentury pottery and have an obsession with groupings of malachite as well (found on Wunderkammer). Malachite is the perfect pop of green in any space.” —Philip Gorrvan

WHAT’S AN IDEAL ACCENT CHAIR FOR A HAMPTONS LIVING ROOM?



“Paired with comfortable upholstered chairs, a weathered antique wooden chair is the right accent chair for the space. This reads as casual (beach, not fussy) and plays well with others.”
—Michael Del Piero

“I think a strong sculptural chair is really nice, because often in the Hamptons we want very casual sofas, so that can be a good way to add some wood or character to the room.” —Katie Lydon

“THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF AN ACCENT CHAIR IS THE CONTINUUM CHAIR DESIGNED BY GIO PONTI AND FOUND ON BONACINA.” —Philip Gorrvan

“Something comfortable, cozy and on a swivel. It’s always nice to be able to swivel to look out a door or window to appreciate the view, weather it be a bay or ocean view or lush greenery.” —Melanie Calder Russo

TOP: NICK SARGENT (JULY 1, 2023); BOTTOM: CHRIS MOTTALINI (AUGUST 15, 2023)

HOW CAN YOU ADD GRANDEUR TO A FOYER:



“THERE’S A REASON YOU SEE MIRRORS IN FOYERS. THEY ADD GRANDEUR. ESPECIALLY IF OVER-SCALED AND DRAMATIC. A FIXTURE WITH SOME OOMPH CAN ADD TO THE DRAMA OF THE SPACE.” —Michael Del Piero

“While I am a die-hard fan of beautiful neutrals, a bold paint color in an entrance foyer can be so striking and set the tone for the rest of the home. You can get away with saturated color, as it’s a small space and a transitional space. Other essentials include a beautiful mirror, a resting spot for keys and maybe a dramatic console if you have the space.” —Alicia Murphy

“Foyers are my favorite. It’s the first and last impression within a house. Since the foyer is a passthrough space, it’s the one opportunity to do something bold. Whether it is cream-colored leather panels or rich peacock lacquer. You should always change the flooring in the entryway, whether it’s a stone flooring or wood paneling.” —Philip Gorri van

“A stunning floor is a great start. A fabulous polished mosaic tile floor gives a wow-factor to an entryway and adds a lot of sophistication as well as durability for such a high-traffic area of the home.” —Katie Lydon

“A LARGE MIRROR OVER A CONSOLE TABLE WITH A GORGEOUS LAMP IS ONE WAY TO GO. IF THE FOYER IS LARGE ENOUGH, A ROUND TABLE WITH A LARGE VASE FILLED WITH FLOWERS IS ALWAYS STUNNING.” —Melanie Calder Russo

HULYA KOLABAS (JULY 15, 2023)

WALLPAPER DO’S AND DON’TS

“DO CHECK IF THE WALLPAPER WILL SHOW SEAMS. A LOT OF CLIENTS HAVE AN AVERSION TO SEAMS (AS DO I ON CERTAIN PATTERNS), SO IT’S BETTER NOT TO BE DISAPPOINTED AFTER IT’S INSTALLED.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“Texture over pattern.” —Michael Del Piero

“MAKE YOUR WALLPAPER SELECTION PERSONAL. SHOWCASE COLORS, PATTERNS, TEXTURES OR IMAGES THAT ARE UNIQUE TO YOU AND YOUR SPACE.” —Katie Lydon

“Dos: Wallpaper an entire space including the ceiling. Don’ts: A feature wall.” —Philip Gorri van



TIPS FOR A CLASSIC HAMPTONS LOOK/STYLE



TOP: GIEVES ANDERSON (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023);
BOTTOM: TAMARA WAGEL DESIGN (AUGUST 15, 2023)

“Black is not the devil. Don’t be afraid of color/pattern. Add a touch of vintage. Bring the outside in. There are no rules.” —Melanie Calder Russo

“The Hamptons should feel like a luxurious escape in the finest hotel, with every room exuding casual comfort. Your hospitality will really sing in the details. Invest in ultra-soft towels, crisp white bed linens, and always make space for fresh botanicals. Choose a light and floral home fragrance from Diptyque to greet your guests the moment they walk in the door.” —Katie Lydon

“The beauty of the Hamptons is that there’s not just one look. Each home is very personal, for me, I like to incorporate natural textured Somerselle wallpaper. For the outdoors, one can never have enough hydrangeas!” —Philip Gorri van