

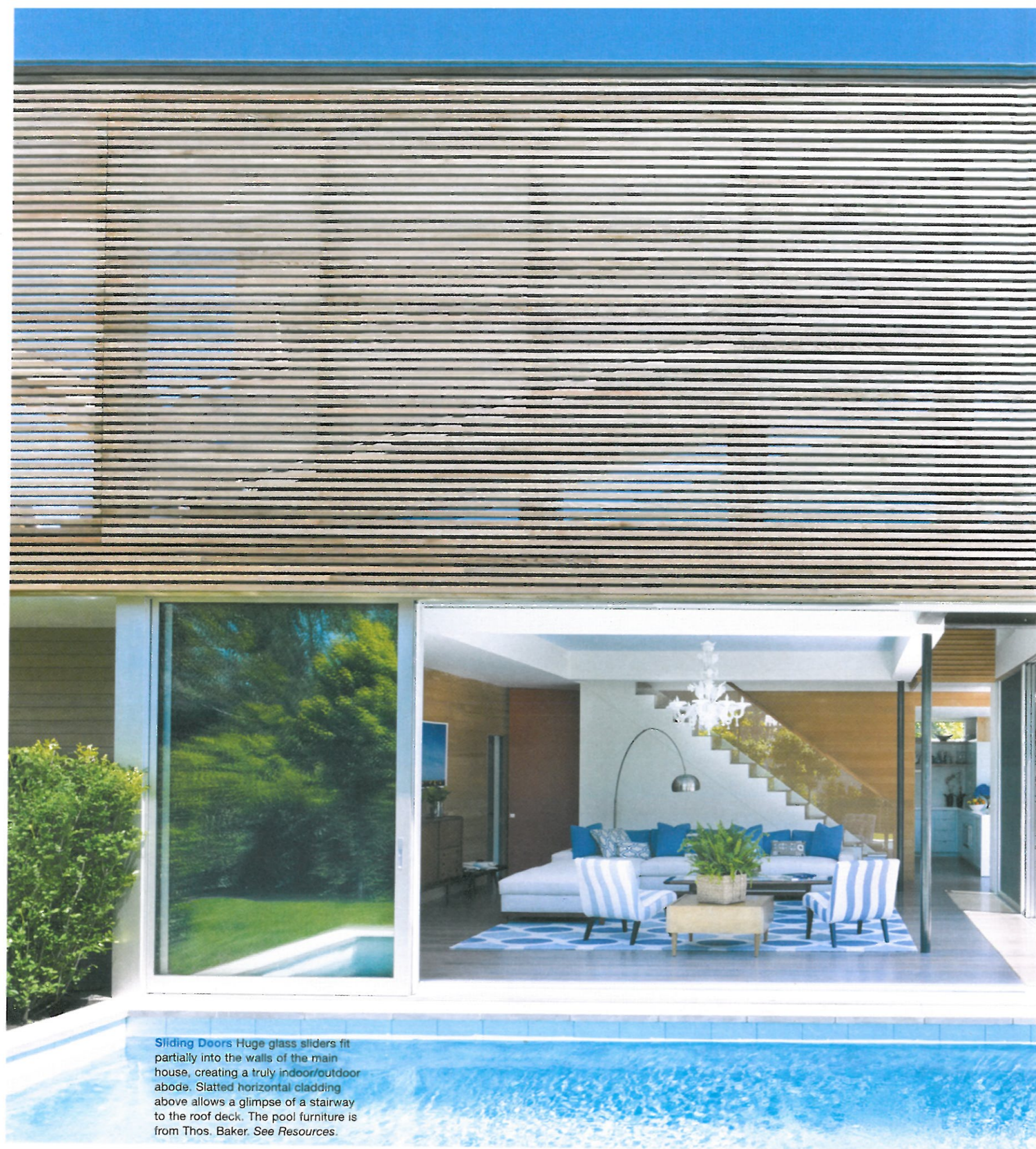
HCG

Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE





Sliding Doors Huge glass sliders fit partially into the walls of the main house, creating a truly indoor/outdoor abode. Slatted horizontal cladding above allows a glimpse of a stairway to the roof deck. The pool furniture is from Thos. Baker. See *Resources*.

MODERN ROMANCE

Architect Stuart Disston and textile designer Eliza Gatfield build a sleek, chic house on a storied street in Quogue

BY STEELE THOMAS MARCOUX | PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MURDOCK



“MODERN” is not the first description that comes to mind upon viewing a portfolio of homes designed by architect Stuart Disston. As a principal of the firm Austin Patterson Disston, which is based in Southport, Connecticut, and also has an office in Quogue, Disston has built a reputation for designing homes rooted in great American architectural traditions, most notably the shingle style. But when he decided to design a beach house in Quogue for himself and his partner, Eliza Gatfield, he took a more modern approach to country living.



"This is a major departure for me," Disston says of the 3,500-square-foot retreat where he, Gatfield, and her 13-year-old daughter, Ella, spend summers and weekends throughout the year. "You could almost call it my mid-life rebirth as a modernist." A graduate of Syracuse University's School of Architecture and current member of its board, Disston credits his association with fellow board members and well-known contemporary architects Fred Stelle (of Bridgehampton-based Stelle Architects) and

Richard Gluckman (of New York-based Gluckman Maynor Architects), among others, with his turn toward a sleeker style. "I've always loved modern architecture, and I wanted to do more of it. This seemed like a great place to start."

Composed of a series of stacked rectangular volumes that loosely form an "L" shape, the structure more closely resembles a sophisticated Lego construction than the square-plus-triangle form typically evoked by the word "house." Clad in horizontal



Shades Of Blue In the living room (LEFT), a Murano glass chandelier hangs above a Disston-designed cocktail table. The pillows, rug, and kilim-upholstered chairs are all from Gatfield's Quogue-based company, Custom Cool. Nanna and Jørgen Ditzel's Egg chair spins above a Custom Cool Ikat Stripe rug in the family room (ABOVE), which includes a dining table and bench from Fishers Home Furnishings and dining chairs from Design Within Reach. In the kitchen (RIGHT), YLighting's Pudding pendant light illuminates the baby blue cabinetry. See Resources.



cedar timbers, punctuated by square and rectangular windows, and topped with a flat roof (from which solar panels and a rooftop deck peek out over the edge), the house doesn't have a single curved, or even diagonal, line on the exterior. Glass doors on the ground level slide all the way into the walls, not only opening the family and living rooms to the pool and backyard but also creating the illusion that the top story, which houses the library and three bedrooms, floats above.

The house's interior also reflects Disston's evolution from traditionalist to modernist, though two features pay homage to historic architectural motifs: timber framing upstairs, such as the beams in the library, and the fireplace in the family room downstairs. Inspired by British contemporary artist Rachel Whiteread, who makes plaster casts of historic rooms, Disston used an antique mantel to make an imprint in white concrete in the shape of a traditional fireplace. "It's sort of like a fossil of an old house, like a



"The color makes the house not as uptight as most modern homes," says Gatfield. "It's more real—you can actually imagine spilling something here"



Relaxed Reading A wood and brass lantern from Ruby Beets hangs in the library (OPPOSITE), Gatfield's favorite room, which includes mid-century ceramics and paintings by Disston.

The Master At Work The architect also designed the bed in the master bedroom (ABOVE) and painted the works above the headboard and on the credenza; the Haiku fan is by Big Ass Fans. Blue penny tile in the master bathroom (RIGHT) offsets the James Turrell-like skylight. The tub is by Wetstyle and the shower fittings are by Dornbracht. See *Resources*.



salute to the historic homes in the area," he says.

A playful dialogue between past and present appears throughout, from an ornate Murano milk glass chandelier to mid-20th-century chairs upholstered in kilims designed by Gatfield's Quogue-based company, Custom Cool. "That's our version of thumbing our nose at the rigors of modern architecture," says Gatfield, who has had her own on-again, off-again relationships with both modern and traditional styles. "As an architecture student at Rhode Island School of Design, I was a modernist through and through," she says. "But as I matured and lived all over the world, I became enamored with more decorative details and traditional style. When Stuart said he wanted to do a modern house, I was initially against it. But then I fell in love with modernism all over again."

Gatfield, who describes her approach to color as "fearless," is responsible for the pops of blue and orange that enliven the cedar paneling and white-painted walls (she had wanted red, but settled on the lighter hues at Disston's suggestion). "The color makes the house not as uptight as most modern homes," she says. "It's more real—you can actually imagine spilling something here."



The structure more closely resembles a sophisticated Lego construction than the square-plus-triangle form typically evoked by the word "house"



The couple agreed on at least one thing from the very start: the furnishings. Among them are a considerable collection of Scandinavian mid-century-modern furniture and contemporary artwork, in addition to pieces made by the duo themselves. Disston designed the living room coffee table, made of walnut and fiberglass, and the bed in the master bedroom, while Gatfield designed most of the textiles in the house, from the living room rug to the dining room place mats. Many of the paintings are works by Disston, too.

Now that they've just settled in, the couple are currently at work on another year-round house in Bridgehampton. Plans for this home call for a more traditional style, so does that mean their experiments with modernism in Quogue might turn out to be just a summer fling? Only time will tell. 🌟



Framing The View

Homeowners Stuart Disston and Eliza Gatfield enjoy the vista from the upstairs terrace (OPPOSITE), which adjoins the library and master bedroom. The seating pieces are from Hildreth's. On the roof deck (THIS PAGE), a Gloster sun bed from Thayer's Hardware & Patio soaks in the atmosphere. The planters are from Restoration Hardware. See Resources.



Resources & More...

(T) • Sources available through architects, interior designers, and design professionals.

Architects & Designers Building (A&D), 150 E. 58th St., NYC, 212-644-2766, adbuilding.com.

Decoration & Design Building (D&D), 979 Third Ave., NYC, 212-759-5408, ddbbuilding.com.

New York Design Center (NYDC), 200 Lexington Ave., NYC, 212-679-9500, nydc.com.

EDITORS' NOTE: The photographs of the Geller house in the July 15 issue's "Deeds & Don'ts" (page 38) were taken by Chris Foster.

GARDENING

Pages 28–30: Landscape design, Victoria Fensterer Landscape & Garden Design, Amagansett, 631-324-6657, victoriafensterer.com.

MADE IN THE HAMPTONS

Pages 34–36: Brick carpets, Margaret Kerr, Springs, 631-324-3706.

Masons, Joe and Candido Goncalves, Seashore Masons, East Hampton, 631-324-3805.

ARC DE TRIUMPH

Pages 52–59: Architect, Maziar Behrooz, MB Architecture, East Hampton, 631-329-2983, mbarchitecture.com.

Interior design, Bradley Clifford, Bradley Clifford Design, Portland, OR, 503-975-0604, bradleyclifforddesign.com.

Landscape design, Kenny Pascual and Bod Strubel, The Bayberry, Amagansett, 631-267-3000, thebayberry.com.

Kitchen and closet design, William Roy, William Roy Designer Kitchens, williamroydk.com.

Bath tile, Alan Court, Alan Court & Associates, East Hampton, 631-324-7497.

Outdoor and items pictured but not listed here are either from private collections or have no additional details.



interior lighting, Caitlin Faron, Shine Design + Distribution, Water Mill, 631-726-0425, shinehamptons.com.

Green roof, Green Living Technologies, LLC, Rochester, NY, 800-631-8001, agreenroof.com.

Pages 54–55: Living room, dining area, and kitchen:

Sofa, Natuzzi, NYC, 212-334-4335, us.natuzzi.com.

Area rug, end tables, and coffee table, Robert Stansel Design, East Hampton, 971-285-0884.

Flooring, Goby Walnut & Western Hardwoods, Portland, OR, 503-477-6744, gobywalnut.com.

Windows, Unilux, unilux.de.

Dining table, Roche Bobois, NYC, 212-889-0700, roche-bobois.com.

Dining chairs, Girard Furniture, Bradley Clifford Design.

Chandelier, Ochre, NYC, 212-414-4332, ochre.net.

Cabinetry, Neff, William Roy Designer Kitchens.

Flooring, Ann Sacks, William Roy Designer Kitchens.

Pendant lighting, Shine Design + Distribution.

Pages 56–67: Kitchen table, Rue Auber Antiques, Stonington, CT, 860-535-3808.

Chairs, Walter Knoll, Bradley Clifford Design.

Stairwell: Flooring, Ann Sacks, William Roy Designer Kitchens.

Pages 58–59: Master bathroom: Bathtub, Valli + Valli Hardware, NYC, 212-326-8811, vallivalli-us.com.

Cabinetry, Grains of Wood, East Hampton, 631-329-0895.

Hardware, Hansgrohe, Blackman Plumbing, Southampton, 516-283-1500, hansgrohe-usa.com.

Coral, Bernd Goeckler Antiques, NYC, 212-777-8209, bgoecklerantiques.com.

Countertop and tile, Alan Court & Associates.

Master bedroom: Bed, Roche Bobois.

Artwork, Jasmina Danowski, Spanierman Modern Gallery, NYC, 212-832-1400, spaniermanmodern.com.

Flooring, Goby Walnut & Western Hardwoods.

Nightstand, Roche Bobois.

MODERN ROMANCE

Pages 60–67: Architect, Stuart L. Disston, Austin Patterson Disston Architects, LLC, Quogue, 631-653-1481, apdarchitects.com.

Interior design, Eliza Garfield, Custom Cool, Quogue, 631-996-2900, customcoolrugs.com.

Landscape design, Brad Spaulding, Spaulding Landscape Architects, LLC, Stamford, CT, 203-329-9900, spauldinglandscapearchitects.com; Susan Wilcenski & Giovanni Cipriano, Spaces Landscape Architecture, Quogue, 631-899-4800, spaceslandscapearchitecture.com.

Pages 60–61: Poolside patio: Sofa and chairs, Thos. Baker, Bainbridge Island, WA, 877-855-1900, thosbaker.com.

Dining table and chairs, Design Within Reach, NYC, 212-888-4539, dwr.com.

Pages 62–63: Living room: Rug, pillows, and chairs, Custom Cool.

Photographs and coffee table, Stuart Disston.

Family room: Rug, Custom Cool.

Egg chair, Unica Home, Las Vegas, NV, 702-589-5748, unicahome.com.

Painting, Stuart Disston.

Pillow, Custom Cool.

Flowers, Sag Harbor Florist, Sag Harbor, 631-725-1400, sagharborflorist.net.

Dining table and bench, Fishers Home Furnishings, Sag Harbor, 631-725-0006, fishershomefurnishings.com.

Fireplace, Stuart