

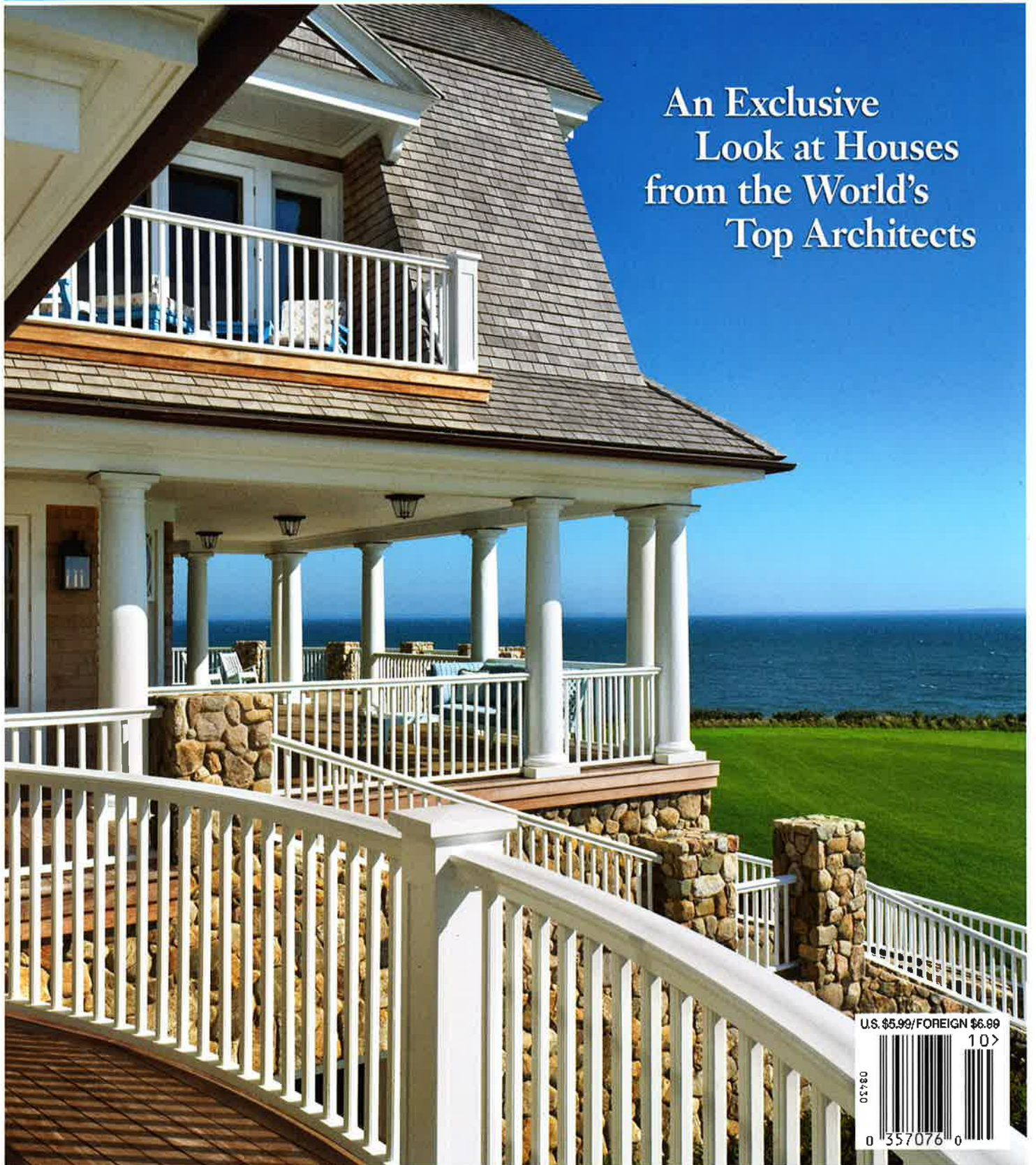
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A New York couple commissioned Barnes Coy Architects to design a retreat for their waterfront property in East Hampton. The interiors were done by Joan Dineen. Craig Socia was the landscape designer. THIS IMAGE AND OPPOSITE: At the front, steps ascend to a bridge that links the main wing, left, and the garage.

Shoreline Respite

IN EAST HAMPTON, AN AIRY RETREAT CELEBRATES ITS SETTING

Architecture by Barnes Coy Architects/Interior Design by Dineen Architecture + Design

Landscape Design by Craig James Socia Garden Design/Text by Alastair Gordon/Photography by Paul Warchol



Living in the Hamptons can be a precarious balance between exposure and escape, social networking and intimate downtime. Like so many houses here, a harborside retreat by Barnes Coy Architects was prescribed by zoning, wetlands and the increasingly elusive water view, but the house maximizes its site with an unusual clamshell plan that serves as both a sheltering device and a kind of architectural viewfinder, open to the water and sky while still being protective and private. The 7,000-square-foot struc-

ture was designed for two professional women who love to entertain but also cherish their privacy while away from Manhattan. On summer weekends they might have as many as 60 guests for a cocktail party, but they also make time to paddle their kayaks and watch the light flickering across the water.

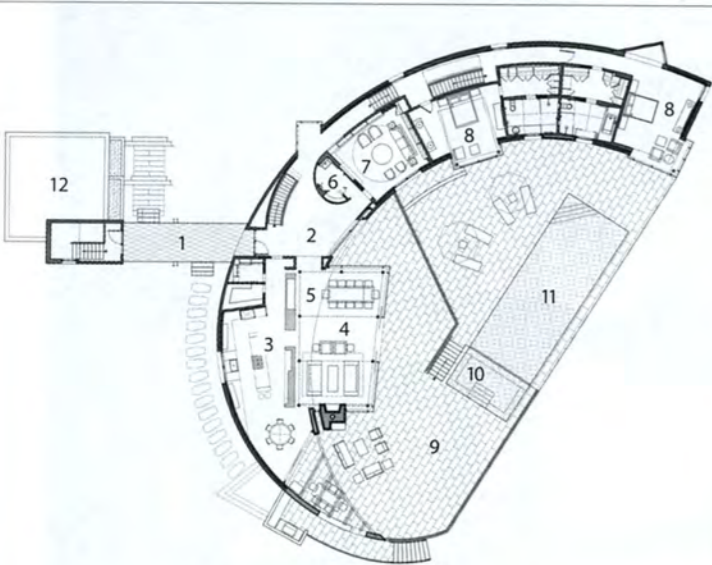
The front elevation is almost austere, with hardly any openings. Its curving wall is coated with pale gray concrete plaster and acts as a foil for shadows and the changing play of sea-flecked light. (Only a single prism of glass breaks through



OPPOSITE: The floor plan, a crescent shape, has the glass-walled living area situated at the optimum angle for taking in views of the nearby harbor. A low cabinet wall crafted of teak, right, defines one side of the open kitchen. Lounge chair fabric, Pollack. Fabric on sofas, Donghia; on pillows, Bergamo.

ABOVE: The dining area is contained in the same mostly transparent volume as the living area. In addition to lending a pronounced sense of enclosure, the mullions in the glazing give the vistas definition. The space flows easily onto the terrace through a 10-foot-wide sliding door.

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|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 ENTRANCE BRIDGE | 5 DINING AREA | 9 TERRACE |
| 2 ENTRANCE HALL | 6 POWDER ROOM | 10 SOAKING POOL |
| 3 KITCHEN | 7 SITTING ROOM | 11 SWIMMING POOL |
| 4 LIVING AREA | 8 MASTER SUITES | 12 GARAGE |



TOP: The plan of the first floor, the terrace and the pools. Among the benefits of the arcing layout is that it establishes a generous outdoor space and relates each room to it. ABOVE: Christopher Coy, left, and Robert Barnes. OPPOSITE: One of two master suites.

this outer skin.) A three-tiered hedge of boxwood and barberry ripples out from the house like waves from the prow of a boat, echoing the rounded shape and anchoring the monolithic façade to its natural setting. A bridge, reminiscent of Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House, floats between the detached garage and the main house, leading inside through a narrow opening that then erupts through a glass wall on the opposite side.

The living/dining room faces the water and is animated by the bold sculptural forms of a sloping chimney made from Alabama limestone and a concrete beam that arcs through the space to support the roof and direct the eye up to a ceiling ribbed with maple beams, "to look corrugated," explains architect Robert Barnes. There is little division between inside and outside. Large glass doors slide open, and the limestone paving continues from the terrace into the interior. "You float from outside to inside," says one of the owners, who finds that even in winter the house feels protective and warm despite the cold materials. "I never thought glass and stone could be so nurturing."

Interior designer Joan Dineen, of Dineen Architecture + Design, introduced furniture and fabrics that complement and enhance this strong interior landscape, using colors drawn from sea and sky: a silk carpet made in China, low-slung sofas and chairs and a low table in the shape of a bronze ribbon that Dineen designed herself. "We tried to be casual but elegant and stay out of the way of the architecture," she says. Upholstery fabrics echo the muted tone of the limestone floors, concrete stucco walls

and silver-gray finish of the columns and window frames. The kitchen was designed to be open and closely connected to the living area, with the same muted minimalist sensibility reflected in the use of black cabinets, silver-gray tiles and white countertops.

Farther to the west lie a powder room, a sitting room and two double-height master suites. Smooth, minimal finishes and fixtures were used throughout. Handrails are made from aircraft-grade aluminum. Mahogany stair treads lead down to white-maple floors on the partially subterranean lower level.

The house's elliptical gesture—part of an outward-moving spiral that the architects based on the golden section—offers a sequence of views from different platforms, positions and carefully managed sight lines. "Every room sets up a beautiful picture," says one of the owners. The living area faces northeast, toward the mouth of the harbor, and gets the most picturesque view. One of the master suites is aimed at a quiet sandy beach that protrudes into the harbor, while the other faces southeast toward an area of marinas busy with boat traffic. "We wanted to create these little moments, these framed views, as you circulate around the crescent," says Barnes.

The curving rear façade forms a substantial enclosure, blocking out views of neighboring properties as it wraps around a limestone terrace and two pools connected by a waterfall. It becomes an amphitheater for summer living. "We wanted to give them a view from the pool, so we used two levels," says Christopher

continued on page 310



To provide the owners with areas for both small and large gatherings, the architects portioned the expansive limestone terrace on two levels, effectively creating multiple intimate outdoor rooms. On the upper tier is a soaking pool, which spills into the swimming pool below.

