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Set into the landscape, a home by Barnes Coy Architects combines the modernist look of transparent glass with more textural touches of wood and stone.



GLASS HALF FULL

A striking home on Three Mile Harbor takes a welcoming and sustainable approach to modern design.

by HEATHER CORCORAN

“A lot of modern homes are very cold and uninviting,” says Arthur Beckenstein. He’s in the East Hampton home he shares with John O’Rourke, located on the waterfront of Three Mile Harbor. It’s a sparkling piece of modern design, one carefully conceived to prove that stereotype wrong. “Because of the materials—the floors are light natural maple, the ipe walls have this beautiful honey color—you feel warm all year-round,” Beckenstein says.

The home, which was designed by Bridgehampton-based Barnes Coy Architects with interiors by Julia Roth, consists of a dramatic two-story glass box intersected with an ipe wood-clad chimney and flanked by stuccoed volumes the color of concrete. A natural stone wall further adds a touch of texture, while landscaped green roofs on the second floor provide both efficiency-increasing insulation and a beautiful view from the master bedroom.

“Rob [Barnes] and I take our inspiration from the canon of modernism: Louis Kahn, Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright to some extent, and then guys who are a little closer to us in history, like Richard Meier,” says architect Christopher Coy. In this case,

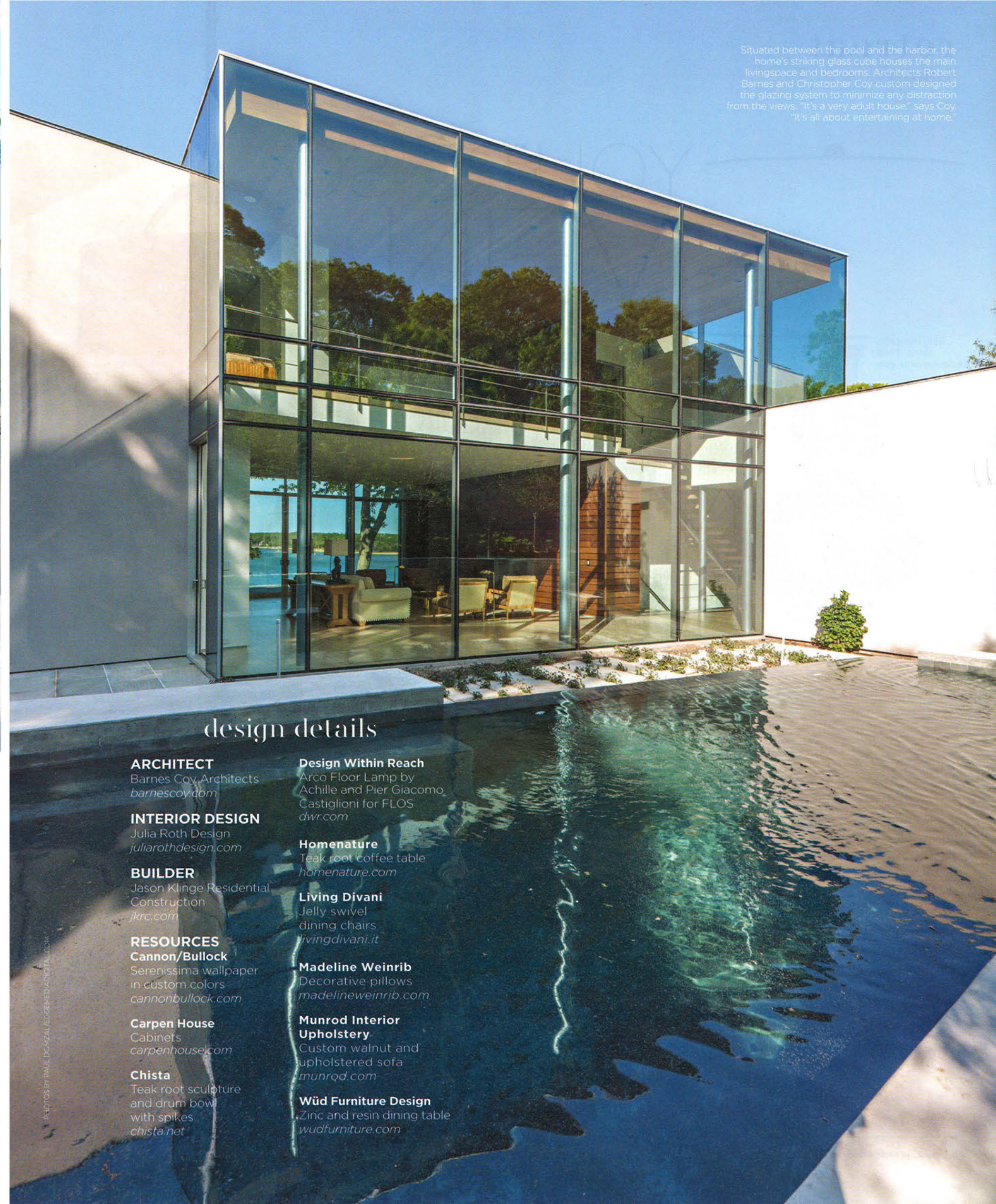


Throughout the open living spaces, interior designer Julia Roth used a mixture of organic materials and vibrant color to reflect the home's artistically inclined owners.

the residents also influenced the design. A former art director and graphic designer, and a veteran of the restaurant industry, the pair brought to the project a strong aesthetic as well as an art collection that inspired the home's warm color palette.

Architecturally, every detail was designed to maximize the views of the site, from a window jutting from the master suite like the prow of a ship to the transparent glass backsplash in the airy chef's kitchen to the central glass curtain wall itself.

"When you do a glass cube, you've got to get the glass right," architect Robert Barnes says. To create a seemingly seamless expanse of glazing, Barnes and Coy developed a customized system where mullions extend beyond the floor and ceiling plates so as not to distract from the view. The result is a fluid connection between indoors and out, enhanced by the repetition of a simple palette of materials. "The house becomes a crystal cube that reflects the sky and the trees," says Barnes. "If you're inside, it's transparent." ■



Situated between the pool and the harbor, the home's striking glass cube houses the main living space and bedrooms. Architects Robert Barnes and Christopher Coy custom designed the glazing system to minimize any distraction from the views. "It's a very adult house," says Coy. "It's all about entertaining at home."

design details

- ARCHITECT**
Barnes Coy Architects
barnescoy.com
- INTERIOR DESIGN**
Julia Roth Design
juliarothdesign.com
- BUILDER**
Jason Klinge Residential Construction
jkrc.com
- RESOURCES**
Cannon/Bullock
Serenissima wallpaper in custom colors
cannonbullock.com
- Carpen House**
Cabinets
carpenhouse.com
- Chista**
Teak root sculpture and drum bowl with spikes
chista.net
- Design Within Reach**
Arco Floor Lamp by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni for FLOS
dwr.com
- Homenature**
Teak root coffee table
homenature.com
- Living Divani**
Jelly swivel dining chairs
livingdivani.it
- Madeline Weinrib**
Decorative pillows
madelineweinrib.com
- Munrod Interior Upholstery**
Custom walnut and upholstered sofa
munrod.com
- Wüd Furniture Design**
Zinc and resin dining table
wudfurniture.com