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georgica gem

In a peaceful part of East Hampton, a modern house built of stone, wood, and glass reflects its natural surroundings

ARCHITECTURE BARNES COY ARCHITECTS INTERIOR DESIGN FRANK DE BIASI
TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL DOMZAL / EDGEMEDIAPROD.COM

PLENTY OF FOLKS GO TO THE HAMPTONS IN SUMMER TO "SEE AND BE SEEN." BUT THE OWNERS OF this four-bedroom retreat in the vicinity of East Hampton's tranquil Georgica Pond had something distinctly different in mind when they commissioned Barnes Coy Architects to create for them a home where they could enjoy peace, quiet, and privacy. Erected in a clearing in the woods and surrounded by trees and reflecting pools, the cantilevered structure of stone, glass, and wood is not, observes interior designer Frank de Biasi, "your average family home," but an artful composition of organic materials designed to become one with the landscape. "It is minimal, modern, and daring architecturally—but the materials make it look like it belongs here."

CONTINUED

two WORLDS meet

Walls of glass, cedar shingle, and gray-blue Pennsylvania stone create a timeless balance between the organic and the human-made. The facade's geometry reflects the diversity apparent in nature itself; like the treetops that surround the structure, the roofline of the house encourages the eye to travel up, down, and around, not straight across.



natural FLOW **Opposite top:** Drought-resistant native plantings make the landscape easy to care for, and easier on the fragile, pondside environment. **Opposite, bottom:** A bench—for removing shoes or resting packages—awaits at the entry. **This image:** Glass walls expose the main living space to views in two directions. **Bottom:** In the den, a 10-foot-wide painting by Santi Moix injects dramatic color. Patterson, Flynn & Martin rugs lend texture throughout. Mongolian lamb pillows accent the B&B Italia sofa.



When approached by the owners to carry out the home's interior design, de Biasi showed the same balance of boldness and sensitivity to the site that the architectural team demonstrated in the composition of the structure itself. "This is a house that invites the outside indoors," de Biasi explains, "so it was important that the interior—especially the living spaces exposed to the landscape by floor-to-ceiling walls of glass—be compatible with the surroundings."

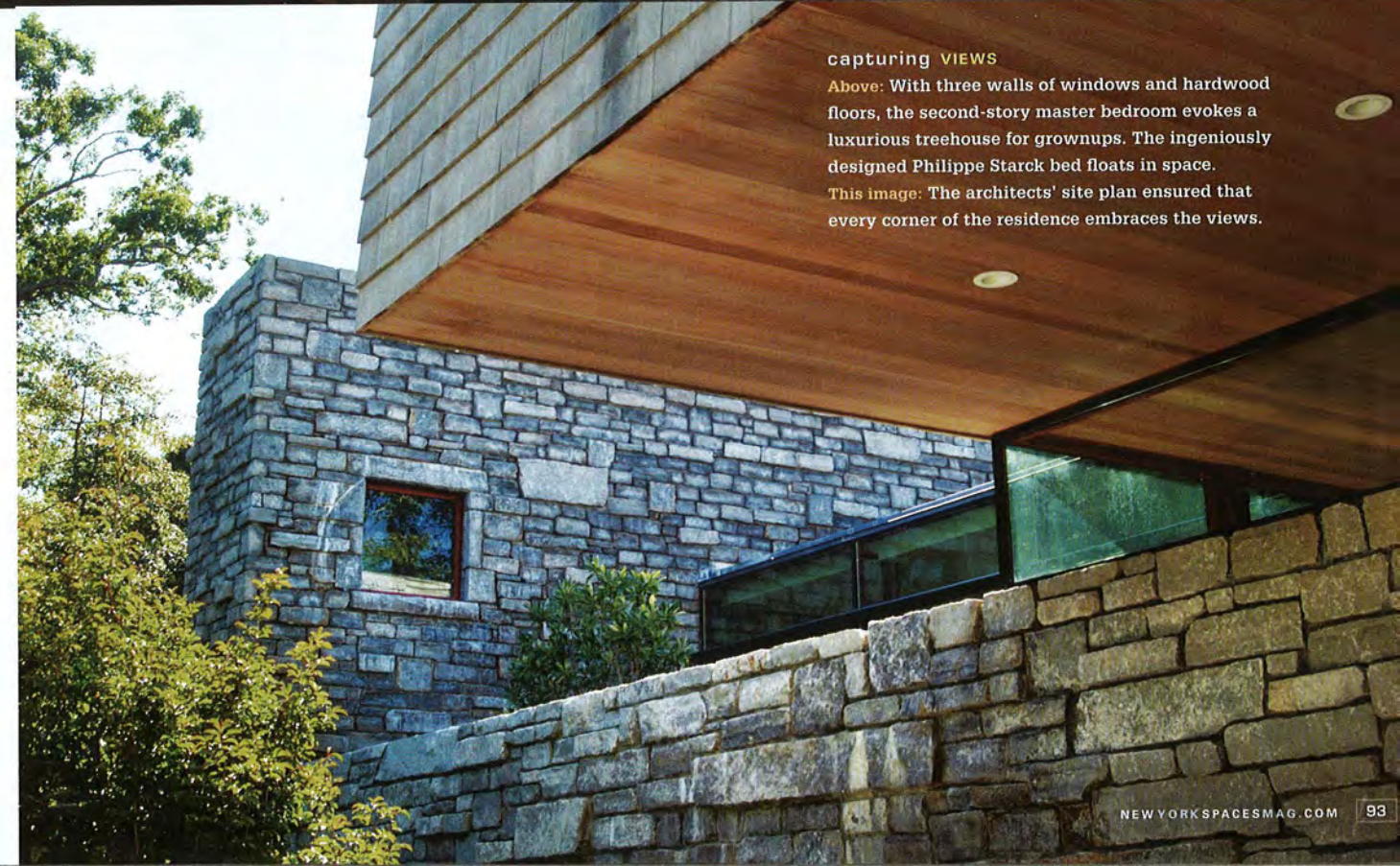
As a family home, it was important, too, that the design create a sense of comfort, warmth, and welcome—a mandate de Biasi met indoors with layers of soft texture and natural colors inspired by the tonality of the home's materials, including cedar, mahogany, teak, and blue-gray Pennsylvania stone.

"We wanted the furnishings to reflect the modern luxury of the residence but also to be practical for weekend living," the designer says. "After all, this is a home in the Hamptons,

LIGHT and WARMTH
Cantilevered volumes
give the stone structure
surprising weightlessness—
a sense of floating in space.
The outdoor fireplace
extends the day and the
season for being outdoors.
Fireside seating is
fabricated of weatherproof
resin evocative of woven
rattan. A built-in teak
bench is perfect for parties.

CANTILEVERED VOLUMES MADE OF STONE AND GLASS GIVE THE STRUCTURE SURPRISING WEIGHTLESSNESS.

a SPARKLING jewel This image and below right: Windows and water reflect light—and welcome peaceful woodland views—night and day. Bottom, left: An outdoor table and chairs from Richard Schultz make summer dining carefree. The cantilevered overhang shelters guests from sun and sudden showers.



capturing VIEWS

Above: With three walls of windows and hardwood floors, the second-story master bedroom evokes a luxurious treehouse for grownups. The ingeniously designed Philippe Starck bed floats in space.

This image: The architects' site plan ensured that every corner of the residence embraces the views.

not an urban environment," says de Biasi, who took care to accommodate children and teenagers in residence, a need for outdoor dining, lounging, and entertaining—even the inevitable wet bathing suits that come with the beach/pond/swimming-pool territory. "We treated all the fabrics and rugs," says the interior designer, giving homeowners eager to get away from it all for a little while that much less to worry about.

In the end, every corner of the Georgica Pond retreat reflected the natural beauty of the site's extraordinary location—as well as the remarkable vision of the people who built it. ~ See Resources.