

DESIGN TO INSPIRE

HOUSE & GARDEN

AUGUST 2002

HAPPY
SUMMER
DECORATING

A white wooden chair with blue cushions and a striped pillow, next to a table with orange flowers.

29 New Ideas for
Kids at Play
Escape to Provence
Poolside Spa
Grass Garden
by the Sea

A photograph of a high-end outdoor lounge area. In the foreground, a swimming pool reflects the sky and the surrounding structures. To the left, a dining table is set with chairs under a large white patio umbrella. To the right, a lounge chair with white cushions sits under a wooden pergola structure. The background shows lush greenery and a clear blue sky.

WATERWORLD

SAWYER/BERSON DESIGNS A HEAVENLY SEASIDE LOUNGE



BY MAYER RUS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
MELANIE ACEVEDO
STYLED BY PETER FRANK

designer savvy

The new outdoor pavilion is separate from the house but linked to it by similar architectural details and materials.

SEATING Director's chairs by McGuire, covered in Regatta fabric in Vintage Taupe.

TABLE Custom-made by Morgick Metal Designs, Inc., with a thermal-finish granite top by New York Marble & Ceramic Inc., NYC.

FOR EYEWEAR KING ROBERT MARC AND HIS PARTNER, BILL ROACH



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ALI IS 10,155 MILES from New York City, give or take a few miles. St. Barth's is considerably closer—about 1,700 miles from Gotham—but still a bit inconvenient, alas, for regular weekend commutes. Just 90 miles outside Manhattan, however, the Hamptons tantalize beach-seeking New Yorkers with the twin virtues of proximity and abundant natural beauty. If only Long Island were more hospitable to hibiscus.

"When we think vacation, all we want to do is head for a beach, and when we think beach, we always imagine tropical islands, exotic landscapes, places like Bali," says Robert Marc, the well-known eyewear designer. Marc is explaining the surprisingly, incongruously

tropical flavor of the recent addition to the East Hampton house that he shares with Bill Roach. "The house is definitely our refuge," he adds. "We wanted the pool addition to transport us to a different world."

The responsibility for designing an environment capable of such tropical transportation fell to Brian Sawyer, a partner in the New York architecture and landscape architecture firm Sawyer/Berson. "Robert and Bill were very clear about replicating certain aspects of the lifestyle they enjoy when they visit exotic resorts around the world," Sawyer says. "Grasping the concept was easy. The challenge came in finding an architectural solution that acknowledged the form and materials of the existing house, but still brought a little St. Barth's to East Hampton."

Marc and Roach only recently acquired the house, which was built along a prime stretch of beach in the 1990s. For the

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Carefully chosen woods—Pau Lope for the deck, mahogany for the louvered walls—give the pavilion a tropical look.

SEATING By the pool, above, Santa Barbara umbrellas shade Portico chaises by McGuire. In the cabana, opposite page, custom chairs and ottomans by SFA Leinoff Fine Woodworking, Inc., and ceramic stools by Brancusi from Far Eastern Antiques & Arts, Inc.

TABLES Sawyer/Berson mesh-top console tables, above; coffee table with lava stone top, from Catherine Lagot Artisans de France.



**“THE HOUSE IS OUR REFUGE. THE
POOL ADDITION TRANSPORTS US TO
A DIFFERENT WORLD” —ROBERT MARC**





first phase of an overall makeover of the property, the clients asked Sawyer for a new oceanfront terrace that would encompass a pool, an outdoor living room, a spa tub, and a dining area. "It's an idiosyncratic house, built as a series of pavilions," Sawyer explains. "Our epiphany was not to fight the house, but to deal with it on its own terms."

The new outdoor living pavilion, for example, has the same roof line and eaves detail as the original house, although the pavilion is constructed of mahogany rather than cedar. The deck is built of Pau Lope, a tropical hardwood, as is the custom furniture that sits on it and the newly installed boardwalk that connects the house to the beach across a landscape of picturesque dunes.

"Robert and Bill had built two pools before this project, and they were never completely happy," Sawyer says. "We had to convince them to line the pool with black marble dust tile, which they thought would be too dark. With the reflection of the sky, the water in the pool is the same color as the ocean. Also, the sound of the water trickling over the pool's horizon edge is incredibly soothing. I think they're finally happy."

Happy indeed. "The terrace is where we eat, where we sit and read, where we entertain—it's our whole world for the summer!" Marc says. In other words, tropical bliss is possible to achieve even at the 41st parallel. □

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The pool, which drops off into a recirculating waterfall fountain, seems to merge with the horizon.

LIGHTING Hudson Point copper lanterns from Restoration Hardware, above; copper torches from Frontgate.

ACCESSORIES A glass from Calvin Klein Home and an old vase sit on a tile-top table, left, by Gueridon NYC. Sources, see back of book.