

# HAMPTONS

A full-length photograph of Ralph Lauren standing on a sandy beach. He is wearing a white double-breasted suit jacket over a black t-shirt, with his hands in his pockets. The background shows the ocean and a cloudy sky.

CELEBRATING  
35  
YEARS

## RALPH LAUREN

THE MASTER OF FASHION  
ON BUILDING THE AMERICAN  
DREAM By Fern Mallis

*Happy July 4th!*

AMERICANA  
INSPIRED FOOD,  
FASHION AND  
FESTIVITIES

HIP HOTELIERS  
*The Chic Set*  
*Retreats Out East*

**PLUS**

Liza Minnelli, Sam Talbot,  
Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss,  
Marc Murphy, Michael Bruno



# ...WITHOUT WHOM THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE

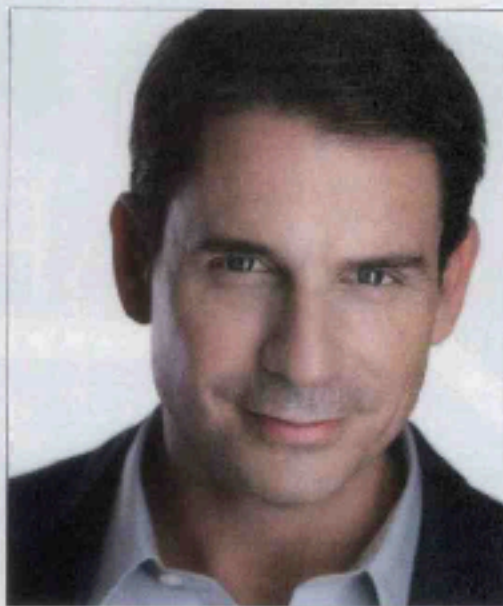
FOURTH OF JULY 2013



## fern mallis

Former executive director of the CFDA, Mallis frequently appears on America's Next Top Model and Project Runway and hosts the Fashion Icon series at NYC's 92Y. Recipient of both FIT President's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pratt Institute Fashion Industry Lifetime Achievement Award, Mallis interviewed this issue's cover star, Ralph Lauren (page 240).

**Describe your experience interviewing Ralph Lauren.** His office is like a museum... filled with gorgeous books, toys, objects, games, and awards.... I could spend hours there and never see it all. **What's something you learned about Ralph Lauren that you didn't know before?** I didn't know that one of Ralph's earliest jobs was working at Alexander's department store in the returns section. **Why is contributing to *Hamptons*' 35th anniversary year significant?** I've been coming out to the Hamptons for all of those 35 years... and have always been a fan of *Hamptons* magazine.... It's part of the weekend ritual.



## mark addison

Founder of design firm Eventstyle, Addison is the go-to designer for celebrity events, product launches, high-profile weddings, and nonprofit galas. His Fourth of July entertaining tips are included in this issue on page 190.

**Describe the perfect Hamptons party.** Good friends, great weather, and a crisp rosé paired with a menu that truly celebrates the season. My menu takes full advantage of all the fresh and all-natural ingredients our community has to offer. **Why is it significant for you to contribute to this season of *Hamptons*?** The magazine has always been my bible for all things chic in the Hamptons, and even though this is my 12th season producing Hamptons events, when I was asked to contribute to this issue I thought, "Now I've made it!"

## marc murphy

Chef-restaurantier Murphy is owner of Ditch Plains and Landmark restaurants, and Benchmark Events, which specializes in contemporary, accessible cuisine. He contributed a list of his favorite farmstands, butchers, and markets to this issue, page 178.

**Why is *Hamptons*' 35th anniversary year significant to you?** My wife worked as an editor at *Hamptons* in the early 1990s, so the magazine is something of an institution in our house. It's a true celebration of summer. **Describe your favorite summer beachside supper.** Our latest obsession is soft-shell crabs. I just throw them on with salt, pepper, and some Old Bay and serve them in bowls for an hors d'oeuvre.



## danielle colding

The New York City-based interior designer and principal at Danielle Colding Design, Inc. hosts her own HGTV show, *Shop This Room*. She contributed the foreword to *AphroChic*'s book *Remix*, due out this fall, and wrote this issue's home feature on page 274.

**What have you noticed about Hamptons home design?** It achieves that perfect blend of high sophistication with relaxed design that doesn't take itself too seriously. **Why is it significant for you to contribute during *Hamptons*' 35th anniversary year?** It is a thrill to be included in this special anniversary season. I had the pleasure of interviewing the incredible Michael Bruno, founder of *Isidhis*, which made the experience extraordinary.



# THE ULTIMATE CURATION

*Taking a cue from the antiques dealers on his website, 1stdibs, Michael Bruno fills his Southampton home with covetworthy pieces.*

*By Danielle Colding Photography by Tim Street-Porter*



Along with designer Windsor Smith, 1stdibs' founder Michael Bruno furnished his Southampton home with one-of-a-kind pieces, such as this French 1940s églomisé mirror.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEENA FEINBERG (BRUNO)

Michael Bruno alongside his beloved 1963 Mercedes Benz.



Nothing is impossible in the world of Michael Bruno. He subscribes to a seemingly simple worldview in which whatever you can think up or dream of can become real. Exposed to real estate at age 19, he went on to become a success in the field by selling overvalued homes to newly minted millionaires during the dot-com boom of the late '90s. Inspired by his clientele and watching several websites go public, Bruno next conceived of an exclusive furnishings website that would aid his wealthy customers, whom he helped to purchase properties, to also furnish these homes via an online outlet. And 1stdibs, the world-renowned collectibles website that bridges the gap between consumers and experts in the fields of antiques, fashion, jewelry, and estates was born. In Bruno's world, the impossible becomes possible through conceptualizing and taking the practical steps necessary to make those dreams a reality.



Bruno has called the Hamptons home since 1999. He initially amassed a rolling complex of three homes and five barns on seven acres in Sagaponack, which he sold in 2005, when the market was favorable. Always open to the next great thing, he soon purchased a friend's home, which sat simply on one acre of land. Overlooking an expansive nature preserve, it "felt like it was on 50 acres," he notes. The incredible views hooked him. "It has amazing sunrises and sunsets," he says. "I love watching the moonrise there more than anything. It's just perfect on the horizon."

When looking to complete the interiors of his new home, Bruno turned to designer and friend Windsor Smith. He chose Smith's Room in a Box program because it allowed him to collaborate with an expert online while still being able to make the home his own through space planning and his love of unique furnishings. It also was a perfect fit for his busy schedule when 1stdibs was undergoing a rapid expansion. As Smith explains, with Room in a Box, "the power is in the hands of the client." She adds, "They can choose to edit or interpret the design, or they can value-engineer without losing the thread of the design. [Homeowners] can truly make it their own with guardrails up to keep them safe." Bruno, in turn, found working with a designer invaluable, as he knew he needed expert advice to assist him with proportion, scale, color, and fabric selection. "Once you experience a house that is properly done," he admits, "then you always want that."



The entry hall features a 19th-century chest of drawers purchased in New Orleans.



Windsor Smith designed the living room's bookcases for Windsor Smith Homes.



One of Bruno's favorite pieces, this Hawaiian cabinet displays fish dating back to the 1920s.



THE PALETTE CREATES A RELAXED HOME THAT HONORS ITS HAMPTONS LOCALE AND SPECTACULAR VIEWS.

For the master bedroom, Smith designed the bed and console of drawers, and she incorporated the color scheme of bleached sand and soft blues.



The guest bedroom is highlighted by 19th-century sepia photographs depicting the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

In approaching his Southampton home, the most crucial criteria was to get the feeling right. “Comfort was the first and most important factor,” Bruno offers. “Then on top of that I just wanted something soothing.” Admittedly afraid of color, he entrusted Smith to push him past his safe, go-to: all-white walls and espresso-stained floors. The house has amazing light, and it was essential for the interior spaces to enhance those natural elements. Smith adds, “The colors were an extension of the colors of the sea—the soft driftwood, the evening sky, the bleached sand, the soft blues of the water.” Inspired by its surroundings, the color palette creates a relaxed and approachable home that honors its Hamptons locale and spectacular views.

“All Michael needs in a decorator is a well-executed and thoughtful canvas or backdrop for his ‘objets of desire,’” Smith continues. “So my part is to provide the color story and scaled floor plans that support an entertaining lifestyle, filled with beautiful and interesting elements.” Bruno’s organic approach to design is quite simple: “I am the perfect consumer,” he says, “because I just buy what I love.” He gravitates toward animal-themed objects (but not animal parts, he assures), items in nature, and objects that have a bit of cheek. Artifacts from his travels and life experiences create a home that feels “as if its contents were collected over time, like shells,” he offers. The result is a highly personal, approachable space that doesn’t take itself too seriously. Among Bruno’s favorite possessions is a Hawaiian cabinet that displays collected fish specimens dating back to the 1920s. It is both the educational component of the piece and its sense of humor that speak to him and ultimately inform the items he collects.



The nature preserve becomes part of the outdoor living room, which also overlooks a polo field.

Bruno has always had a mind for homes and that uncanny ability to understand space in a unique way. He has a visual memory that allows him to not only recall the layout of most properties he visits but also to arrive at the best functional solutions for them. From visualizing floor plans in his head while swimming competitive laps as a teenager to his work in real estate, Bruno thinks purely in terms of function and flow. Fearless in his approach, he understands that eliminating a wall, adding a door, or moving a window by six inches can transform a space. But Smith pushed him further. “I challenged him mostly in vertical scale. I have helped him to cast his eye upward, engaging all of the space of a room,” she explains. “We hung a crew boat he had found in an antiques store from the ceiling and custom-made, very vertical bookcases—the proportions of the room literally soared!”

Bruno is a man with his eyes on the horizon. He is a visionary with impeccable timing who always seems to be slightly ahead of the trend curve. Within days of completing his Southampton home, he stumbled upon another gem: a small home sitting on the banks of Lake Agawam. Clearing the plot to expose the home’s breathtaking views, he was once again in his element. Already diving into the design, he hopes to have his newest project done by the end of summer. Most alive when on a construction site, feeling the space and drawing instructions on the walls, he understands the power of space, the importance of comfort, function, and creating homes that are sanctuaries from the world. Having an eye decidedly focused on the future, Bruno thinks nothing is too much trouble when beauty is the end goal. “Dream it, and it will be” may be a mantra for many; for Bruno, it’s a way of life. **H**



Industrial lights and a tall French table are the centerpieces of the kitchen.



Surrounded by lavender, the estate's pool overlooks the nature reserve.

