

HAMPTONS

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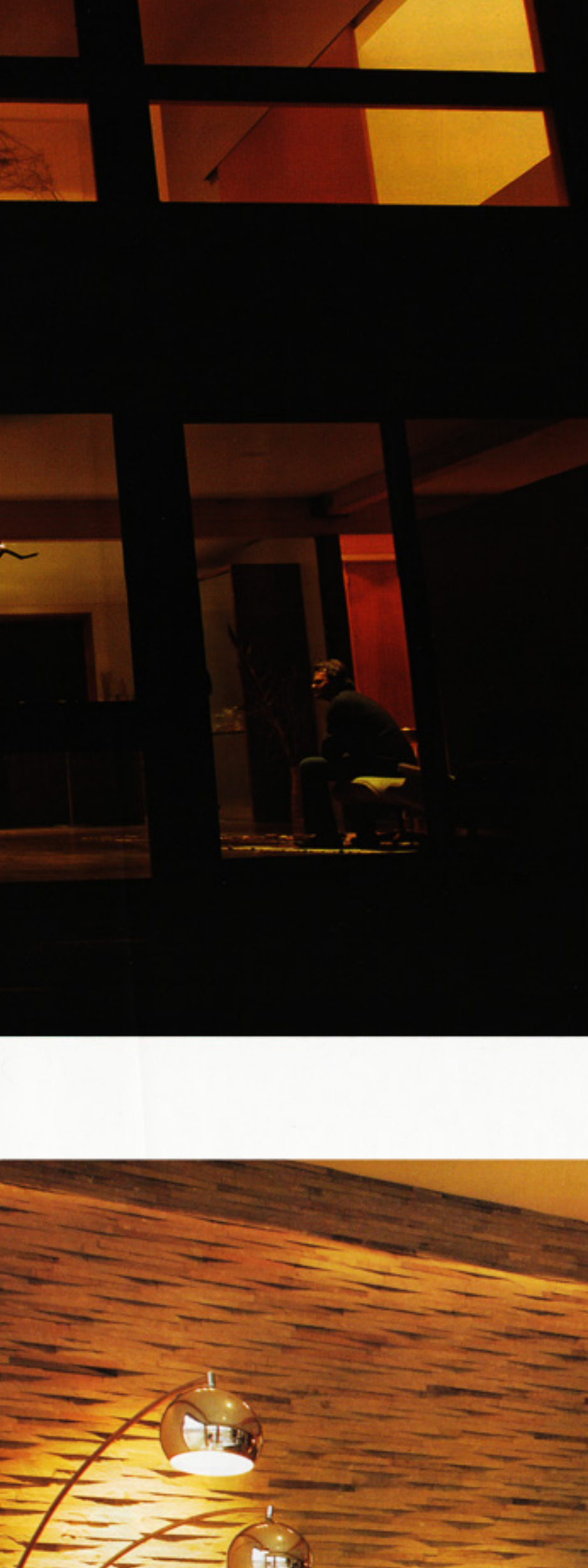


INTO THE WOODS

For one couple, having it all means keeping nature in mind—even when indoors.
 by Cindi Cook photographs by Caterina Verde



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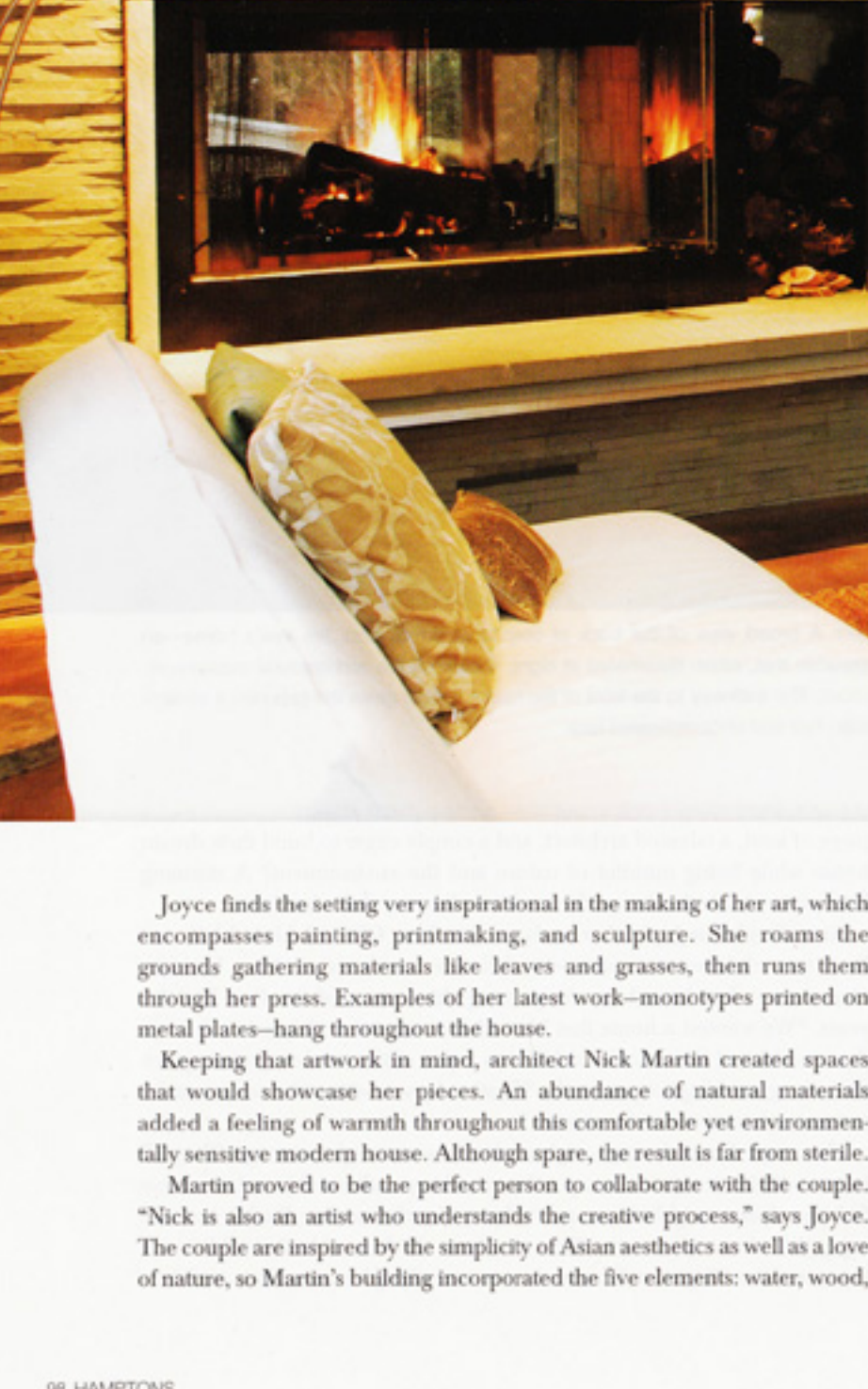


LEFT: A broad view of the back of Stephanie Joyce and Jim Vos's home—an expanse that, when illuminated at night, shows off the architectural masterwork. ABOVE: The walkway to the front of the house, which gives the grounds a streamlined feel and uncomplicated look.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE an untouched piece of land, a talented architect, and a couple eager to build their dream house while being mindful of nature and the environment? A stunning Hampton abode that keeps the earth's well-being at the forefront.

Artist Stephanie Joyce, her husband, Jim Vos, CEO of Aksia LLC, and their two children are otherwise full-time residents of New Canaan, Connecticut, but have been frequenting this corner of the East End for years. "We wanted a home that blurred the exterior and interior, the outdoor world and the indoor world," says Joyce of the two-level masterpiece that now graces a quiet peninsula. "That's why we went with modern architecture and more natural materials." The couple found the land—eight undeveloped acres—eight years ago. They fell in love with its view (it sits on a pond overlooking a salt marsh), and its remote feel (the closest neighbors are artists April Gornik and Eric Fischl), but also enjoy that it's so near town. "Here you have the best of both worlds," says Joyce, a native Virginian. "You're close to everything but away from it all."

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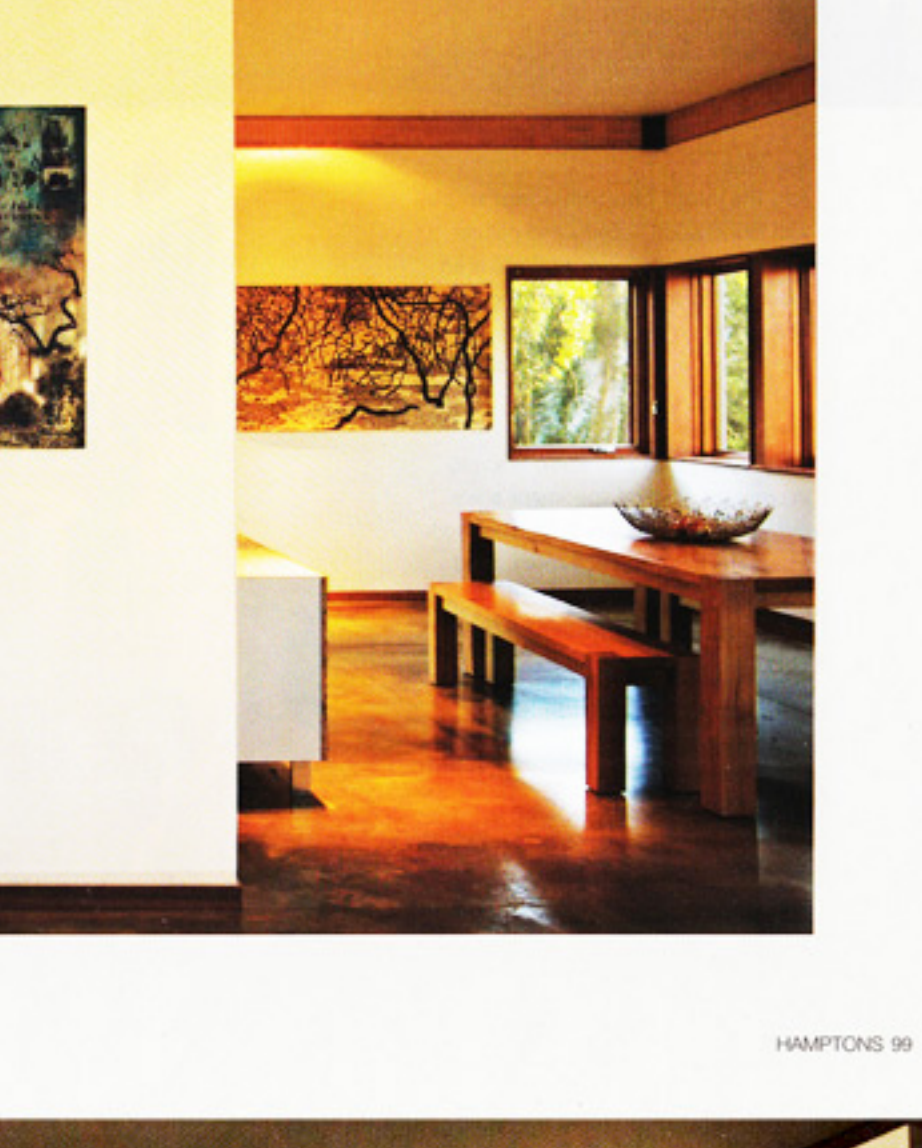
Joyce finds the setting very inspirational in the making of her art, which encompasses painting, printmaking, and sculpture. She roams the grounds gathering materials like leaves and grasses, then runs them through her press. Examples of her latest work—monotypes created on metal plates—hang throughout the home.

Keeping that artwork in mind, architect Nick Martin created spaces that would showcase her pieces. An abundance of natural materials added a feeling of warmth throughout this comfortable yet environmentally sensitive modern house. Although spare, the result is far from sterile.

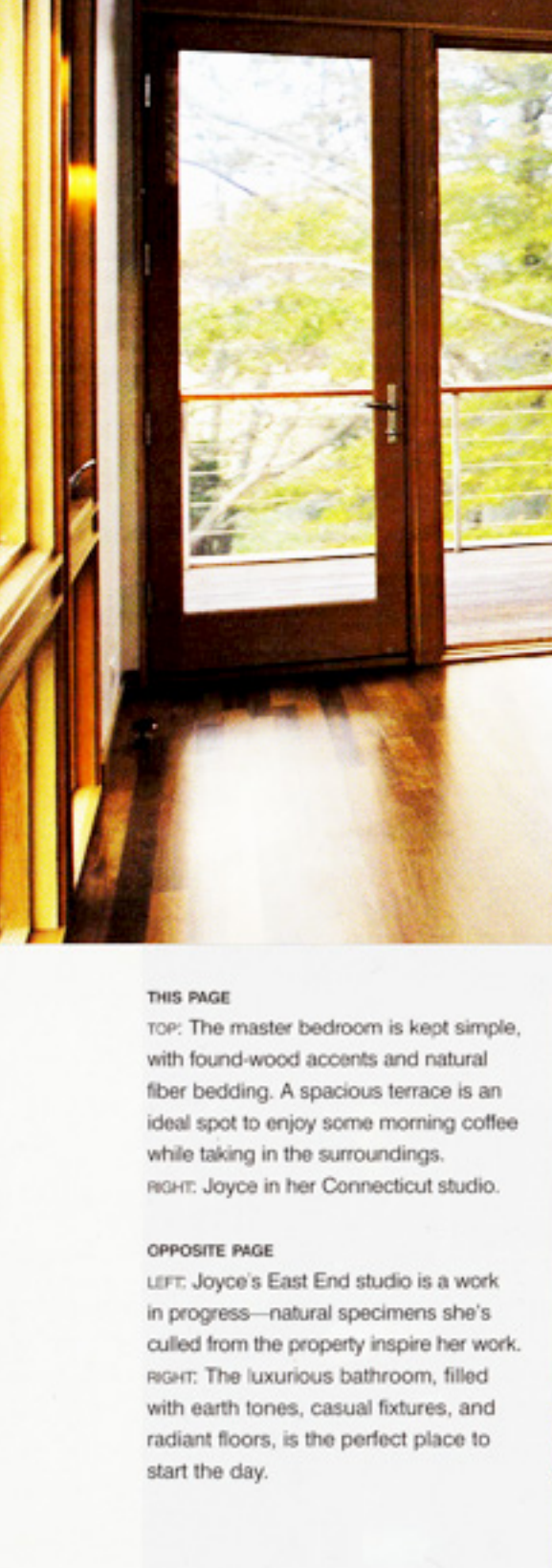
Martin proved to be the perfect person to collaborate with the couple. "Nick is also an artist who understands the creative process," says Joyce. The couple are inspired by the simplicity of Asian aesthetics as well as a love of nature, so Martin's building incorporated the five elements: water, wood,

fire, earth, and metal. The main space—a living room that graduates into an open kitchen and a small dining area—features acid-washed polished concrete, creating a sort of mottled look. What's not concrete is light, a very hard, sustainable wood with many different shades of brown. Walnut was used for the walls, mahogany for the windows downstairs, and Douglas fir for those upstairs. The exterior walls are cedar.

The majority of the kitchen was designed by the Italian company Aster Cucine, and its automobile finish gives the cabinets the same highly reflective surface found on cars. The marble counters graduate into drawers without pulls, lending it a clean look all around. Opposite, a freestanding wood wall subdivides the space from the dining room, where nature continues to take its course: A multiuse cabinet made of recycled timber designed as a breakfast stand against one wall, while another set of



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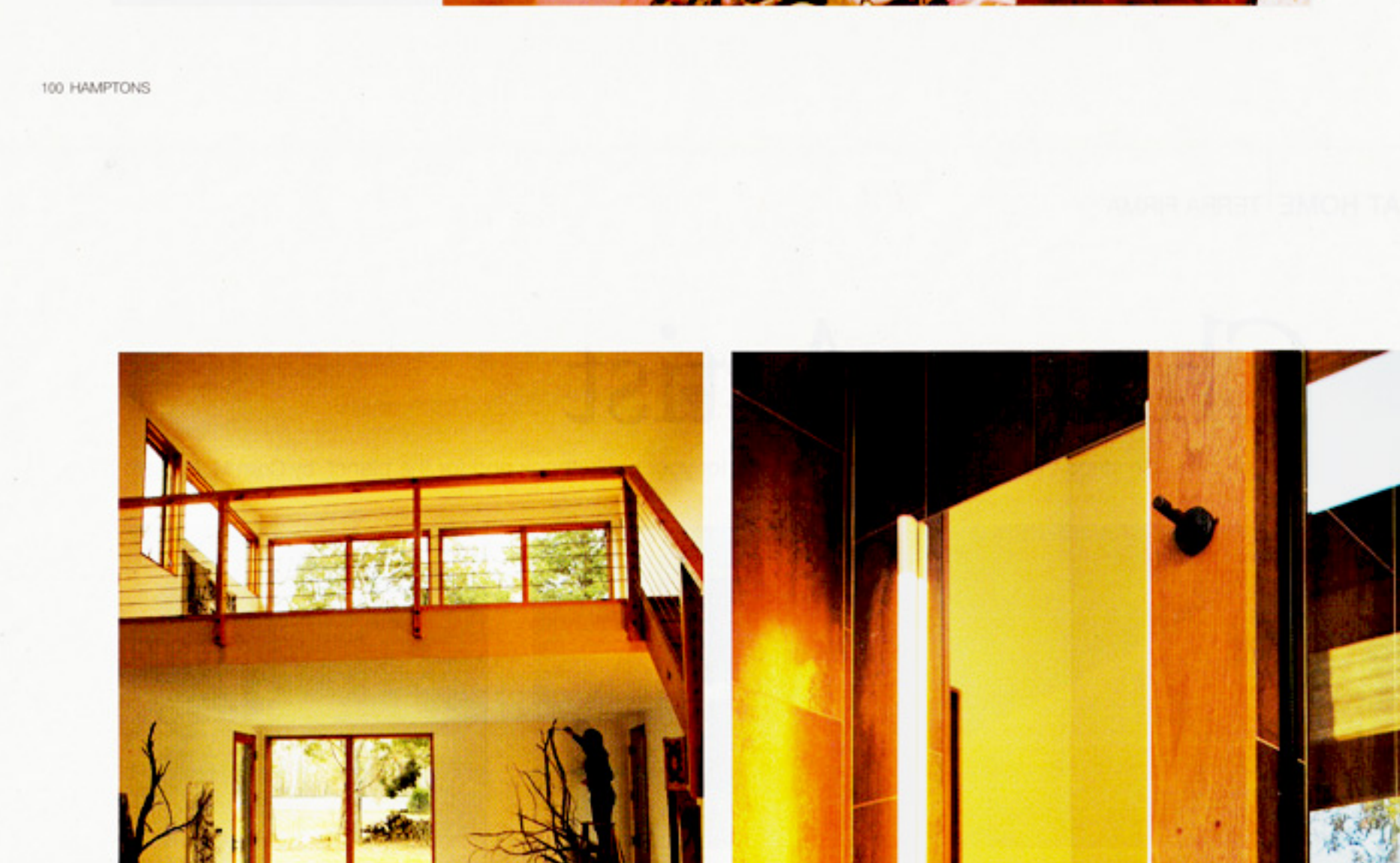


TOP LEFT: "Living room" seems like an old-fashioned term for the main seating area designed by architect Nick Martin, which is flanked by a fireplace made of textured East Hampton stone. In the kitchen an automobile finish makes for gleaming cabinetry. TOP RIGHT: Joyce prepares lunch in a soothing setting. An Eames chair and ottoman grace a second seating area with a freestanding cedar wall and storage unit. RIGHT: Two of Joyce's paintings hang in the entryway, and a friend's work on the dining room wall, beyond.

THIS PAGE
 TOP: The master bedroom is kept simple, with found-wood accents and natural fiber bedding. A spacious terrace is an ideal spot to enjoy some morning coffee while taking in the surroundings.
 RIGHT: Joyce in her Connecticut studio.

OPPOSITE PAGE
 LEFT: Joyce's East End studio is a work in progress—natural specimens she's culled from the property inspire her work. RIGHT: The luxurious bathroom, filled with earth tones, casual fixtures, and radiant floors, is the perfect place to start the day.

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recycled wood—a large scraggy branch Joyce pulled in from the woods—adorns the other.

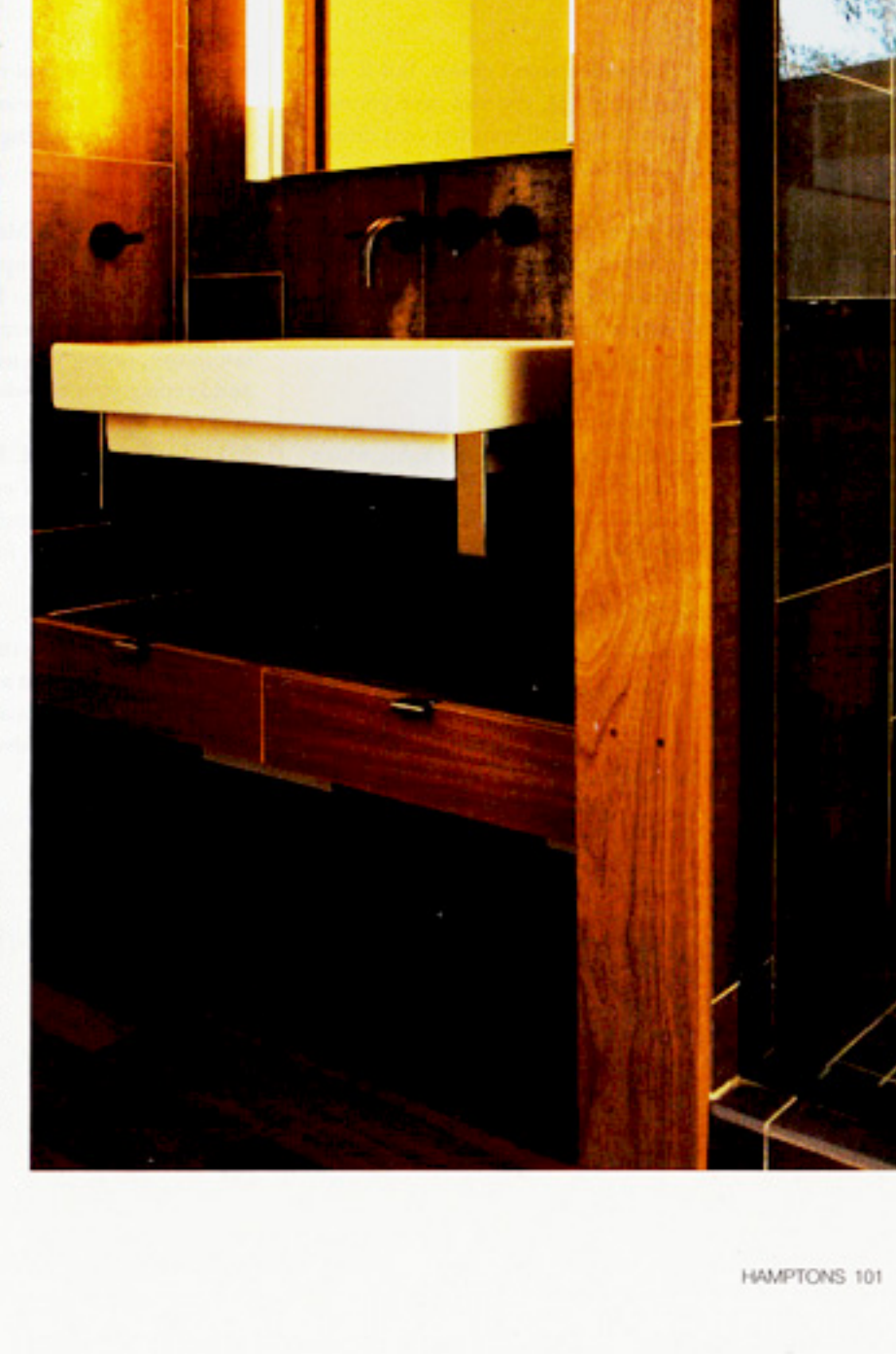
The upstairs is a spacious assemblage of hallways, bedrooms, and baths. The bedroom and bath appear to be one room. The master bath is a sanctuary, with a large, deep, body-shaped tub and an expansive view over the woods. The livingstone floors throughout are heated (as are the concrete floors in the living room), adding to the comfort factor.

An environmentally aware architect who's well versed in the ways of green building, Martin brought much to the structure. Like any good work of art, it doesn't scream "eco-friendly!"—its ecologically responsible aspects are organic to the process.

"A very important element in any green design is passive solar heating and cooling," he says. Locating the structure correctly, as well as fashioning overhangs that let the right amount of light in, keep that concept operating well. "Efficiency is the most important rule, especially when there's a lot of square footage," he says. The home's doors, ceilings, and roof are insulated above code (the windows triple-seal), and the insulation is a closed-cell foam fiberglass. The house also uses a sustainable geothermal heating system that "brings the water that's been used back to earth in a closed loop," says Martin.

The family would eventually like to make the Hamptons their permanent residence. "There are so many good forms out here!" says Joyce, always the artist.

An artist living in a work of art—symmetry indeed. **H**



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