

HAMPTONS

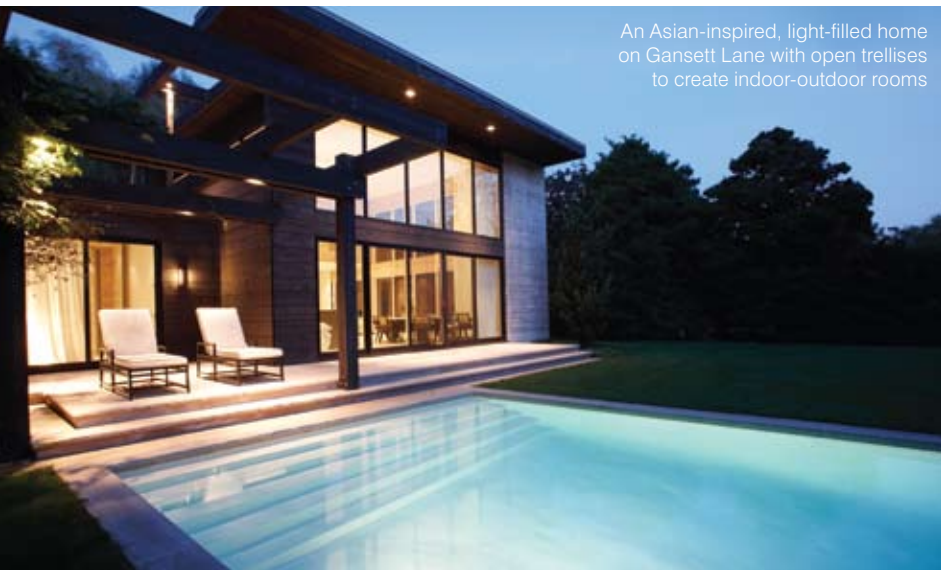
Christie
Brinkley
Her Courageous
Next Act
BY ALEXA RAY JOEL

Father's Day
on the East End

The New Evolution

Michael Braverman on the future of the South Fork shingle

We're all familiar with the "Hamptons look." Large traditional shingle-style houses with airy interiors and an assortment of bleached woods and pale fabrics have long been considered the vanguard of this movement. It's a workable but inexact description, used more often nowadays by real estate agents rather than designers and decorators. Other approaches—notably, the modernist architecture and innovative interiors so emblematic of younger, progressive tastes in Manhattan—used to make only occasional, exploratory trips across the Shinnecock Canal. But in the past few years, a move to an eclectic sort of modernism is seemingly underway. Adherents to this pared-down style are literally gaining ground as they move east.



An Asian-inspired, light-filled home on Gansett Lane with open trellises to create indoor-outdoor rooms

The Hampton Designer Showhouse (opening this year with a gala on July 23) has stood someplace in the middle, its rotating venue a conventional and characteristically sumptuous spec house balanced with adventurous and, of course, luxurious interiors. After all, show houses are supposed to be a bit over the top; they serve as incubators for thought-provoking ideas and as settings for designers to display their fine feathers in a mating dance to attract potential clients. Practicality and price are of little consequence, and the predictable—that so-called Hamptons look—is not what paying visitors come to see.

So has that familiar and nostalgic style run out of steam? Are other defining looks replacing it? Is there a place for modernism out East? Nick Martin, whose Sagaponack firm, Martin Architects, does both architectural and furniture design, put it this way: "We have a generation that has as much money as its predecessors but with progressive thinking—original and sophisticated when it comes to design. Their aesthetic outlook tends toward modern, but they don't have rigid attitudes. For them it's not about following any one fashion or person, it's about living in stoic comfort, in appealing and distinguished surroundings."



An industrial open space and Italian glass and aluminum kitchen of a Northwest Harbor home



A loft-like living area and kitchen with exposed beams and polished concrete floors in a Peconic home

Freedom, or at least freedom from prescribed looks and trends, is in the air. It will be enlightening to see what participating designers do with their rooms in the show house this summer—and how the latest cohort of buyers in the Hamptons fulfill their dreams and furnish their homes. *For information on the show house or to inquire about gala tickets, call 745-0004.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATERINA VERDE (PECONIC); PATRICK BERNARD (GANSSETT LANE, NORTHWEST HARBOR)