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Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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**BREEZY
SUMMER
STYLE**

Neutral Territory | A custom Brady Design sofa in raw silk anchors the living room. The couple sourced key accent pieces from their former showroom, previously the exclusive Hamptons distributor of Sentimento Antiques: a circa-1920s Italian mirror, a 1950s American slipper chair and a circa-1950 French lamp table. A Rogers & Goffigon stripe covers the Brady Design wing chair. See Resources.





Detail Oriented

AT THEIR HOME IN SOUTHAMPTON, INTERIOR DESIGNERS BRIAN BRADY AND FRANCO BISCARDI TURN A VIRTUAL TEARDOWN INTO A DECORATING TRIUMPH

BY SARAH FIRSHEIN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRIA GIOVAN



Cozy Corner | The couple considers the discreetly tailored den (ABOVE) their hangout; its furnishings include an Elizabeth Eakins drugget, a steel-topped coffee table and Jean-Michel Frank-style chairs upholstered in a Rogers & Goffigon wool. The artwork, by Suzanne Unrein, was a purchase from the Boltax Gallery on Shelter Island. See *Resources*.



IT'S AN UNSPOKEN RULE THAT living in Europe, even for a short while, is one of the many ways to perfect one's artistry. Think of the American-born James Whistler, who famously painted his mother while living in London. Or F. Scott Fitzgerald, T. S. Eliot and Ernest Hemingway in Paris, not to mention Mary Cassatt, who met Edgar Degas in the City of Light, forging a mentorship that would come to define her career.

For a young Brian Brady—who, fresh out of Notre Dame's School of Architecture, helped design embassies and consulates for the Ministry of Saudi Arabia—Athens was the inspiration. "I was always drawn to older buildings that were built from the Classical order," he says. "They teach you proportion, symmetry and balance, which all works from an interiors standpoint—getting the base molding right, getting the chair molding right, laying out the space right."

Brady and his partner, Franco Biscardi, who run Southampton-based Brady Design, called upon exactly these principles while

renovating their 1930s cottage just down the road from their office. The couple, who also own a pied-à-terre in Greenwich Village, first purchased the house around the corner, living in the main structure while converting its barn-like work shed into a pool house and installing a 50-foot lap pool. Its backyard abuts the backyard of their current home, which came on the market soon after.

"This was going to be a guest house for the main house, but now we live in it and rent the other house," says Brady, who upon leaving Athens worked for I. M. Pei & Partners before setting off on his own. The 1930s ranch had yellow siding and a bright red door, but Brady envisioned a "classical

Chefs' Choice | Brady (left) and Biscardi take five in their open, airy kitchen (ABOVE), which got a complete overhaul from Hampton Design.

Divine Dining | An iron-framed mirror from Homenature hangs above a circa-1970 John Widdicomb buffet in the dining room (RIGHT). On the adjacent wall (OPPOSITE), a monochromatic painting by Eric Dever adds subtle contrast to the textured wall covering. See Resources.







Guest Sweet | Orange is the pair's favorite accent color; in a guest room (TOP), it provides a pop against blue-and-white Holland & Sherry wallpaper and Brunswick & Fils pillow fabric. Another design from the same suite of Holland & Sherry papers appears in the adjacent bathroom (LEFT), which was renovated by Hampton Design. **Pool House Blues** | The pool house (OPPOSITE) abuts the cottage's backyard but is set on another property entirely; it was once a work shed for the couple's first home, which is just around the corner. Fabrics by China Seas lend the space a beachy, breezy air. See Resources.

little cottage" with dormers and a new porch. "We gutted it on the inside to make it more conducive to our living style," he says. A masterful new kitchen indulges Biscardi's love of cooking (a former chef, he cooked professionally at Mario Batali's P6 in the Village). And an open-plan living space allows the couple to entertain nearly every weekend.

For several years the pair owned a retail showroom in Southampton, which sold custom creations and was the sole distributor of Sentimento Antiques in the Hamptons. After it shuttered its

doors in December, many of its contents found a new home in the freshly converted abode, with its beach-toned palette of blues and grays accented with pops of orange. "We had a stable of favorite pieces that we knew we wanted to use in our own home," says Biscardi. "It was just a process of falling in love; we kept saying, 'I just love that piece.' When we started doing the house, we immediately knew where to put everything."

In the living room, a neutral abaca rug anchors a low-slung, comfortable sofa covered in raw silk, along with an

Italian side table from the 1950s and a French bronze coffee table from the '20s. The dining room, too, features the couple's signature mix of periods and persuasions: a 19th-century English claw-foot table, a pair of 1940s Danish chairs, a 1970s John Widdicomb buffet and an oversize canvas similar in hue to the tan grass-cloth walls. "We thought originally that we wanted a loud, strong, colorful piece on that wall, but the one we really liked was by far the most subtle," says Brady, adding, "All designers, when doing their own homes, experiment and have fun."

In the den, a Brady Design custom sofa "is very low, very long, very deep, it's soft and springy, and you can lounge on it," says Brady. "It's probably our favorite thing to curl up on." A Scottish drugget by Elizabeth Eakins unfurls at its feet; with nail-head detail around the edges, "it's very masculine-looking," adds Biscardi. Windowpane upholstery on an armchair and cashmere drapes are among the many carefully curated fabrics that allow the home to transition with the seasons. "If a house is done well—if all the details are done right, then you don't need a big house," says Biscardi. "This place has a big-house feel—the grand kitchen, the top-of-the-line baths, the paneled walls. It can really shine, but it can also be comfortable." 🌟

