

# And the living is easy

DESIGNING A STYLISH, SUMMER HOME IN THE HAMPTONS  
WAS A WALK IN THE PARK FOR AWARD-WINNING  
DESIGNER, GHISLAINE VIÑAS

Photography: GARRETT ROWLAND Words: LOTTIE STORY



THE HOMES COLLECTION | GHISLAINE VIÑAS

Ghislaine designed this  
Hamptons beach house with  
summer in mind: "Lots of  
clean, bright white walls but  
with good energising colour  
to make you feel happy"





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The Hamptons is the number-one destination for New Yorkers fleeing the city and its summer heat. A group of towns at the tip of Long Island, around 100 miles drive from Manhattan, the Hamptons offer a laidback, beachy atmosphere complete with ocean breezes, seafood restaurants and plenty of rustic charm. At the eastern-most point of the peninsular lies the town of Montauk, where this traditional-on-the-outside, modern-on-the-inside holiday home is located. The house belongs to Paige West, one of the country’s top art collectors, who commissioned designer Ghislaine Viñas to create her dream summer holiday home.

Ghislaine is known for designs that exude playfulness, joy and spontaneity and this Montauk beach house is no different. “Summer is bright, inspiring and fun, so that’s what this summer house is all about,” explains Ghislaine,

who begins all her projects by finding out what the client wants to feel when they’re in the space, whether that’s a residential home or a commercial property. “It was very collaborative. Paige wanted something that fitted her personality like a glove, and I think it really embodies her and her family.”

In order to build a narrative for the house, Ghislaine and Paige created the portmanteau ‘Floritaik’ combining kitschy Florida (where the family’s ancestors are from) with a cool, laid-back, modern Montauk surf vibe.

The house itself was a complete renovation. Ghislaine and her team had designed the interior seven years or so before but the clients wanted a complete rethink of the house, inside and out. “The house needed a refresh – Paige wanted to add some spaces that would work for the family,” she explains. The whole Montauk project took >>

**OPPOSITE PAGE** Ghislaine’s client, Paige, loves creating homes and she loves sharing them with her friends which means this Montauk beach house is always full of guests. “Paige is incredibly fun, generous and very

hospitable,” says Ghislaine **THIS PAGE** Art plays a huge part in this nine-bedroom summer house. An iconic portrait by Julian Opie hangs over the staircase, drawing the eye upward to the vaulted ceiling





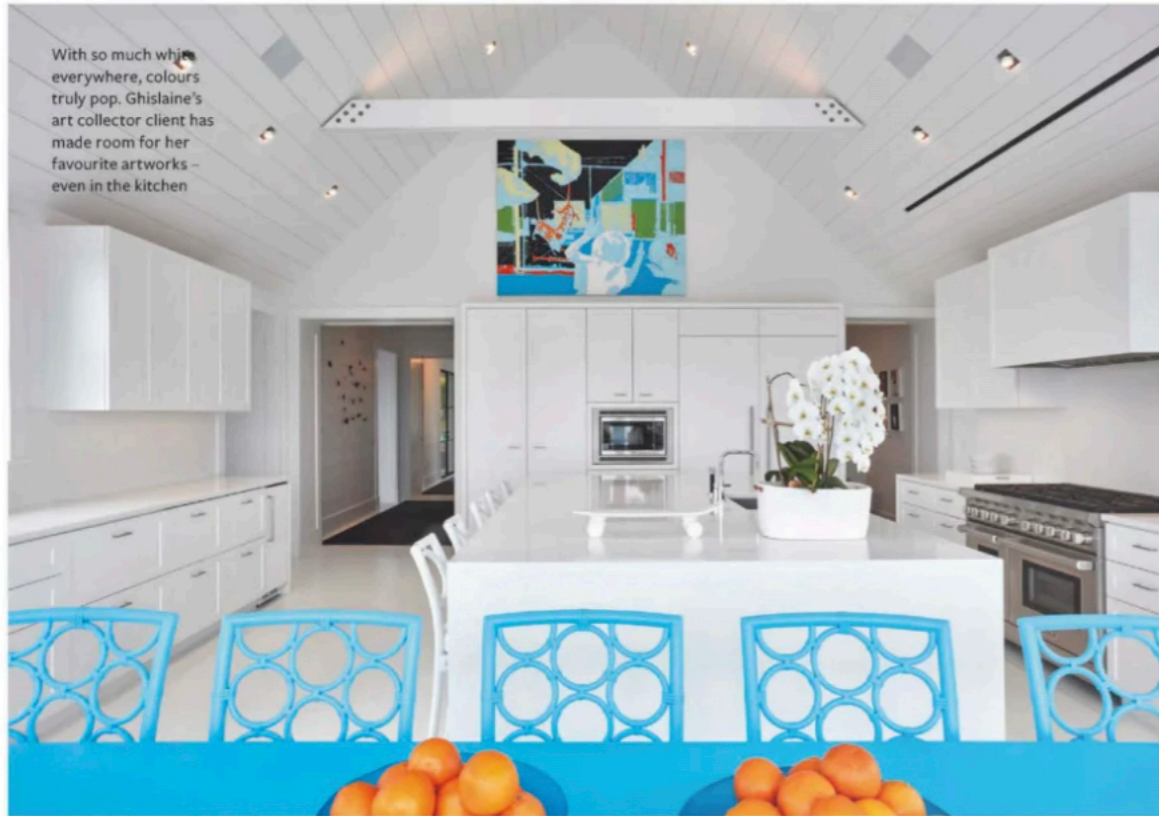
A traditional Hamptons shingle-style house on the outside, its seafront location is brought inside thanks to plenty of nautical touches from the blue-and-white colour scheme to the buoy-style lighting



*All things bright and beautiful* **TOP** Playful shark heads in a spectrum of colour breathe fun into an otherwise understated kids' twin bedroom **BOTTOM LEFT** "People come to us when they want something unique so their house and property feel unique," says Ghislaine. Here, a designer's eye provides a perfect backdrop for the client's art collection **BOTTOM RIGHT** The blue of the top floor merges seamlessly into the greens of the floor below, creating a scheme that flows brilliantly from top to bottom of the house



Groups of similar objects can really make a room come to life, as with this collection of PET Lamp's Eperara Siapidara woven pendants made from the stripped down leaves of the Paja Tetara palm tree



With so much white everywhere, colours truly pop. Ghislaine's art collector client has made room for her favourite artworks – even in the kitchen

*“Lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruits are what we riffed off! Lots of clean, bright white walls but with good energising colour”*

around two years to complete. Many of the furniture pieces have a beach feel, so there's plenty of vintage mixed with modern pieces and lots of custom pieces, too. Rattan and bamboo add to the laidback vibe, as do the tropical prints found on fabrics and wallpapers.

On the top floor, Ghislaine worked with all shades of blue, “But you don't even really notice this as you flow from room to room because there's so much white everywhere, too.” On the middle floor, she mixed things up a bit and incorporated some greens into the design. And on the ground floor? “The colours here are based on an image of a bowl of citrus fruit Paige gave me,” says Ghislaine. “Lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruits are what we riffed off! Lots of clean, bright white walls but with good energising colour to make you feel happy.” And, of course, the art is all selected by Paige thanks to her work as art collector and curator.

Ghislaine's main colour inspiration is nature. “I recently started looking at images of sea slugs for colour and pattern inspiration. I'm also inspired by modern and old Dutch design.” Ghislaine is originally from the Netherlands and was raised in South Africa, which has majorly influenced her colour choices: “I love traditional Dutch colours – blues, reds, yellows, and greens, as well as browns and burgundy colours,” she says.

And what's next for Ghislaine Viñas? “Any project where the client wants to try something interesting and fun,” she says. “I don't have to do projects with lots of colour or loud energy. I can design in a whisper as well. We just got hired for the interior of a 200-year-old farmhouse and the client wants her house to feel like a combination of a Wes Anderson movie and an English country house on acid. I love this kind of challenge!” [www.ghislainevinas.com](http://www.ghislainevinas.com) [@ghislaine\\_vinas](https://www.instagram.com/ghislaine_vinas)

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL POLES



*Secret Source*

“I'm a huge fan of going thrifting and visiting flea markets. I go to antique or thrift stores wherever I travel. I love the oddities I can find and the stories they carry with them. My all-time favourite flea markets I've been to so far have been in Mexico City and Berlin.”

*Get the look*

INSPIRED BY UPSCALE MODERN BEACH CHIC



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