



text: *jen renzi* photography: *garrett rowland*

citrus punch

For an art-world client, Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design dreams up a Montauk, New York, getaway with fresh-squeezed flavor

"We tweaked the Hamptons vernacular in a bolder, more streamlined direction"



Ghislaine Viñas would like to set the record straight. "People always say to me, 'Oh, you love color,'" the Dutch-born designer explains in a cadence that betrays her South African upbringing. "But the truth is, I can only use color against white; it's white that enables me to play." So much for the blazing peacock-blue and titanium-yellow tones for which

the New York interiors maven is renowned: turns out her real obsession is a pristine, snowy backdrop. "It's my mom's fault! I inherited her fixation with *clean*," Viñas says, laughing. Bright-on-white is certainly the thesis of a 10-bedroom summer home Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design completed in Montauk, the tony surf mecca on the tip of New York's Long Island. The quarter-sawn oak slats cladding interior walls and cathedral ceilings are painted Benjamin Moore White. Beachy vintage-shop kitsch and 1970's wicker furnishings have also been whitewashed into abstraction, lending them a thoroughly modern air. Against this blank canvas Viñas splashed fresh-squeezed strokes of zingy turquoise, neon orange, and tangy citron. Keep your sunglasses on!

The project is her "umpteenth" (ninth, actually) collaboration with close friend Paige West, a contemporary art collector, curator, and erstwhile gallerist. Project number four was the former incarnation of this very property. When West purchased the developer's spec house about 10 years ago, she and Viñas rushed to get it shipshape for the impending summer season. "We had five months to complete it," Viñas recalls—a speedy timeline that precluded architectural interventions. Eventually, though, certain flaws began to grate. "The house was Paige's happy place, but she had gripes about it," Viñas reports. The main floor living spaces had low ceilings and a much-too-small deck. Acoustics were problematic. Plus, "I'd always wanted at least one more guestroom to accommodate our revolving door of visitors," West explains. And the windowless basement had moisture issues (which didn't stop her family from using it as a tiki bar and play room). ➤

Previous spread, from left: A Jennifer Bartlett oil on canvas and pendants woven from recycled plastic grace the dining room of a Montauk, New York, house by Ghislaine Viñas Interior Design. In the lower-level hallway, a newly decoupage vintage cabinet joins photographer Dirk Westphal's *The Optimist*.

Left, clockwise from top: The living room's lacquered-wood game table, by Alain Gilles, is illuminated by Mattias Ståhlbom's *Fisherman* pendants with custom-colored cording. Caroline, a print on vinyl by Julian Opie, hangs in the stair hall. Nearby is an installation of butterflies—actually pigmented, cut aluminum cans—by Paul Villinski.

Opposite: An Antonio Citterio sofa covered in faux linen joins swivel chairs upholstered in a Christian Lacroix cotton sateen, their tones drawing out the blue in Anthony Goicolea's *C-print*, *Poolpushers 1*.



Opposite top: The eat-in kitchen's painted Laura Kirar dining chairs and solid-surfacing tabletop were custom colored to match; Lisa Ruyter's Planet of the Apes hangs at rear.

Opposite bottom: In the twins' bedroom, ceramic shark heads by Lorien Stern loom over powder-coated steel bed frames.

Clockwise from top right: Decorative painting graces a chest in the ceramic-tiled bunkroom bath; the gouache on paper is by Maira Kalman. Vintage sconces garnish the pineapple suite's bathroom. A bird's-eye view of the kitchen's banquette, dressed in a vinyl-laminated custom print. One of the lower-level guest rooms features a Rex Ray wallpaper mural and white-painted vintage bed.



The initial plan to fix the leaky lower level and do some minor room reshuffling was scrapped once it was determined the pool would need to be relocated further from the house. That created an opportunity to dig out and expose the basement—meaning windows could be added and the entire floor made properly habitable. “I figured, while we’re doing all this work, I might as well make it my dream house!” West says. Martin Sosa, whose New York firm Arcologica was brought in to oversee the renovation, describes how the project ballooned: “I was hired to do this little basement remodel, and then the work spread through the rest of the house.”

The big question was whether to preserve the classic Hamptons-style interior architecture or strip it and instate a modern envelope. “Paige’s aesthetic is very contemporary, but the house, with its Shingle-style exterior and traditional bones, felt like *home* to her; she was emotionally attached to it,” Viñas says. The solution, they decided, was to tweak the Hamptons vernacular by pushing it in a bigger, bolder, more streamlined direction. That translated to newly vaulted ceilings in the top-floor spaces and crisp baseboards and clean-lined clapboard throughout. “I’d ask Martin, ‘What would be the normal detailing to do here?’ and then we’d figure out a way to tweak it.”

To capitalize on water views, the third floor is devoted to the living areas and a small guest-room. One flight down is the master suite, a pair of bedrooms for West’s three boys, and what’s called the master guest bedroom, with adjoining bunkroom. The lower level now houses a cabana-like “pool bar” with custom foosball table (the players are modeled on family members and celebrities) and three additional guest rooms, all themed: there’s the pineapple suite, the orange-slice bunkroom, and the surf suite.

The guest quarters also have minibar coolers bearing the retro logo of the Floritauk Motel. Are these cool flea-market finds scored in some dusty Palm Beach shop? No. Viñas hatched the moniker as a concept to guide the decor; her graphic-designer husband, Jaime, created these and other branded swag to reinforce the boutique hotel feel. The name is a humorous riff on West’s Florida roots, which extend back many generations. “The attitude is very poking fun,” Viñas says. “It would be ghastly to me if anyone thought I was serious with all these tongue-in-cheek touches.” Adds West: “I mean, it’s a family-friendly beach house, not some country estate!”

Despite the emphasis on comfort and the practical finishes (quartz-composite counters, vinyl-laminated dining chair fabrics), the house does have a serious side, which comes from the artworks. West, who is currently building a private art museum in Philadelphia, waited for



Left: A lower-level bunkroom was inspired by sliced oranges—down to the Flavor Paper Alvarada wallpaper. **From top:** Barbara Barry cane-back armchairs and a vinyl-cotton area rug furnish the dining room; Alvaro Catalán de Ocón designed the pendant fixtures. The lower-level pool bar features a custom Sunbrella awning, towels with custom graphics by Jaime Viñas, and a bespoke foosball table.

“I can only use color against white—it’s white that enables me to play”



Clockwise from top: Classic Martinique palm-leaf wallpaper (originally designed for the Beverly Hills Hotel) bedecks the master guest suite, with adjoining bunkroom; above the painted dresser is a Vik Muniz C-print. Sofas designed by Viñas in collaboration with Brad Ascalon furnish the outdoor living room; the chaises in the foreground are a 1966 Richard Schultz design. Another Flavor Paper mural, a surf scene by Boone Speed, in one of the boys' bedrooms.

Opposite: In the pineapple suite, on-theme wallpaper color-coordinates with a vinylized custom headboard.

all the furnishings to be installed before mapping out which pieces to use and where. "I don't decorate around the art; I like to wait until the interior is done and then figure out what will work." She was especially psyched to find prime spots for the Julian Opie (in the stair hall) and the Jennifer Bartlett oil (in the dining room). "A project with Paige is never complete until she adds her curatorial touch," Viñas explains. "We bake the cake and smooth on the icing, but the art is the sprinkles." 🍌

PROJECT TEAM ANNE LINS; ZOE HSIEH; JENNA PINO; VANÉ BROUSSARD; GHISLAINE VIÑAS INTERIOR DESIGN. **JAIME VIÑAS:** GRAPHICS CONSULTANT. **MARCUS ZIEMKE:** ARCOLOGICA. **SUMMERHILL LANDSCAPES:** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. **ORSMAN DESIGN:** LIGHTING DESIGN.

PROJECT SOURCES

DINING ROOM PET LAMP: LIGHT FIXTURES. **UHURU DESIGN:** CUSTOM DINING TABLE. **NAULA:** CUSTOM BUFFET. **HALLWAY ABC MODERN:**

VINTAGE CHEST OF DRAWERS. **ALPHA WORKSHOPS:** CUSTOM DECOUPAGE TREATMENT. **LIVING ROOM** ZERO: PENDANTS. **BONALDO THROUGH DDC:** GAMES TABLE. **B&B ITALIA:** SECTIONAL; ROMO: UPHOLSTERY FABRIC. **DUNE:** CUSTOM COFFEE TABLE. **A. RUDIN:** SWIVEL CHAIRS; **OSBORNE & LITTLE:** CHAIR FABRIC. **DURALEE:** WINDOW TREATMENT FABRIC. **STAIR HALL** BONE SIMPLE DESIGN: TIERED LIGHT FIXTURE. **HOLLY HUNT ENTERPRISES:** CONSOLE. **ZEITA PROZESSDESIGN:** MIRROR. **BOURGEOIS BOHÈME:** FOYER CHANDELIER. **KITCHEN** DUNE: DINING TABLE. **WOLF:** RANGE. **GAGGENAU:** MICROWAVE. **FIRST2PRINT:** CUSTOM BANQUETTE FABRIC. **TWINN'S BEDROOM** SCHOOLHOUSE ELECTRIC & SUPPLY CO.: BED FRAMES. **WONK FURNITURE:** CUSTOM DRESSER. **TASSO STUDIO:** SCONCES. **SURF SUITE** B&B ITALIA: BEDSIDE TABLE. **BUNKROOM BATH** HOOKER FURNITURE: CHEST. **FIRECLAY TILE:** CUSTOM WALL TILE. **PINEAPPLE BATHROOM** SIBYL COLEFAX & JOHN FOWLER: SCONCES. **ROOM & BOARD:** MIRROR. **CIFIAL:** FAUCET. **OMNIA INDUSTRIES:** CABINET HARDWARE. **WATERWORKS:** SHOWER WALL TILES. **POOL BAR** ELEVEN FORTY CO.: FOOSBALL TABLE. **JOANNA'S COLLECTIONS:** CUSTOM BASKETS. **BLOOMINGDALES:** TOWELS; **PENN AND FLETCHER:** CUSTOM EMBROIDERY. **MASTER GUEST BEDROOM** PATINA: DRESSER. **MARTINIQUE WALLPAPER:** WALLPAPER. **PROFILES:** BED, NIGHTSTAND. **A. RUDIN:** TABLE LAMP. **TSAR:** CUSTOM AREA RUG. **TERRACE KNOLL:** CHAISE LOUNGES. **LOLL DESIGNS:** SOFAS, LOUNGE CHAIRS; **SUNBRELLA:** FABRIC. **BOY'S BEDROOM** ARTEMIDE: DESK LAMP. **HERMAN MILLER:** CHAIR. **PINEAPPLE ROOM** ADELPHI PAPER HANGINGS: WALLPAPER. **NAULA:** CUSTOM HEADBOARD; **CRÉATION BAUMANN:** HEADBOARD FABRIC. **THROUGH PROPERTY FURNITURE:** BED FRAME. **WONK FURNITURE:** CUSTOM NIGHTSTAND. **STRAY DOG DESIGNS:** LAMP. **THROUGHOUT** BENJAMIN MOORE & CO.: PAINT. **MCGUIRE FURNITURE COMPANY:** DINING CHAIRS, COUNTER STOOLS. **ARONSON'S:** FLOOR COVERING. **RUFFLED WINDOW:** CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS. **FLAVOR PAPER:** WALLPAPER. **COLLECTOR DESIGN STUDIO:** DECORATIVE PAINTING; CUSTOM DESK (BOY'S ROOM). **CUSTOM LAMINATIONS:** FABRIC VINYLIZATION. **DUPONT:** COUNTERTOPS; TABLETOP (KITCHEN); BASEBOARDS (BUNKROOM BATH). **STONE SOURCE:** FLOOR TILE (BATHROOMS).



homes.interiordesign.net/vinas17 for more images of the project