

# Beach:

MODERN LUXURY

The Hamptons  
Volume VI, Issue 4  
Early August 2018

## MASTERS OF THE HOUSE

Thomas O'Brien &  
Dan Fink's Storied  
Bellport Compound

### Green With Envy

ECO-CONSCIOUS  
INTERIOR DESIGNERS  
& SUSTAINABLE  
ARCHITECTURE FIRMS  
OF THE EAST END

# retreat

DESIGN + REAL ESTATE

PHOTO BY MATTHEW CARBONE

Signature views are a quintessential part of Stelle Lomont Rouhani designs.



# retreat

HOME

## THOUGHT PROVOKING

This Bridgehampton studio has constructed homes with a green edge across the East End for decades.

by ALICIA BRUNKER



From top: Natural materials help designs blend in with their natural surroundings; building sites are Viola Rouhani's first inspiration.

**B**efore the green movement became a worldwide phenomenon, architect Frederick Stelle was a patron saint of sustainability. In the '70s, he built his first property—a home for his parents—that left a small footprint through the implementation of solar panels and similar measures that were considered groundbreaking in the midcentury. “After the oil crisis around that time, it was all about sustainable energy,” says Michael Lomont, a partner of the Bridgehampton architecture studio Stelle Lomont Rouhani Architects (stelleco.com). “Once Fred moved out East in 1985, he was one of the few architects pushing for a hybrid of modern design and sustainability.”

Thirty years later, with a client roster that reads like a private Hamptons party guest list, including fashion designer Calvin Klein and heiress Lori Hirschleifer, Stelle and his team continue to push the boundaries of green living within the limits of the local landscape.

In addition to seasonal weather considerations, there is also a “bigger is better” mentality among well-heeled homeowners in the Hamptons that seemingly conflicts with sustainable practices, presenting an exclusive set of parameters for the architecture studio. “Some of our houses are larger than we probably would like them to be, but I think we do everything we can to try to tread lightly and respect the land,” says Lomont.

When building a 3,700-square-foot home with a combination of single-story and double-height windows that overlook the rolling duneside in Amagansett, the firm oriented overhangs on all exposures that are hit with direct sunlight and installed a louvered shading device on the east side of the house to cut down energy costs. Meanwhile, materials such as fumed oak and weathered driftwood highlight the property's natural surroundings. “Our first inspiration for a project is always the site,” explains Viola Rouhani, another partner at the firm. “It really is about the environment and what’s outside your door.”

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW GARDNER

From top: Overhangs on all exposures are hit with direct sunlight; double-height windows overlook rolling Amagansett dunes.



From right: Sustainable architecture is defined by minimalism, straight lines and clean angles; considering the way sunlight touches a property is an important consideration for eco-friendly designs.

