

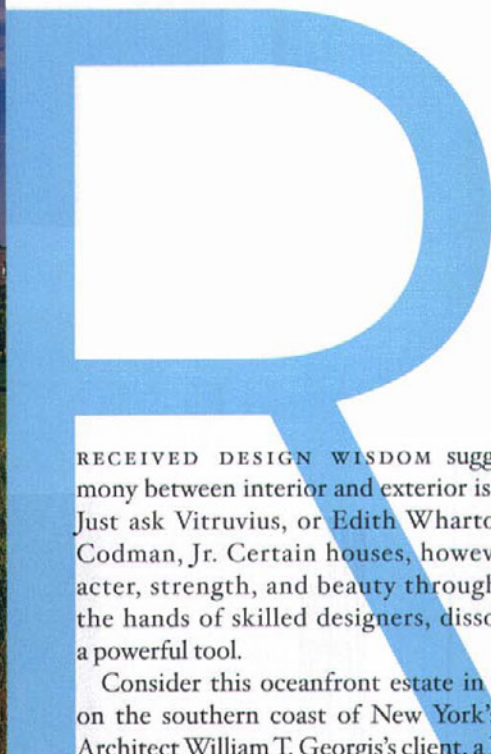
DESIGN AT ITS BEST

HOUSE & GARDEN

JULY 2003

25 PAGES OF
OUTDOOR
DECORATING
IDEAS





DESIGNER SAVVY The transformed ballroom represents the striking dissonance of the interior and the exterior.

TRADE SECRETS FURNITURE Chairs and burled maple coffee table custom-designed by WTGA. **FABRICS** Chairs covered in Gretchen Bellinger's Yachting Cotton in Scrimshaw. **LIGHTS** French opaline glass pendants, ca. 1940, John Salibello Antiques, NYC. **RUG** Borego lamb by Patterson, Flynn & Martin. **ACCESSORIES** Handblown American glass teardrop bottles, ca. 1950, R 20th Century Design, NYC.

RECEIVED DESIGN WISDOM suggests that harmony between interior and exterior is a great virtue. Just ask Vitruvius, or Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman, Jr. Certain houses, however, gain character, strength, and beauty through contrast. In the hands of skilled designers, dissonance can be a powerful tool.

Consider this oceanfront estate in Southampton, on the southern coast of New York's Long Island. Architect William T. Georgis's client, a European businessman with young children, loved the property—or, to be more specific, he loved the location, the scale, and the access to a prime stretch of Southampton beach. The residence itself was another matter.

Originally built as a coach house in the early twentieth century, the Georgian Revival structure was enlarged several times in the following decades, becoming ever more grand with each addition. The humble carriage house ultimately grew up to be an imposing manor, a model of traditional upper-crusty Hamptons propriety. And that was the problem: the staid, formal quality of the existing house seemed entirely incompatible with the adventurous spirit and progressive sensibility of Georgis's client.

"Our solution was to decorate against the grain of the architecture, to recalibrate the place so that it makes sense for a young bachelor and his children," explains Georgis, who worked on the assignment with interiors associate Joyce Louie, project architect William

