



HIGH VOLUME

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN EAST COAST COUPLE TAKE A PAGE FROM CALIFORNIA LIVING, BUILDING AN L.A.-STYLE HOME IN THE HEART OF THE SHINGLED HAMPTONS? THE NEIGHBORHOOD MAY NEVER BE THE SAME.

By Pilar Viladas Photographs by Douglas Friedman

OUT OF THE BOX

Above left: Nick and Sole Riley, in front of their Marmol Radziner house. BRUNELLO CUCINELLI JACKET (\$3,325) AND PANTS (\$545), 212-334-1010; LACOSTE POLO (\$90) AND SHOES (\$95), LACOSTE.COM; OSCAR DE LA RENTA DRESS (\$3,790), SAKSFIFTHAVENUE.COM; MANOLO BLAHNIK SHOES (\$725), NEIMANMARCUS.COM. FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 175.



BY THE BOOKS
The sunken walnut library—cavelike and cozy—has a rug by Paul Smith for the Rug Company.



UP AND AWAY
In the living room a tall window and hallway offer views beyond and through the house.

In the Hamptons, modernism is still the minority party. Even though we're well into the 21st century, steroidal "cottages"—ill-proportioned, mediocre imitations of the Shingle Style houses that were built when potato fields outnumbered billionaires—are the norm. But modernist houses offer something few traditional houses do: a closer interaction with the great outdoors.

An impressive case in point is the weekend home designed by the Los Angeles architectural firm Marmol Radziner for Nick and Sole Riley. Set on a heavily wooded site north of Highway 27 in East Hampton, the house looks opaque, even a bit fortress-like, from the front. But behind the façade its open rooms and lofty proportions offer a seductive, close-up view of the pine and oak forest beyond. The nearly 10,000-square-foot structure—a series of distinct volumes clad in limestone, zinc, and stucco—is long and narrow in plan, its mass divided among three levels: the main floor, which has the living room, library, dining room, kitchen, playroom, and four guestrooms; the upstairs, with the master suite (and a bathroom that is cantilevered over the sloping site like a minimalist treehouse); and the lower level, which contains a basement, media room, wine cellar, game room, gym, and spa.

"We tend to do houses that are long and thin," says Ron Radziner, a founder of the firm along with Leo Marmol. "More surface area equals more light and views and also gives you long views within the house. No room is isolated from its surroundings."

In some ways the Rileys seem to be polar opposites. The Scottish-born Nick, a hedge fund manager, is soft-spoken and understated, while Sole, born in Italy, is voluble, bold, and



INTO THE WOOD
An Oona Ratcliffe diptych hangs in the living room. The furniture is from Flexform and Edra, the lamps from Flor. Sole designed the walnut coffee table.



SERENITY NOW
The green tiles in the spa showers are by Heath Ceramics, and the floors are Stone Source limestone. The lounge chair and ottoman are St. Barts by Restoration Hardware, the robes and towels by Frette.

COUNTER POINTS
The kitchen includes a Wolf range with Varena hood, and Kohler faucets. Bar stools from De La Espada face custom-made countertops from Caesarstone.



JUST ADD WATER
The Rileys entertain poolside, with chaise longues and chairs by James Perse and a round sofa by Dedon.



➔ laser-focused. (After quickly ascending to the level of managing director at JPMorgan Chase, she retired two years ago so “I could enjoy life while I was still young.”) In one respect, though—their commitment to modernism—the two are entirely alike. Their previous house (featured in the August 2008 issue of *Town & Country*) was designed by Annabelle Selldorf for the Houses at Sagaponack, an ambitious development for which a roster of noted contemporary architects created what were essentially very sophisticated spec houses. But the Rileys wanted to design a house from the ground up and be involved “from the beginning,” Sole says.

Marmol Radziner is known for casually glamorous California-tinged residential projects and commercial commissions—including stores for fashion designer James Perse and the eyewear brand Oliver Peoples—and for newsworthy restorations of landmark 20th-century houses, such as Richard Neutra’s Kaufmann house in Palm Springs (the setting of Slim Aarons’s iconic 1970 photograph *Poolside Gossip*). The Rileys worked with the architects to create something other than the standard Hamptons place on a square lot, with little land between them and the neighbors, and the result is something closer to a retreat, nestled into woods that screen other houses from view.

You enter the house through a cut in the limestone-clad central block. In contrast to the façade’s solidity, as soon as you’re in the door you see the soaring volume of the almost 15-foot-high living room, which features generous sliding glass windows that overlook the woods. Low-slung Italian furniture covered in monochromatic upholstery (“Generally, we don’t like bright colors in decorating,” Sole says) and contemporary artworks fill the space. Opposite the

living room a sunken library is lined with custom walnut cabinetry, and a ribbonlike window above the banquette offers a glimpse of the reflecting pool just outside. Sole is an avid cook, and the windowsill of her spacious kitchen holds eggs from the heirloom-breed chickens she raises; they roam the lawns at will, and Sole indulges them like a mother hen. “I never use chemicals anywhere on the property,” she says. The couple wanted a covered outdoor dining space and grill adjacent to the kitchen; there are heat lamps in the ceiling to allow alfresco dining “well into October. We spend 70 percent of our time there,” Sole says. In the summer it offers a shady spot for lunch overlooking the pool.

Sole—who is involved with the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons and the Second Chance Humane Society in Ridgway, Colorado, and who has become an accomplished photographer of animals both domesticated and wild (several of her photos are sold through Getty Images)—says she spends more time at this house than she does at the couple’s New York apartment, which has sweeping high-rise views and similarly understated decor. Nick adds, “It’s much more than a summer house, or even a weekend house. It’s a place that feels equally good in the snow.” Indeed, the abundance of pine trees in the woods guarantees a green view even in the dead of winter.

The partnership between the Rileys and Marmol Radziner was so successful that they are now at work on another house, this one in Telluride. (The Rileys are enthusiastic skiers.) “If a building can help reconnect people to their surroundings throughout the day, it’s fantastic,” Radziner says. “I’m always looking for new ways to do this.” «

MASTER BUILDERS



PLAYING IT COOL
A ping-pong table by James Perse is the focus of the game room. The painting, by Gonzalo Papantonakis, is based on an aerial view of Los Angeles.

Styled by Will Kahn.
Hair by Dina Calabro using Professional by Nature’s Therapy at BA-REPS.
Makeup by Tiffany Patton using Dior Beauty at BA-REPS.