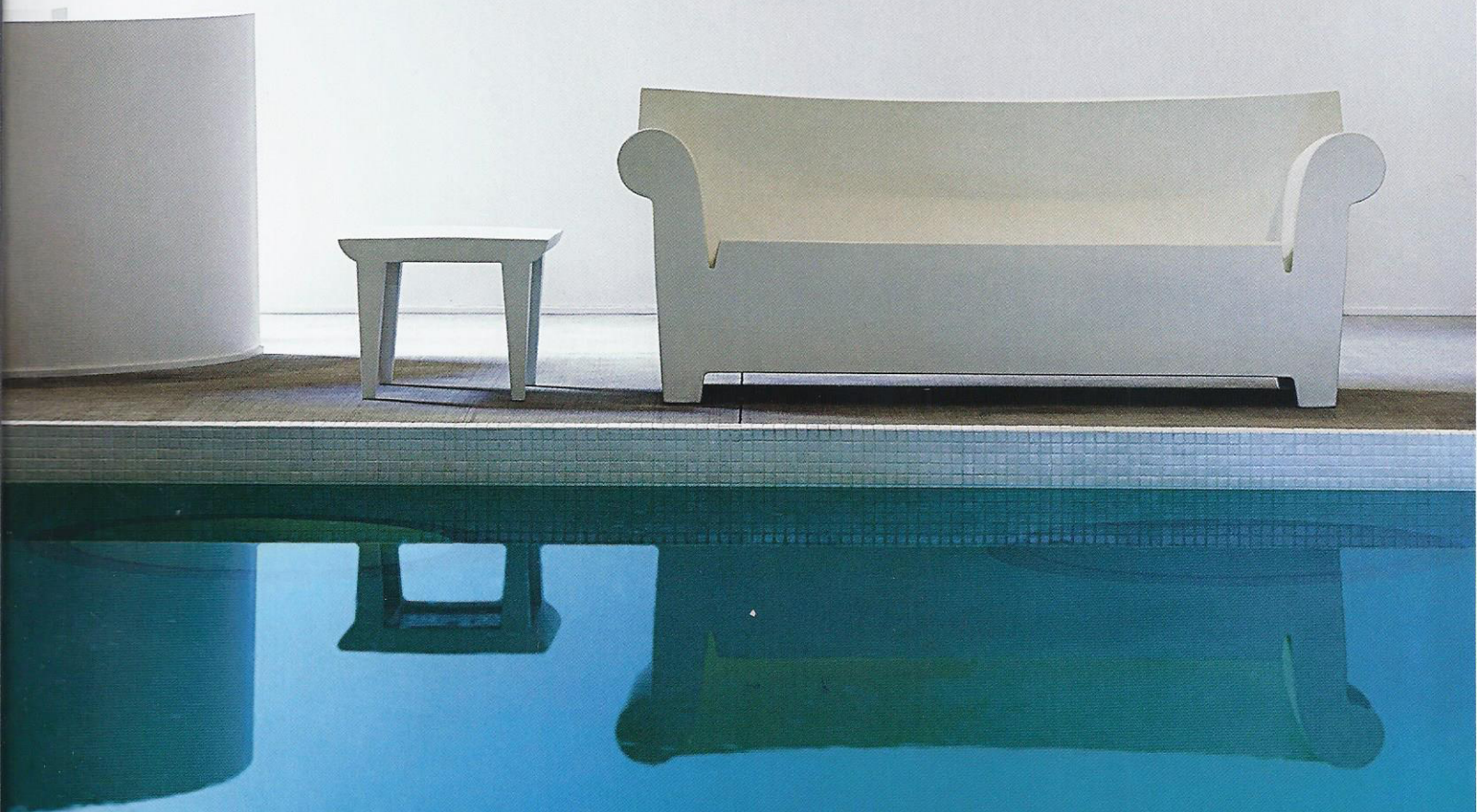


NEW YORK

# SPACES

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# NICE AND EASY DOES IT

A CLASSIC EAST END FARMHOUSE GETS PLAYFUL

INTERIOR DESIGN FAWN GALLI INTERIORS

TEXT ALEXANDER POLAKOV

PHOTOGRAPHY COSTAS PICADAS

**SURPRISE, SURPRISE** Above: A brightly colored and gaily patterned pillow, made from fabric found in La Ciudadela flea market in Mexico City, brings a hint of the inside to the outside. Opposite, clockwise from top: A row of back porch Adirondack chairs from Restoration Hardware provides the perfect seating for lazily gazing at grazing horses. In the dining room, Ikea's functional cube shelving offers a solid grounding for the exuberant brass and agate chandelier from Emporium Rotas. In the living room, twin sofas from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams covered in linen from Zoffany and a boldly striped carpet from ABC Carpet establish the blue color palette for the farmhouse while the fake boulder/coffee table from The Phillips Collection sets the whimsical tone.



HOUSES ARE LIKE PEOPLE: SOMETIMES THEIR EXTERIORS REFLECT their interiors, and sometimes they don't. And when they don't, that's when things get interesting. Take, for example, this handsome farmhouse, somber and straight-laced on the outside, lighthearted, casual, and whimsical on the inside, for which the nod goes to Fawn Galli, New York-based interiors specialist.

The clients asked Galli, who had created the family's Manhattan home, to accompany them on their vacation home-hunting trek. "The Hamptons, for all its gilded gloss, can actually feel very suburban," says Galli. "So when we came upon this wreck of a farmhouse, which happened to border on acres of pasture land, the family jumped on it." That the neighboring property came with its own small herd of picture perfect (camera ready) horses was a no-expense bonus.

"I always look for surprises, twists on what's traditionally expected," chuckles Galli. With this objective in mind she had ready and active conspirators in the owners of the house. Parents with a blended family of children aged 2-19, their only submission to tradition was to the practicalities of comfort and childproofing. To accommodate both these goals the house is devoid of anything antique or precious. Fabrics are sturdy cottons and linens; the color palette of cool blues is light and playful; and the furniture leans towards the indestructible.

Indeed, a gigantic resin boulder anchors the twin living room sofas and the breakfast table has the classic Eero Saarinen steel base, which is resistant to any amount of toddler wear and tear. The table is circled not by the expected Saarinen-designed-to-match **CONTINUED >**







**MIX & MATCH** This page: In the game nook, a Swedish breakfast, an art deco game table, and 1940s French chairs, all of cerused oak, play second fiddle to Ingo Maurer's Birdie Chandelier from Lumens. Opposite, clockwise from top: A mash-up of repurposed Indian rugs makes treading up and down the stairs more fun. Like any good farmhouse kitchen, this one is handsome, solid, and functional, with a fireplace painted the same navy blue as the lacquered cabinets. In the breakfast nook, the Saarinen-designed dining table meets its stylistic polar opposite in four painted flea market chairs; a 1940s wall sconce by Stillaceo picks up on the colors of the Mexican fabrics. Lower cabinets are lacquered navy blue (good for concealing finger prints); the stainless steel upper cabinets are from Polished Modern; classic subway tiles from Ann Sacks surface the backsplash and island.







**WATER COLORS** The commodious bathroom is a lively mix of proportions from the large Carrara marble shower seat to the wide planks that cover the ceiling to the narrow subway tiles that surface the walls (the same as in the kitchen) to the small penny floor tiles; blue makes repeat and subtle appearances as the color used for grouting. Opposite, clockwise from top: The many windowed upstairs bedroom continues themes seen downstairs: white walls, a striped blue floor covering, and, from Country Swedish, a playful 1950s-inspired fabric on the slipcovered bedroom chair. In the guest bedroom, a lamp with Venetian-style glass globes from Anthropologie and a Stark fabric-covered throw pillow reflect each other's curves. An unusual blue-and-white wallpaper from Trove continues the color theme in the powder room; the delicate oval mirror is from The Warehouse and the sconces are ebay finds.



GROUNDING THE HOUSE'S MANY WHIMSICAL ELEMENTS ARE WHITE WALLS, A SIMPLE-BUT-STRONG BLUE PALETTE, BOLD STRIPED RUGS, AND FLOORS BLEACHED WITH A SOFT TRACE OF WHITE

Tulip chairs, but by 1950s-ish wood flea market finds, painted the owners' favorite turquoise color, which look like they would be at home in a playroom. Saarinen might have raised an eyebrow at the juxtaposition, but then again, a noted humanist, he might have just smiled. In another bit of playfulness, the stair treads are covered in different pieces of salvaged Indian cotton carpeting.

Only in the serious, gloss purple dining room—designed, says Galli, to create a sense of “occasion”—does the house take a left turn from its overall lightness. But then the handcrafted, offbeat, brass-and-topaz chandelier brings it back home.

“I like things that don’t go together, but work together” says Galli of this easygoing and sophisticated smorgasbord of a home and family.

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