

# HCG & G

Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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# DIVE INTO SUMMER!

**Allée Of The Land**  
(THIS PAGE) An allée of hornbeams anchored in pea gravel, part of Joseph Tyree's landscape design, lines the street side of the property. (OPPOSITE) The front door is a shadowbox of painted white boards and limestone with a Dutch door "the color of Land Rovers," says interior designer Michael Cox. See Resources.



# SIMPLY STUNNING



Foley & Cox gives a modern makeover to a modest family getaway in East Hampton

BY MICHAEL LASSELL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MARGONELLI



hen Boston-based entrepreneur Greg Wilson and his wife, Lisa, decided to buy a weekend place in East Hampton rather than the more expected Cape Cod or Nantucket, they considered just about every possibility for their family, which includes teenage daughters Caroline and Alexandra, two golden retrievers (also sisters), and a Havanese. Ultimately, they settled on a somewhat rattered circa-1950s house on a humble parcel in the middle of the village. "We like being able to walk to dinner or the grocery store," says Greg, "and the girls love walking to the theater and Starbucks." No strangers to home improvements, the couple planned to transform the dated rambler into something just right.

"I kind of talked Greg into it," recalls Lisa Wilson. "I said, 'Oh, we can fix it up. It'll be great!' And he agreed." But like many a renovation project, the old place stood in the way of its new owners' vision. "I realized after we started that no matter what we did, we were going to end up with an ugly little

renovated 1950s house," says Greg, "so I had the construction crew tear the whole thing down." Instead of telling his wife, he sent her a photo of the .66-acre property with just the chimney standing in the middle of it.

To create a new one-story house on the original footprint, the Wilsons hired architect Tom Pedrazzi and the design firm Foley & Cox, which had decorated a condo for the couple in 2007 at the Mandarin Oriental in Boston. The clients desired a low-maintenance home that was big enough to be comfortable, but not bigger than they needed. At around 3,000 square feet, the finished structure provides ample common spaces, a dreamy master suite, and two en suite bedrooms for the girls. At the center of the plan lies the dining room, flanked by a high-gloss all-white European-style kitchen and a double-height space the Wilsons call the family room.

"We were playing with surprises with this house," recounts Foley & Cox principal Michael Cox. "From the outside, you expect the interiors to be much more traditional than they

**Comfort Is Key**  
In the entrance hall (OPPOSITE), a contemporary console from Holly Hunt sits on a low-maintenance woven vinyl rug from Bolon. (THIS PAGE) Seating pieces in pale earth tones complement a leather Poul Kjaerholm bench, JanGeorge side tables, and a pair of photographs by Don Freeman in the living room. See Resources.



**Subtle Style**  
(OPPOSITE) A Lindsey Adelman chandelier and a work by Mark Sheinkman amplify the serene dining area.  
(THIS PAGE ABOVE) Rough-hewn wood beams, steel-framed glass doors, and an Ingo Maurer paper ceiling fixture meet in the plush master bedroom.  
(BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT) The master bath features an ovular tub and gray striated tile, both from Waterworks. The medicine cabinets are from Urban Archaeology, the sconces are from Dennis Miller Associates, and the faucets are by Dornbracht. See Resources.



really are.” Adding to the modern appeal is a wow-factor wall of windows and glass doors at the gabled end of the family room. Framed in industrial-style black steel, it offers expansive views and easy access to the verdant backyard.

Lisa Wilson describes her style as a cross between the sophisticated simplicity of Calvin Klein and the layered tranquility of famed Belgian designer Axel Vervoordt, so “for this place, we went for a very clean, calm, neutral ground, experimenting with a lot of beautiful textures and weaves,” explains Cox. In addition to echt Hamptons materials like cedar shakes, tongue-and-groove battens, and rough-hewn recycled wood, Cox and his clients stepped up the contemporary mandate with accessories and materials such as a Lindsey Adelman chandelier in the dining room and ceramic

tile flooring patterned to look like old timber. “I’ve got three dogs and two kids who have their friends over all the time,” says Lisa, “and I didn’t want to be constantly redoing wooden floors.”

On the recommendation of Foley & Cox co-founder Mary Foley, who retired last year, the Wilsons engaged landscape designer Joseph Tyree to create a planting scheme “without a lot of flowering things that would be weedy-looking when they weren’t in bloom,” Lisa says. Accordingly, Tyree focused on common shrubs that thrive in the area, along with one grand gesture: an allée of hornbeams that’s equal parts “sophisticated and refined,” Cox says. “The great satisfaction of this project came from creating exactly what the Wilsons asked for: a house that’s perfectly in tune with modern living.” ✨

#### What Lies Within

(ABOVE) Furnishings in a daughter’s room include a Moooi chandelier from YLighting, a Crate & Barrel desk, and a CB2 chair. The photographs are by Sandi Fellman. (RIGHT) The dramatic glass wall lining one side of the family room opens to the backyard. See [Resources](#).