

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF DESIGN

DECEMBER 2010

## MAGICAL PLACES



White-Hot Miami Penthouse  
Actor Rob Morrow at Home in L.A.  
Modern Masterpiece in Oregon  
**TIMELESS WATCHES**

U.S. \$5.99/FOREIGN \$6.99





# Understated Beauty

A PALE PALETTE AND SUBTLE DETAILS IN THE HAMPTONS

Interior Design by Alexa Hampton

Text by Michael Frank

Photography by Scott Frances

**A**lexa Hampton Talks the way she decorates, with a kind of candid, sunny affability that eschews the baroque and the overwrought at every turn. Just listen to her on the subject of a house in Bridgehampton, New York, that she recently completed for a young family that had been seeking the proverbial “calm, easy-going but stylish” weekend retreat.

“My clients bought a spec house that had been appointed for sale with taffeta curtains and crystal-beaded chandeliers twinkling over the bed – someone’s erroneous idea of what would be attractive to an urban couple,” she says with a laugh. “They had to look beyond those things to see, as well all did, that as far as spec houses go, this one had some good moments. Beneath the glitter there was hope.”

What constitutes “good moments” for Alexa Hampton? A floor plan with a nice sense of proportion and flow, paneled wainscoting in the dining room, dark floors, a well-scaled double-height entrance hall with a handsome staircase, beautiful views, good light and a prevailing sense of graciousness throughout.

“Now, don’t get me wrong,” she says. “There were some lamentable details too. The mantelpieces were out of whack scale-wise. There was a strange trapezoidal niche in the master bedroom, the sort of place where you would stash figurines – if you had them. The living room needed some punctuation, and to be honest, I am not a great fan of a kitchen that opens onto the living room, as this one does.”

“They were looking for a place that would look and feel like a summer house but could be used all year round. The mandate was almost no color, easy, and comfortable, yet not without flair,” Alexa Hampton says of the weekend retreat she designed in Bridgehampton, New York. **Left: Michael Donnellan, of Summerhill Landscapes, planted boxwood at the entrance.**