



The kitchen, a mix of modern materials and professional appliances, has a decidedly European feeling. A wall of glass separates the space from the rest of the first floor.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

Homeowners Andy and Alison Brod.

**“I like the warmth of wood. It gives the home a contemporary beach-house feel.”**



# COOL, CALM, AND COLLECTED

With the help of designer Laura Dupouy, Alison and Andy Brod create a relaxing retreat in Bridgehampton filled with a mix of modern and antique French furnishings. **by John Loeckle** photographs by **Bill Geddes** produced by **Claudia A. Ghetu**



**This house is a study of layers. The second floor is divided into two sections, each reached by its own staircase. The gardens are visible from every room.**



When public relations executive Alison Brod and her husband, Andy, a high-yield bond trader, began searching for a permanent Hamptons home three summers ago, the couple assumed the process would be relatively easy. After all, the pair had spent the previous 11 summers living in rentals on the eastern end of Long Island and from those experiences, knew exactly what they wanted—a classic cottage by the sea. Unfortunately, what they found out was that finding just the right place was anything but simple.

Instead of a shingled cottage covered in ivy, they decided upon a vintage 80s beach bungalow with lots of glass and wide-open spaces. The home's unusual modern shape, says Alison, was perfect for entertaining, but lacked the warmth and comfort of a real home. What the property had to offer, she says, was location; it was just a few steps from Mecox Beach in Bridgehampton. "The location, and the gardens, which can be seen from every room of the house were the deciding factor," she says.

The process of hiring a decorator was equally challenging. "Everyone we met wanted to push cabbage roses and chintz, but I knew that just wasn't my style," says Andy. Instead of comfortable country, the couple wanted cool contemporary. "I don't like cluttered spaces," Alison says. "I like warm woods and modern materials." Enter Laura Dupouy, a decorator friend of Alison's aunt. "We hit it off instantly," says Alison. "She pulled samples of things she liked and it fit perfectly with what Andy and I were looking to do."

Dupouy's plan: To create an inviting interior that referenced Alison's love of French Art Deco antiques and Andy's preference for casual contemporary. In the process, she reworked the home's open layout to accommodate a full-size dining room, professional-style kitchen, and an enlarged master bedroom suite. "We thought we were going to start off slowly and change things little by little, but before we knew it the house was gutted and we were in the middle of a full-blown renovation," says Alison.

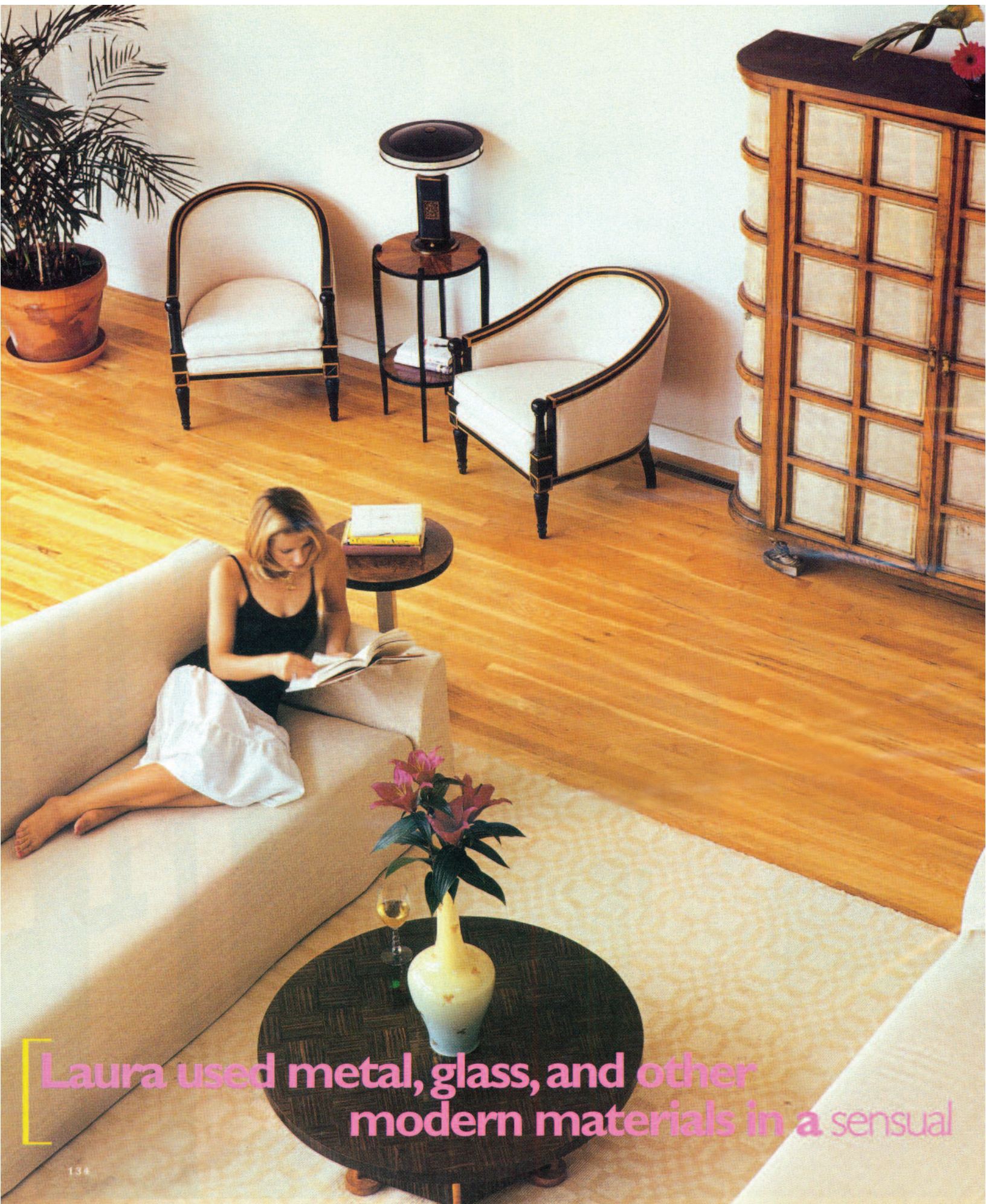
Downstairs, Dupouy moved the kitchen, a narrow galley at the back of the house, to a more accessible position behind a wall of glass and a custom steel staircase that leads to the couple's master bedroom. The space Dupouy gained became a

The den's deep-blue and dark-brown color palette was inspired by the interior of one of Andy's favorite restaurants. The staircase leads to a second-floor guest room.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

A custom copper staircase leads to the home's master suite.





Laura used metal, glass, and other modern materials in a sensual

**BELOW:**  
Designer Laura Dupouy  
crafted the tub  
in the master  
bath from glass  
and tile.

**RIGHT:**  
The home's lush  
gardens are visible  
from every room.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:**  
French Deco furnishings  
and modern pieces  
by designer  
Christian Liaigre  
fill the home's  
first floor.



dining room. "Before we just had a table in the middle of the living room," says Alison. The new kitchen, outfitted in warm wood European-style cabinets and professional appliances is now the focal point of the first floor. Down the hall, a dingy den was made over with a fresh coat of cool blue paint and soft seating upholstered in brown velvet.

Upstairs, Dupouy reworked the master bedroom, removing a large skylight and enlarging the bath to accommodate an oversized walk-in steam shower and a full-size tub. The tub, which Dupouy crafted from tile and a large pane of glass, is the focal point of the finished room. "The house is architectural, but not icy," says Alison.

To furnish the interior, Dupouy chose a mix of modern pieces from designer Christian Liaigre and French Deco antiques from the Incurable Collector, the Palm Beach antiques shop owned by Alison's parents. "I tried to pick things that stood out on their own," explains Alison. "One of my favorite pieces is an armoire that Dupouy crafted from a pair of antique gates we found at a Paris flea market." Artwork and accessories were purposely kept to a minimum to allow garden views to take center stage. "The windows capture vibrant garden views," says Alison. "They're the art."

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