

body+soul

BY JENNY BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY SQUIRE FOX



A NEUTRAL PALETTE, DELECTABLE FURNISHINGS, AND AN OH-SO-ENVIABLE ARTIST'S STUDIO TRANSFORM A HAMPTONS POOL HOUSE INTO A **SOUL-SOOTHING YET ENERGIZING RETREAT**

There are few summer getaways more desirable than the Hamptons. That may be partly due to the see-and-be-seen social scene, but the Hamptons' intense natural beauty is impossible to ignore. In fact, it's downright inspiring. Just ask Skye Kirby, designer and vice president of stores and marketing for retailer and interior design firm ▶

A trio of vintage outdoor pieces from Lillian August creates a cozy poolside area ideal for a quiet tête-à-tête.

couple's retreat



frill-free zone

No jarring patterns allowed: A subtle sea-and-sand-hued Greek Key border on floor cushions from Lillian August maintains the pool house's cozy and tranquil mood.



Lillian August. While the scenery served as Skye's muse as she created the pool house-turned-couple's retreat for the 2009 Hampton Designer Showhouse, the retreat's inner beauty gives the area's outer beauty a run for its money.

Envisioned as a summer studio for an artistic couple, the pool house boasts charming interiors inspired by the long, wide beaches and the energetic surf juxtaposed with acres of farmland nestled between the ocean and the bay, explains Skye.

The neutral color palette is injected with only the slightest hints of color—in the form of Hamptons blue (of course) and ocher. "I used a lot of heathery colors inspired by the Hamptons landscape—grasses, blue sky, sea, sand," says Skye. "All these subtle colors—gray-blue, green, and gold—really influenced the interior palette. It feels very Hamptons-y. And very refreshing."

Top: Put-your-feet-up living room furniture from the Lillian August Collection for Hickory White. Drapery fabric by Romo. Lamps from Lillian August.

Above left: The pool house's shingled exterior plays off the golden wheat field beyond.

Right: Designer Skye Kirby.

Substantial, curl-up-and-cozy furnishings from Lillian August, flagstone floors, and sisal rugs encourage the low-key, sand-between-the-toes lifestyle. A peppering of soft pattern does nothing to discourage the dreamy, soul-soothing atmosphere. Nor do the purposefully simple accessories. "Lack of clutter is an absolute must for a body-and-soul retreat," notes Skye.

Another must? A "wonderfully cushy" bedroom. Upstairs, the master bedroom provides the one exception to Skye's ▶



PHOTOGRAPH: EXTERIOR, JOHN BESSLER

The colors here—the
blues, golds, and grays
—are so refreshing.

—SKYE KIRBY



light-and-airy color palette. The combination of a curvaceous tufted headboard and layered bed linens balances the charcoal-gray-and-ocher scheme to create a retreat that is neither purely masculine nor purely feminine. It's handsome, yet alluring.

Across the hall lies another of Skye's body-and-soul-soothing necessities—a creative space in which to focus on any and all right-brain activities that tickle your fancy. In this case, that creative

outlet revolves around art. An under-the-eaves artist's studio is outfitted with a highly edited and fittingly sculptural selection of furnishings. The only hint of color comes from the artwork and the ocher valance—inspired by the golden glow of the undulating wheat field.

“That field is hypnotizing,” effuses Skye. “When it flows in the wind, it resembles the ocean. A sea of wheat. It's incredibly soothing and inspiring.”

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Top left: A serene under-the-eaves bathroom.
Above: The curvaceous tufted bed and wing chair are from the Lillian August Collection for Hickory White. Shade fabric is F. Schumacher & Co. Striped rug is Tamarian.



Skye's **10** "must-have" body+soul elements:

1 SOFT COLOR Heathery grays, blues, golds, and whites—in the Hamptons, these colors come naturally from the landscape and the ocean.

2 COMFORTABLE SEATING AND OTTOMANS When you want to cuddle up and relax, you always need a place to put up your feet.

3 A CLUTTER-FREE ZONE I am a believer that less is more. Over-accessorizing can take away from the calming nature of a room and become distracting.

4 BOOKS Whether to read, to escape into, to inspire, or just to look good.

5 TUNES There should always be a good source of music to set the mood and create relaxation.

6 THROWS I'm a big believer in having a throw in every room to wrap yourself in—preferably while enjoying that good cup of coffee or tea.

7 A VIEW Orient your space to the best view. If you don't have a view, create one with original art or photography of the things you love.

8 LIGHT AND CANDLES Always maximize natural light. Ambient light can also effectively create a mood, if done with thought. And don't forget the candles.

9 FLOWING FABRICS

I love flowing panels. When the windows are open, the breeze creates a rippling that is not unlike the water.

10 CREATIVE SPACE Create a space for whatever your pleasure is, a place that's totally dedicated to your creative outlet.

Top: A table from BoBo Intriguing Objects serves as a desk in the studio. Shade fabric is F. Schumacher & Co. **Right:** Driftwood sculpture is available at Lillian August.

