

HAMPTONS

THE REAL ESTATE &
DESIGN ISSUE

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great scott

Interior designer David Scott brings the outside in with natural materials, textures and colors.

BY JENNY SHERMAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARILI FORASTIERI



FOR DAVID L. SCOTT,

principal of David Scott Interiors, perhaps the most important room in the home is the closet. That is to say, it's one of the first spaces he investigates after consulting with a new client. "I look at their wardrobe," he says. "It gives me an idea of their color sense, their conservatism, how organized they are."

He'll combine what he sees inside with an interview to elicit emotional cues for a space. Then he does what he calls a sit test, where the clients park themselves on a variety of furniture to help them understand what kind of setting they're comfortable in. There is, Scott admits, a tremendous amount of tailoring that goes into determining how a person's lifestyle fits within the architecture and the environment of a home.

That's also true for himself. The design of his Hamptons home (he has another in New York City) was driven by the house's traditional Cape Cod style and Water Mill address. "When I look at a client, I know what's right for them," he says. "I have to say that it's sometimes a little harder to design for yourself."

Regardless, the home is a pleasing mixture of comfortable, understated elegance. Red accents pop up throughout the house, as does seagrass matting, to unify the space. An important goal is to bring elements of the outdoors inside. That's done through the almost exclusive use of natural materials: cotton, wool, silk, leather upholstery and wood.

Artwork, too, is an essential touchstone for creating a customized interior. "I can look

at one painting and design an entire room," says Scott. "You can take colors from it, composition—an Abstract Expressionist painting has a certain amount of movement and color in it, which you can translate into textures and fabrics."

The art, however, has to be utilitarian. "I love a beautiful sculptural piece of furniture," he says. "But if it's uncomfortable to sit on, I don't want to live with it."

FROM TOP: Perennials like climbing hydrangea, nepenthe and boxwood integrate the house in its peaceful setting. David Scott in front of his Water Mill home
OPPOSITE PAGE: A large screened-in porch looks out over the yard.



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: The sailor portrait, done in the 1930s, fits the home's beachy feel. Scott's collection of treen, articles made of wood that have been turned on a lathe, were crafted in England and include tobacco jars, finials and containers (a large portion of the set came from the collection of Carter Burden, a well-known Water Mill resident). *Après Picasso*, which sits above fireplace, inspired the tone of the living room with its cubist shapes and blues, reds and natural tones.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A 19th-century black-and-white quilt covers an Oly bed with turned posts, ebonized wood and a cane headboard. Scott created the gold piece above the bed from two architectural fragments that were hanging over doors in a French house. A folding leather screen accented with nailheads offsets the vintage leather campaign chairs.





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