

Fade To White

In the entry (THIS PAGE), a print by Michael Northrup hangs above a vintage elephant console. (OPPOSITE) The great room's living area features an RH sectional, vintage wicker swivel chairs, black-and-white side tables from Gervasoni, and a custom coffee table. See Resources.



FUN IN THE SUN

In the hands of decorator Ghislaine Viñas, an East Hampton beach house is equal parts chic and cheeky

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICK HALES



Party Central
 (OPPOSITE) A custom black-and-white dining table, designed by decorator Ghislaine Viñas, is attached to the kitchen island in the great room. The chairs are by Jørgen Baekmark. (THIS PAGE ABOVE) A banquette and chairs from ModShop surround a custom table topped with Eternal Marquina marble in the family room, where walls are covered in Ananbô's Jarawa. (RIGHT) A Lacanche range anchors the nearly all-white kitchen. See *Resources*.



W

hen Manhattan-based Ghislaine Viñas signed on to decorate Marisa and Marty Cicco's East Hampton abode, she knew that she had a challenge ahead of her. "It's a difficult task to make a spec house feel like it's meant for a specific client—especially when you aren't planning on doing any major renovations," says Viñas, a Netherlands native who grew up in South Africa before moving to New York and founding her firm two decades ago. "If you're not in control of the architecture, you have to make bold statements."

So, with her clients' encouragement, Viñas took a no-holds-barred approach to decorating the five-bedroom weekend getaway, choosing patterned wall treatments and artworks "with a tropical undertone" in an effort to bring the cookie-cutter house to life. The only directive the Ciccos gave Viñas was to make it fun and lighthearted—something that's second nature to the decorator. "I always design around the aesthetics of happiness and

“IT’S DIFFICULT TO MAKE A SPEC HOUSE FEEL LIKE IT’S MEANT FOR A SPECIFIC CLIENT. IF YOU’RE NOT IN CONTROL OF THE ARCHITECTURE, YOU HAVE TO MAKE BOLD STATEMENTS”



Jungle Fever
A monkey sconce from Seletti lends a whimsical touch to the staircase (OPPOSITE). In the family room (THIS PAGE), vintage pineapple lamps sit atop a sideboard from ModShop. See Resources.



Going Bananas
(OPPOSITE) The master bedroom features a canopy bed from Room & Board, vintage wicker ottomans upholstered in a Kravet fabric, and an ombré wall covering from Calico Wallpaper. (THIS PAGE) The bench in the daughter's bedroom is upholstered in a Création Baumann fabric; the banana throw is from Calhoun & Co. See Resources.



Birds Of A Feather

(THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) In a guest room, walls painted Benjamin Moore's Sapphire Berry mimic the curves of a vintage rattan headboard and a rattan chair from Anthropologie. The powder room is clad in Sparkk's Flamingo wallpaper. Another guest room features Bien Fait's Bahamas wallpaper and a pendant light from Made Goods. See *Resources*.



creating spaces that people feel good in," she says. "I like figuring out how to make my clients comfortable and relaxed."

Vinas's plan included "splashing a lot of white paint around, plus lightening up the stonework and beams to give the house a beachy feel." To "loosen up the place," she also selected graphic prints for many of the walls, from whimsical botanical and bird motifs to an abstract rock design from her own line for Flavor Paper. "We ended up with lots of birds, which is funny because Marisa told me early on that she hates birds," recalls Vinas. "But

we kept showing her patterns with birds, and she kept picking them!" (The powder room, for example, is enveloped in a blue flamingo paper from Australia-based Sparkk.) The upstairs bedrooms also received their own unique wall treatments, such as diagonal stripes and ombre prints, although the palettes are more muted and calming.

To temper the wide array of tonalities and patterns, Vinas whitewashed various pieces of woven furniture and accent lighting in many of the rooms, and in the entry, the rec room, and

Playing Around
A photograph by Alex Farnum hangs in the rec room (ABOVE), where walls are bordered in Vinas's Mock Rock print for Flavor Paper. See *Resources*.



In the Swim
 In the backyard (THIS SPREAD), Knoll chaise longues, CB2 umbrellas, and Room & Board side tables line the pool separating the guest house from the main house. The cushion on the Neiman Marcus wing chair is covered in a striped fabric from Scalamandré. See Resources.



the expansive great room containing the kitchen, dining, and living areas, black and white prevail. Exceptions are eye-catching works by such artists such as Michael Northrup and Alex Farnum (the pieces lend “attitude, soul, personality, and a little edge” to the home, Vinas says), a blue coffee table in the living room that the designer conceived as a tribute to Marisa Cicco’s Greek heritage, and a darker blue Lacanche range that the Ciccos had purchased for a previous house and never installed. To accommodate dinners for her clients’ family and friends, Vinas designed a long black-and-white table that extends from the kitchen island and seats 16. “Marisa loves cooking and taking care of people, so the kitchen is the center of the home for her.” For more informal gatherings, the family room, clad in a palm tree wallpaper by French brand Ananbô and furnished with a velvet banquette and a marble table, serves as a chic cocktail lounge.

No room takes itself too seriously, though, and quirky elements abound at every turn—from a banana throw in a bedroom to vintage pineapple and palm tree lamps to a monkey wall sconce that hangs above a stair landing. “We really pushed the envelope in this house,” Vinas recounts. “It wasn’t about being shy, but about making statements. I wanted people to walk in and think, Oh, this is fun!” 🌟