

BAG IDEAS  
**otes fab**



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# alexa

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The Best of Everything



## THE HAMPTONS ISSUE

*A fashion family brings barn-chic to the beach*

**PLUS** *The bites, boutiques and boldface names you'll need to know this summer*

PHOTO BY  
BRETT  
BEYER

WATERWORKS

# SPLASH ZONE

THE HAMPTONS ARE SWIMMING IN SEXY POOLS — BUT A FEW TAKE THE SUMMER PLUNGE TO NEW HEIGHTS



**THE SPACE-AGE LAGOON**

This angular pool, built five years ago on Sayres Path in Wainscott, was a joint project between architects Maziar Behrooz and Pristine Pools (the top firm out east). "The shape plays off the geometry of the house," explains Pristine's Greg Darvin. "It both literally and figuratively reflects the landscape." He stresses that statement pools are vital additions to homes, like this one, which are not located right on a beach or bay. This 20,000-gallon lagoon, stepped across various levels, is certainly a conversation piece — especially for anyone sitting by the infinity edge's wet wall, which pours over into the sunken garden here. That soothing sound of lapping water provides solace for the ears, as well.

**THE ARTSY HIDEAWAY**

Debonair and socially connected interior designer Lee Mindel — the talent behind Sting and Trudie Styler's London home — masterminded this understated East End pool (below). Its 12-by-25-foot perimeter more resembles an inviting plunge-pool than a place for morning laps; it sits on a freestanding stone plinth with a concrete wall and a scupper that spouts water into the basin. "Its sound foreshadows the sounds of the bay beyond," notes Mindel. The poolside sculpture might also seem familiar to any seasoned New Yorker: The late Tony Rosenthal, a Southampton resident, designed this rotating cube as a sibling piece to his giant black "Alamo" cube in the East Village's Astor Place.



By MARK ELLWOOD

**Y**OU can tell a lot about a Hamptons house (and its owners) from the pool. Building a glistening aquatic masterpiece suited exactly to your taste — and stroke — has become the East End's sport of champions. Here's a deep dive into the world of private Hamptons dipping spots: five of the best places to beg for a pool-party invite.



**THE STAR-STUDDED GROTTA**

This 6-bedroom, 12,000-square-foot home — christened Angel View — sits on more than six acres of secluded Noyack Bay waterfront and comes with not one but three swimming pools. A pair of saltwater pools perch outdoors, connected by a waterfall. It's the third, though, that truly astonishes: Tucked into the main home is the so-called "grotto room" (above), a quirky den that would blend right in at the Playboy Mansion. Accessible directly from the gardens, its walls are lined with white marble; the 10-by-20-foot pool is warm enough for skinny-dipping, with ozone filtration and even a waterfall. Be sure to gaze up as you float: A painted night sky on the ceiling twinkles with fiber-optic stars. The family that's owned the compound for almost 20 years has put it on the market with Sotheby's International Realty, so if you've got \$49 million and some water wings, those splashy stars could be yours.

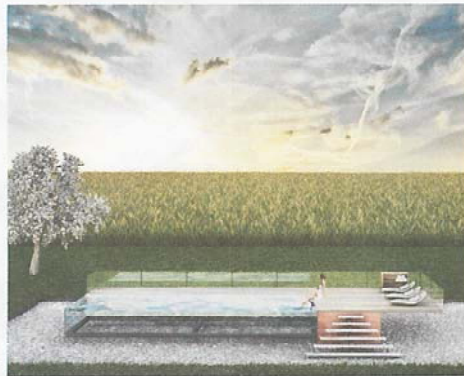


**THE ZEN RETREAT**

After he took a trip to Amanaya, the ultra-luxe Caribbean hotel in the Turks & Caicos, designer Chris LaGuardia's clients wanted him to bring a piece of it home. The result is this sumptuously understated 2-year-old pool complex (left) in Sagaponack. Its sleek, Zenlike design is centered on a rim-flow infinity pool that stretches 75 feet by 25 feet. "It's in a FEMA flood zone, so we had to elevate the pool by two feet to keep it safe," LaGuardia explains. "But that allowed us to take advantage of a long view to the south as well as an infinity edge." This is no tranquil sanctuary, though: LaGuardia incorporated built-in sound and lighting systems, lounge-worthy day beds and even an on-site outdoor kitchen.

**THE GLASS SPLASH**

Metal sculptor Justin Ward has three Hamptons home-builders circling his concept for this futuristic, elevated swimming box (right). "Many homes in Sag Harbor and East Hampton have high water tables, so I thought, 'Let me do an insane pool,'" Ward tells Alexa. "I literally did not think this could even work, but with a solid engineer and some seasoned glass specialists, the technical challenges are very minimal." At night, the pool acts as an ornamental art piece, uplit from below with light shining from its glass sides. And this conversation piece is a relative bargain: Ward estimates building and installation costs at just \$250,000. "My objective is to completely reinvent the above-ground pool," he says. "I want to make it more inviting than an in-ground pool."



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW CARBONE, MICHAEL MURPHY/OTTO, JANE BAG, JEFF HEATLEY, JACOB