

# H O & G

Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Idea House 2005

LIVING FOR THE FUTURE

Cleaning House | Nautical Nirvana | Arts & Crafts Reborn

2005 Idea House

# Barn Revival by Design

*From the humble origins as an abandoned and run-down Mulford barn, the 2005 Hamptons Cottages & Gardens Idea House opened its doors last month. Featuring the work of architect Hugh Huddleson and a team of designers led by Robert Stilin, the Idea House introduces new approaches to interior design along with the latest in home technology*

BY KATHERINE LAGOMARSINO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC STRIFFLER

**Pool Cool** | Designer Jason Lamberth chose lounges from his empress collection (Opposite) with cushions in fabric by perennials. Across the swimming pool, designed by Michael Inzerillo of Swimming Pools by Jack Anthony, are his lounge chairs "upholstered" in sod grass. See Resources

It began with a dilapidated barn in an overgrown, rather uninspiring field. But here were definite advantages, such as the large, 3.7 - acre parcel of land upon which it sat. And it was bordered by protected, rather romantic farmland. Now, in the hands of a visionary architect, a roster of gifted interior designers, a brilliant landscape architect, a handful of leading manufacturers, innumerable crews of tradesmen and a wizard of a contractor with one inspired architecture patron behind the whole cast, it is the site of the Hamptons Cottages & Gardens 2005 Idea House. Initially, architect Hugh Huddleson had hoped to preserve the old Mulford barn, but it had been blown over 10 years prior and was literally propped up. Its wood had also suffered significant termite damage. "So it was on practical grounds that we decided instead to celebrate, in form, the echo of the barn," Huddleson states. Nine and a half months later, the once rather forlorn lot now boasts a state-of-the-art compound that, with its roots in the past, celebrates the best of home design in the Hamptons. The living room is positioned



over the original barn's footprint with a new house stretched out along an east/west axis on either side to look at the assemblage of structures typical of area farms. The house also contains very modern amenities - the latest in kitchen and bath technology, radiant heat and a geothermal cooling system that, according to contractor Jim Fauci, looks like a mini NASA operating in the basement.



**Raising the Barn** | *The original barn was a point of departure for the design and still anchors it in form. Landscape architect Mario Nievera conceived a plan for the grounds that the property immediately surrounding the house and pool like an island floating in what will soon be a sea, of field of wild, native plants.*



# HISTORY OF PROPERTY & BARN

The second HC&G Idea House draws inspiration from an early Hamptons relic

Old barns tend to ignite the imagination. Iconic structures on the rural landscape, they evoke a purity of honest, hard work and the hope of a bountiful future. Even barns standing on their last legs have this power.

Amazingly, a noble old barn that once belonged to the Mulford family escaped most people's notice in the overgrowth along the edge of a field in Bridgehampton. HC&G recognized its boxy, voluminous beauty, even though it was only a few more Nor'Easters away from collapsing into an inglorious heap. In fact, the infamous hurricane of 1938 had taken its toll on the structure, and it had been left propped up and unused for over six decades.

Filled with a passion for the past, the magazine seized the opportunity to purchase the property and embark on a renovation, which for all practical purposes became a new construction when in the fragile and decaying condition of the structure was discovered.

Last October, with architectural plans hot from Southampton Town approval, the magazine raced the weather to pour a foundation for the house before freezing temperatures started dropping below freezing.

With the house framed before winter arrived, interior

work was able to proceed under the direction of contractor Jim Fauci and interior designer Robert Stilin, who joined the project as creative director.

Two years previous, the magazine invited three local architects to participate in an informal architectural competition. The challenge: What should we do with

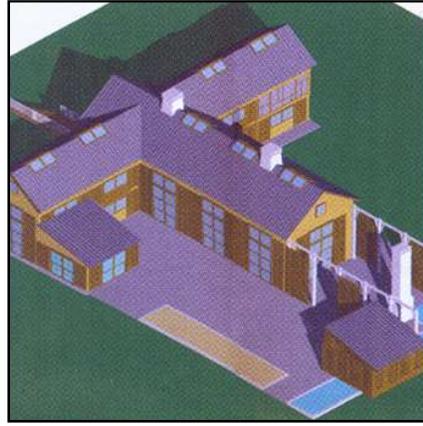
this barn? The only stipulation was that we wanted to incorporate the structure into a house or use it in some capacity in the project.

In January 2004, Hugh Huddleson's concept was selected to build -- based on innovation in combination with practical costs. (See next page for a summary of the three proposals.)

The 2005 HC&G Idea House is located on almost four private acres in Bridgehampton and is crafted to demonstrate concerns for the environment, including energy saving devices. Unlike a typical showcase, this outstanding new home is a collaborative effort of

many, including some of the best talents in the field of interior design. Our aim is to introduce new approaches to interior design by using remarkable furniture and fabrics and finishes along with the latest technology advances.





## THE COMPETITION

### Fred Stelle

The Proposed Contemporary design was conceived as a series of pavilions with the main entrance through a two-story concrete wall, sky lit from above, which provides a threshold, as well as a barrier to life left behind.

The master bedroom and study are separate from the main space, providing additional privacy in the warmer weather. Glass walls would pivot to enclose the breezeway connecting to the to the main space during the colder months. Wooden moveable sunscreens on the south patio provide wind and sun protection. The second floor would be accessed by floating stairs, visible from the front entry court and leading to a translucent walkway above.

Bedrooms would be arranged allowing for total flexibility, either independent guest rooms or grouped together as suites. The barn would be simply restored as a seasonal entertaining space and a folly on the property.

### Erica Broberg

Can a house respond to the complex fabric of the Hamptons? “aLIVE” house is an exploration into the house as a muse. As catharsis. Representative of the myriad of lives each of us lives here. Alone. Party for 200. Romantic dinner. This proposed design was for a house that would be elastic -- opened or closed, stretched or compacted.

Rooms could be created or expanded, moved or removed. Sunlight could be altered. Views could be changed. Beds slide. Furniture rotates to focus on the fireplace, the TV or the view. The most experimental of the three concepts, the “aLIVE” featured two-story walls of shutters that could slide along tracks to close the house or follow tracks along an extension of the post- and - beam original barn to create flexible outdoor rooms.

Among the many mobile architectural features, the dining room may have been the most innovative -- it would sit snug in a corner of a T-shaped house or ride a rail system to a destination in the garden as a pavilion.

### Hugh Huddleson

In the winning design, the barn was a point of departure for the design and anchors it in form with the new living room roughly the same size and location as the original barn, which gives it exceptional art walls. The wings of the house that flank the ventral “barn” are treated as separate pavilions or building blocks, reminiscent of the assemblage of structures that might be found on a local farm. “A house should look comfortable amongst his neighbors,” explains Huddleson. The house is stretched along a west-to-east axis, in many places only one room deep, to take full advantage of the south sun. Inside, the floor plan addresses issues that confront people today, from closets everywhere to room configurations that function equally well when the house is full of visitors at a party or when future homeowners are enjoying quiet weekends at home.