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Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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Culture in the Country

High Season Convivium | Gallin's Magic | Garden of Delights



MEET THE DESIGNER

Foley & Cox *by Sophie Donelson*



World Travelers | A library in Wainscott utilizes a Ralph Lauren trunk (LEFT) as a cocktail table. **The Designers** | The clients of Michael Foley and Mary Cox (BELOW LEFT) include a Formula One racecar driver and a princess. **Special Arrangements** | Also in Wainscott, a family room with a custom chandelier (BELOW RIGHT) designed by the duo. **Clean And Lean** | For a modern art collector in East Hampton, Foley & Cox paired white leather Barcelona chairs with black and white accessories (BOTTOM) because the architecture suggested modern furnishings. See Resources.



Do you have a favorite source of inspiration in the Hamptons? *Mary Foley & Michael Cox:* For shopping, Laurin Copen, Bloom and Mecox Gardens. **Where did you receive training?** *MF & MC:* Combined we have 25 years of experience at Ralph Lauren, or Polo University as we affectionately call it. *MC:* We met and later worked together at Ralph Lauren Interiors. **Where is home?** *MF:* Upper East Side and Western Connecticut. *MC:* Upper West Side and Columbia County. **Describe your home:** *MF:* My niece calls it "The White House," though it's not *all* white. *MC:* A constant work-in-progress. **Name a source of inspiration?** *MF & MC:* Travel. From the obvious color influences of Florence, Istanbul, Edinburgh and Chiang Mai to cultural traditions—the hospitality of Hawaiians, the gentility of Thai people or the wry humor of Austrians. **What's your favorite food?** *MF:* Egg white omelettes with fresh herbs from my garden and homemade pizza. *MC:* All things Italian, especially *affogato*. **What are your favorite materials?** *MF & MC:* Ebonized mahogany, white gold leaf, Sivec (a pure white marble), polished nickel, French parchment and whitewater glass. **What's your guilty design pleasure?** *MF & MC:* Obsessing about details—from seat depth, pitch and feather-down density for a client with back problems to the fun and silly details of picking book topics for a guest bedroom. **Name someone who has had a profound impact on your work:** *MF:* Axel Vervoordt. *MC:* Mies van der Rohe. **What's your design philosophy?** *MF & MC:* Appropriateness. Our design process takes direction from geographic location, architecture, and most importantly, the way the client lives. The resulting space is always individual and unique. **Where was your last vacation?** *MF:* My birthday on Cat Island, Bahamas. *MC:* Capri in June. **What are your favorite colors?** Naturals (flax, hemp, straw, linen, and burlap) and whites (especially Donald Kaufman shades). **Have you designed any products?** *MF & MC:* We design most of the furniture for our projects—to achieve the perfect scale, gracious lines and a lustrous finish. **I always cringe when I see:** *MF:* Chenille. *MC:* Interiors that seem to be more about the designer than the client. And clutter.



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