

NEW YORK HOME

STYLISH LIVING & DESIGN | MAY-JUNE 2006

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COVER: A Hamptons home's comfortable sitting area infused with natural elements, designed by Foley & Cox. Photograph by Peter Margonelli.



TWO OF A KIND

**INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM FOLEY & COX
CREATES A NATURAL CONNECTION
BETWEEN A CLIENT'S CITY APARTMENT
AND HAMPTONS HOUSE**

WORKING ON TWO projects simultaneously for the same client poses all sorts of challenges. Indeed, the list of potential problems seems daunting: differentiating the styles of the two spaces, but not too drastically; shuttling back and forth between locations 100 miles apart; sourcing a large number of products; meeting deadlines. But Foley & Cox, the interior design firm founded in 2003 by Michael Cox and Mary Foley, eagerly embraced the task of simultaneously designing one family's Rosario Candela–designed Park Avenue apartment and its new five-bedroom cedar-shingle home in the Hamptons.

The duo, whose classic and refined aesthetic is easy to understand when you realize that they both worked for Ralph Lauren just before founding their 13-person firm, consulted closely with the homeowners from the very begin- ▶

OPPOSITE PAGE: Partners Michael Cox and Mary Foley look out from the second-floor offices of Foley & Cox, just above Cyril Renaud's Fleur de Sel restaurant. THIS PAGE: One of the many comfortable seating areas in the Hamptons house includes a pair of woven chairs with matching ottoman from Ralph Lauren Home. Light-colored Chris Stone linen fabric covers the cushions. The triptych and bronze sculpture were both found at R.E. Steele Antiques in Southampton, New York.





ABOVE: For the Manhattan apartment, Foley & Cox designed the clean-line settee to play up prewar architectural details in the foyer. The mosaic bone drumstool is from Robert Kuo. OPPOSITE PAGE: The entryway of the Hamptons home shares a creamy color scheme with its city counterpart. Accenting the wooden settee from Amy Perlin Antiques are a Calvin Klein throw and pillows covered in fabrics from Chelseo Editions.



THIS PAGE: The Lucca sofa in the living room is upholstered in a creamy Belgian linen. A curvy, 12-arm glass chandelier from John Salibello Antiques hangs overhead; hurricanes on the mantel are from Mecox Gardens in Southampton. The glass-and-wrought-iron table is from Ralph Lauren Home. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT: A desk from Richard Wrightman Design finds a window-front space at one end of the living room. The 7,000-square-foot, five-bedroom Hamptons house was built by the Sagaponack, New York-based firm of Michael Davis & Associates.





ning. The goal they shared with their clients (who own an international production and distribution company) was, Cox says, "to create two environments that reflected their personalities and evoked a sense of welcome and ease." In both homes, "family and comfort were the top priorities." The team chose a soft, neutral color scheme for both houses that includes beiges, grays, and soft blues. Their selection of natural weaves—sisal rugs and linen fabrics—perpetuated the comfortable, easy feeling that pervades the two locations.

But the distinct purposes and personalities of the homes called for distinct approaches. The Park Avenue apartment's classical architecture, for example, needed freshening up, while the country house cried out for a dash of character.

Foley and Cox started with the interiors of the city space. Here "we focused on complementing the gracious prewar details and proportions while updating the tradition of Park Avenue living," Cox explains. Furniture with clean, modern lines was incorporated to update the architecture and complement the couple's contemporary artwork. "In modernizing the classic details we used a lot of neutrals to respect the beautiful mahogany doors, herringbone floors, and plaster moldings," says Foley.

A few months into the city project—in February 2005—the family's new weekend home was completed, so Foley and Cox shifted their efforts into high gear there. They took with them much of what they had learned about their clients in terms of taste ▶



LEFT: In the dining room of the city apartment, an oil painting by Kathryn Lynch hangs on the wall above the sideboard. Blue-and-white ceramics from John Rosselli International add a dash of color to the room. BELOW: In the living room, *Cloud Painting #209* by Jacqueline Gaurevitch is displayed behind a pair of armless suede chairs by Holly Hunt. A floor lamp from Aero Studios illuminates the scene. The crushed-bamboo coffee table is from Wyeth, as is the nickel mirror over the fireplace. The parchment-and-ebony console below the Dan Nygards painting is from custom furniture-maker Richomme.



and personality. The Hamptons home adopted a palette very similar to that of the city apartment; still, the overall tone is "much more relaxed, friendly, casual, and low-maintenance," says Cox. Attention was focused on creating space for friends-and-family weekends and for open-door-policy casual dinners.

"In the Hamptons we were able to focus on creating seating areas that could be used during different times during the day—a bistro chair on the balcony for morning coffee, a wing chair in the library for an afternoon read, and deep, soft sofas and chairs for moments in between," notes Foley. The design team also incorporated beach-themed accessories and products sourced from the West Coast, such as the Chris Stone fabrics, to complete the by-the-shore look.

A fast-paced three months later, on the day before Memorial Weekend, Foley and Cox presented the finished home to their clients. They then turned their attention back to the city space, finishing that project by summer's end—perfect timing for the family's return from the beach. **SEE RESOURCES**





ABOVE, FROM LEFT: A Saladino Lamp sits atop an antique Gustavian commode in one of the Hamptons home's guest bedrooms; the headboard, shams, and side table are from Ralph Lauren Home. OPPOSITE PAGE: In the master bedroom, Chris Stone fabrics were used for upholstery and bedding; lamps are from Treillage. In one daughter's bedroom, a four-poster carved bed and fabrics are from Ralph Lauren Home.







THIS PAGE: Chosen for its casual and commodious appeal, the Swedish farm table from R.E. Steele Antiques seats 12 comfortably. The chandelier was designed by Foley & Cox. OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT: The interior designers kept with their themes of natural textures and elements at the weekend home, filling the rooms with woven baskets and planters, sisal rugs, plants, and seashells.

