

Art And Light
A massive cable-suspended mobile by Pae White, made from hundreds of pieces of paper cutouts and mirrors, hangs in the entry hall (THIS PAGE). In the sitting room (OPPOSITE), a leather and wood rocker by Oscar Niemeyer is surrounded by a group of polished stainless-steel rock sculptures by Arik Levy, which double as occasional tables. In the corner of the room rests Alyson Sholtz's *Wavelength* (2007), an acrylic and aluminum piece that reflects and refracts light throughout the day. See *Resources*.



RANDY'S RETREAT

In East Hampton, Randy Slifka practices the act of artful living, both indoors and out

BY ALEJANDRO SARALEGUI | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN M. HALL



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Collaboration is sometimes a loaded idea when it comes to creating a home—especially in the Hamptons. But for Randy Slifka, collaboration was the key to success.

Slifka’s East Hampton abode started out as the carriage house to his late father’s property across the way. “I struggled with the carriage house for almost a decade,” notes Slifka, “because of problems with the concrete slab and the deteriorating condition of the house as a whole.” After interviewing prominent architects such as Robert A. M. Stern and Lee Mindel, Slifka asked architect Andrew Pollock, a childhood friend, to help him build his dream house, where he now lives with his son, Joshua, his wife, Jan, and dogs Lucifer and Kawaii. Their concept incorporated a traditional cedar-shake gambrel exterior that reflects the character of the neighborhood, along with a modern interior that merges outdoors and indoors, while doubling as a showcase for Slifka’s extensive collection of contemporary art.

“Virtually every element was chosen by me,” says Slifka, an asset manager. “I’ve been to 25 or so stone yards; each bathroom has very specific stone and a Venetian plaster that complements it.” Built with art conservation and security in mind, the detail-rich structure includes light wells in the living room and kitchen that bring an evanescent light into the center of the house; generous wall space allows room for numerous video art installations. Other artworks include polished metal rock sculptures by Arik Levy, which double as side tables in the sitting room, a dazzling entry-hall mobile by Pae White, and a sculpted Brazilian hardwood bar



Conversation Pieces

A Huang Yan portrait, one of four depicting the four seasons, hangs in the entry hall (OPPOSITE BOTTOM); the painting above the Brazilian hardwood bar beyond is by Cecily Brown. In a corner of the bar area (OPPOSITE TOP), a work made with bottle caps by Robert Melee hangs next to a balloon dog by Paul McCarthy. In the dining room (THIS PAGE), Vladimir Kagan chairs in a velvet chenille surround a table from Jayson Home. The chandelier is by Ingo Maurer and the sculpture is by Johannes VanDerBeek. See Resources.



Objects Of Beauty
 (OPPOSITE TOP LEFT AND RIGHT) The Conoid bench in the master suite is by George Nakashima; the bathtub and hardware are from Kohler. The Venetian glass pendant is from Lee's Studio. In a downstairs game room (OPPOSITE BOTTOM), a stainless-steel Ping-Pong table by Ron Arad sits next to a stuffed-animal chair by Fernando and Humberto Campana. The sofa in the living room (THIS PAGE LEFT) is by Armani Casa; the stone coffee table is by Ward Bennett and the Voido chair is by Ron Arad. A lotus pond and "spirit bridge" lie adjacent to the house (THIS PAGE BOTTOM). See Resources.

from Tucker Robbins. "I know it's a cliché," Slifka remarks, "but God is in the details—whether it's in the hardware, the patina of the wood, the feel of the fabric, or the outside light fixtures. I've given every element attention and thought."

Slifka traces his interest in contemporary art to his grandparents, who were advised on their collection by William Rubin, the former paintings and sculpture curator of the Museum of Modern Art. His first art purchase was a Warhol portrait of himself; recent acquisitions include pieces by Ryan Sullivan, Paul McCarthy, Rashid Johnson, and Laura Owens. "I really believe it is important to support younger artists," says Slifka. "I'm constantly thinking about how art being made today fits into the history of art overall. I collect what I find compelling and provocative—it has to touch my mind, heart, and soul. One of the great pleasures of building a home is curating what's inside it. I could never imagine handing over the palette to an interior designer."

Slifka is equally passionate about the local environment and his garden. More than 20 years ago, thanks to a generous gift from his aunt, he began working with Eric Groft and James van Sweden of Oehme van Sweden Landscape Architects to transform the property's pool garden. "We set out the borders for Randy, knowing that he would then add his own layers to it," explains Groft. "He's more

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of a colorist than I am, and he is willing to make the glorious 'mistake,' which is so important in gardening: A plant might die, or you might come out with a winner!" Over the years Slifka has continued this relationship with Groft and is a devoted gardener himself, adding and editing as he sees fit.

With a Groft-devised master plan that separates public and private spaces, the oddly shaped two-acre lot accommodates a host of discrete garden "rooms." Between the house and garage, along a bluestone path planted with mazus, Slifka "has added an extravagant dahlia garden that is very successful," Groft says. The lotus pond that practically laps at the edge of the house was planned simultaneously with the architecture of the new house so that they would appear seamlessly integrated. Slifka's long-standing interest in Asian gardens probably explains the spirit bridge, though he is quick to point out that "it was 100 percent Eric's idea and brilliance." And Jan, a certified yoga instructor, often practices outdoors on a platform surrounded by massive *Petasites*.

"The natural beauty and the spirit of the Hamptons is really what attracts me to this area," says Slifka, "not the glitz. It's the inherent natural elements that are wonderful, and it's nice in my own small way to be able to add to that beauty." ✨



Color Whirl
The landscape design was begun many years ago by Oehme van Sweden Landscape Architects and has been added to and enhanced by Randy Slifka, who is pictured with his wife, Jan (NEAR LEFT), in an outdoor sitting area overlooking the lotus pond (OPPOSITE TOP). Giant alliums line a path leading toward a massive beech tree (OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT); rhododendrons contrast sharply with a stand of *Petasites* (OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT). Tall grasses frame the swimming pool (THIS PAGE BOTTOM). See Resources.

