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BY SAMUEL T. CLOVER

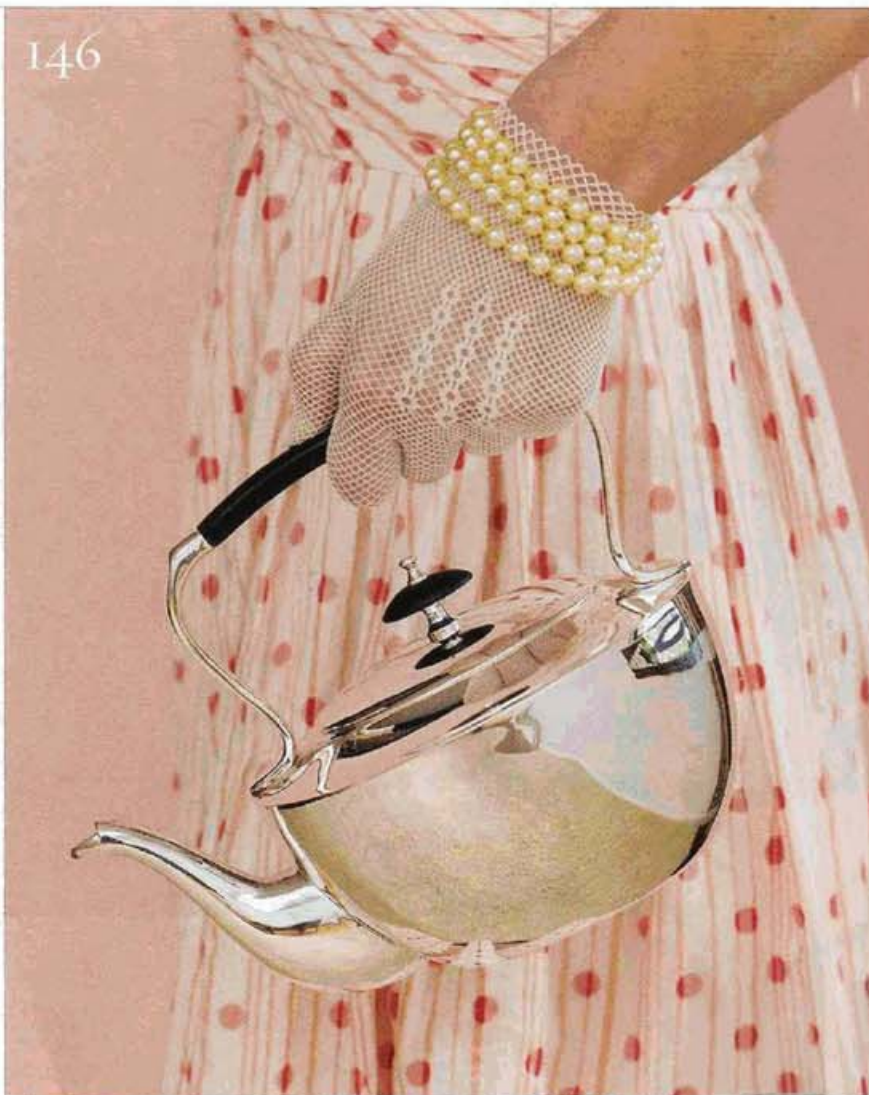
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PARTY OF TWO

PARTNERS IN BUSINESS AND LIFE, TWO NEW YORK CITY EVENT DESIGNERS ESCAPE TO BRIDGEHAMPTON

BY EMILY LIEBERT | PHOTOGRAPHS BY AIMEE HERRING

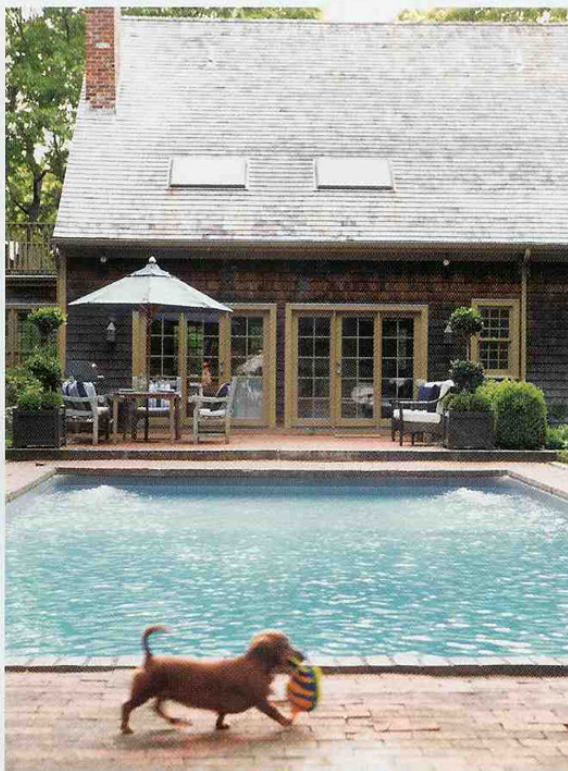


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ON WENDT AND PHILIP MACGREGOR live to entertain, and as co-founders of Ron Wendt Design, a high-end event design company in Manhattan, they also entertain to live. It's no wonder, then, that these partners in business and life need a retreat from their hectic lives: a circa-1986 Colonial saltbox house in Bridgehampton.

"At the end of our usual grueling week, we often feel too selfish to share the place with anyone but our seven-year-old dachshund, Basil," Wendt says. The 2,000-square-foot home, which sits atop a hill on their one-acre property, appealed to the couple because of its "seclusion from the outside world," they say. With a primary residence in an Upper West Side brownstone, the couple certainly appreciates a life apart.

Prior to their Bridgehampton getaway, the duo owned a small cottage in Sag Harbor for 10 years. They moved because they wanted more space and privacy. "We were right in the village and people just dropped in all the time," Wendt says. He saw their current home advertised well before they considered relocating, and was thrilled to find it still on the market a year later. "I really feel that this house was waiting for us," he says. "I immediately loved the formation of the windows, the proportions, how the house was situated and the way the view from the front door immediately opens up to



Lettuce Entertain You | Homeowners Philip MacGregor and Ron Wendt make all of their salads with lettuce (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) and other vegetables from their organic garden.

Gateway to Paradise | MacGregor, Wendt and their dachshund, Basil (PREVIOUS SPREAD RIGHT, LEFT TO RIGHT), welcome guests to their Bridgehampton retreat through a garden gate.

Earthy Delights | Wendt (ABOVE), a former garden designer, tends to one of many garden expanses throughout the one-acre property.

Pretty Peonies | A typical table setting for one of the homeowners' intimate get-togethers (FAR LEFT) includes Blue Champagne stems that were a gift from friends, Christofle flatware and Simon Pierce cordial glasses filled with freshly cut peonies from their garden.

Fishy Fun | Basil and her toy fish (LEFT) spend hours circling the pool, just outside of the living room.

Outdoor Elegance | Under a tent (RIGHT), a silk paisley throw from a friend's trip to India covers the table, highlighting the dishes and glassware from Crate & Barrel. See Resources.



Be Our Guest | Friends can relax in either of two guest rooms (LEFT) that occupy part of the first floor. **Front to Back** | The living room (BELOW) is decorated with numerous antiques, including a 1930s center table and Regency period bull's-eye mirror above the fireplace. **Room with a View** | The dining room (BOTTOM LEFT) offers views of both the front and back gardens, and boasts a table found at Sage Street Antiques in Sag Harbor. **Hail to the Chef** | MacGregor, the cook of the duo, prepares elaborate meals in the kitchen (BOTTOM RIGHT), which opens to the space. **Sitting Pretty** | More antiques in the living room, such as this Windsor chair (OPPOSITE), add a serene richness to the living room. Antique antlers from the Black Forest are "a warning to all local deer to stay out of the garden," says Wendt. See Resources.



the living room and then on to the pool and garden. I also especially loved the dining room. I imagined sitting there, looking out either side to the front and back gardens. It's still one of my favorite places."

Despite their passion for their home, which features a soaring, double-height living room with twin sets of French doors leading to the pool area in back, the couple hesitates to share it with large groups. "We do not entertain a lot socially here," Wendt says. "This is the place where we come to relax and flee the world of entertaining." Leisure time typically finds Wendt tending his organic vegetable and herb garden along the side of the house and MacGregor in the kitchen planning fabulous menus for small get-togethers—groups of six at the most.

One such intimate gathering is their annual Chinese New Year party. "At the last one," Wendt says, "we had Chinese lanterns hanging all over the place. The dining table was a blend of red and gold silks, and Philip went to Chinatown and whipped up an amazing eight-course dinner with customized cocktails." MacGregor adds, "I would have loved to have been a professional chef in another life, but the vocational stress of cooking for a living might have outweighed the joy of cooking for friends."

The couple designed the interiors themselves. "We picked a quiet, soothing palette to foster a peaceful environment," MacGregor says. This includes soft hues inspired by the colors of their outdoor scenery—the blues of the sky and pool and the gray of the tree bark. Highlighted by an abundance of natural light, the eclectic décor is a mix of modern and traditional, with 17th-century antiques (including an English clock and









a Scottish side table), a 19th-century pedestal dining table and contemporary pillows in the shape of dachshunds—gifts from a friend. “It was a pleasure to create something beautiful that would last longer than just a few hours, as our work often does,” Wendt says.

The three-bedroom dwelling, which includes two guest rooms downstairs that can be closed off for privacy, boasts an upstairs devoted exclusively to a master suite with a bath, dressing area, sitting room and terrace. Light, pickle-stained, wide-plank flooring extends throughout (except for the bedrooms). Works of art are prominently displayed, including a painting of London’s Hampstead Heath in the living room (which bears a striking resemblance to their own view of the woods) and a photograph of Trout Pond in Noyac upstairs, taken by local artist and friend Tanya Malott. In the master bedroom and entry stairway, antique antlers from the Black Forest are mounted on the walls. “They’re a warning to all local deer to stay out of the garden,” says Wendt.

It’s no surprise that Wendt, who designed gardens in Texas and New York for more than eight years, is protective of his domain. Aside from his vegetable garden, which supplies the ingredients to all of their salads, he built a raised boxwood parterre with a trellis for climbing roses to create a privacy screen along the pool. “At night in the back garden we have a series of low-voltage lights that illuminate the tall oaks into a magnificent theatrical effect,” Wendt says. “It’s simple, but breathtaking.”

“We see ourselves in this home for the long term,” MacGregor says. “It’s our recharge zone. Some weekends, we pick up groceries and don’t leave the house at all.” ♦

Dachshund Territory | A photograph by friend Tanya Malott (OPPOSITE) hangs in the upstairs master sitting area. The lamp, from Stray Dog Designs, rests atop a table the couple has had for years. Dachshund pillows are just one of many dog-related gifts Wendt and MacGregor happily receive.

Black Forest Bedroom | A retreat within their retreat, the master bedroom (ABOVE) is made complete with Frette sheets, a bed skirt of William Morris fabric and more Black Forest antlers. **Picture Perfect** | The front exterior of the house (RIGHT) boasts a large yard complete with a circular bench for relaxing with friends (EAR RIGHT). Here Wendt and MacGregor spend time with dear friend actress Noelle Beck. See Resources.

