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LIFESTYLE

The House of Tomorrow

An ambitious new residential development in the Hamptons is set to change how people spend their weekends in the country



THE HOUSE
Architects: Hariri & Hariri. **Year started:** 2001. **Year completed:** 2004. 5000 square feet over two levels (the basement sets the house on a freestanding podium) with 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and 2.7 wooded acres with a tennis court and pool. **Hidden luxuries:** poolside covered porch with a shower. **Additional perks:** access to 3 miles of walking paths and a 13-acre park. **Price:** \$2,950,000. The remaining houses are projected to range from \$1.4 million to \$2.9 million; reasonably priced by Hamptons standards (housesatsagaponac.com).



Developer Coco Brown chats with Ana Kearin at a party celebrating the new space



Architects Mojgan (left) and Gisue Hariri with Brown



The open-plan living room and kitchen



Sliding glass "walls" are in the bedrooms

Who would have thought that the architects behind such famous buildings as the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Central Terminal Complex at JFK Airport would be designing homes that you could buy?

Art patron and real estate developer Harry J. "Coco" Brown is the brains behind The Houses at Sagaponac, a starkly modern enclave-in-the-making of 34 homes by 34 all-star, progressive architectural teams—including Henry Cobb and the architects of the house featured here, sisters Gisue and Mojgan Hariri—in the very traditional Hamptons. Brown

is feeling a "zing" at seeing the first house in his latest venture go from blueprint to reality, and it's not far off from the rush he felt producing Edward Albee plays during the '60s. "These houses together are a very strong statement," he says. "It will modernize the style of life here." Whether or not that happens, Sagaponac will certainly be a residential coup d'état: For some of the architects, it will be their first completed residential space. For the Hariris, it's one of many, but, says Gisue, a lanky Persian, adjusting her retro-modern glasses, "this is probably the most unique."

That sentiment is echoed by a group of curious East Enders—



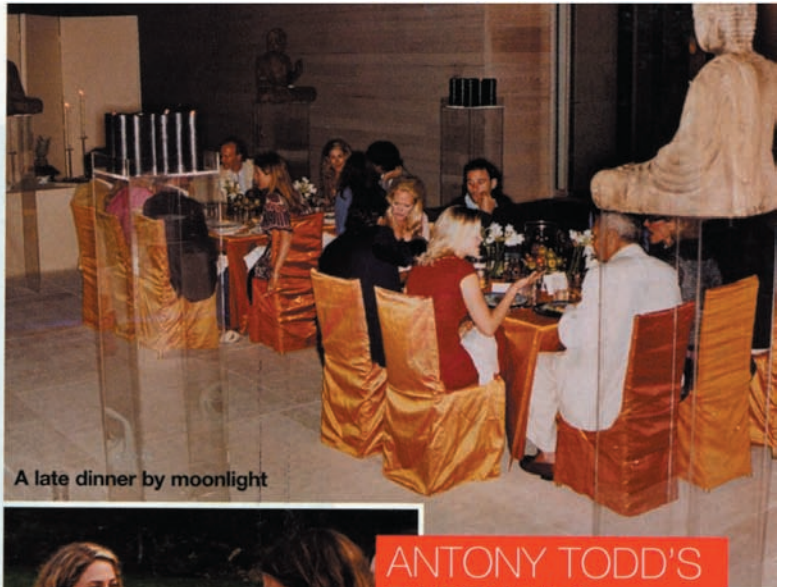
The multilevel terrace was designed with entertaining in mind

including event planner and floral designer Antony Todd, lifestyle expert Nina Griscom and hair guru Frédéric Fekkai—who have come together for this first party in the new space.

“This house was designed for socializing,” says Gisue. Their inspiration—sculptor Alberto Giacometti’s *Figure in a Box Between Two Boxes Which Are Houses*—is striking, from its L-configuration to the retractable glass walls. “The pool becomes the center of the house,” she says. “Like a stage.”

Stage left, Fekkai is lounging by the pool, asking DJ Beverly Bond about her Pam Grier-size Afro, while Todd eyes the crowd from a pile of plush red cushions. “It’s such a modernist house, you need to add some beautiful old things,” says Todd, who styled this Sagaponac party. “If I were decorating the entire house, I would have lots of organic and vintage pieces.” (Todd has been busy: He and Griscom opened their lifestyle boutique in Southampton just a few weeks before this soiree.) “Being in a house so sparse and clean is liberating,” says guest and jewelry designer Landon Slane of Slane & Slane. “I love the flow of the space and its simplicity.”

“That’s what good modern architects are supposed to do,” Brown says, handing Slane a tumbler of rosé. “They should give you an experience of yourself in time and space, not just a shelter from the storm.” All financial gains aside, to an avid art collector like Brown, the project is just a way to get people (even if it’s only 34 households of them) to view life through a different lens. “That,” he says, “is my entire ambition.” **Jen Ford**



A late dinner by moonlight



Sari Gueron and Vanessa von Bismarck

ANTONY TODD'S PARTY TIPS

1. Create moods rather than entertain. “Make things slightly soft and thrown together, so it’s not too formal.” Oversize cushions encourage mingling.
2. If you’re having more than eight people to dinner, use multiple smaller tables.
3. Serve all drinks in classic hand-blown tumblers.
4. Mix old flatware with modern plates, and add table toppings: In this case, tables were swathed in exotic silks, piled high with ripe fruits and lit with fat black candles.
5. Flowers and fabrics add instant chic to any space.

THE MENU

Palma D’Orazio, who owns Palma in the West Village, prepared a rich feast, including zucchini flowers filled with ricotta di bufala in a light champagne batter, sautéed Long Island clams and a flourless chocolate cake with berries.



Antony Todd and Nina Griscom do a spin



DJ Bond mixes it up

THE MUSIC

DJ Beverly Bond, a favorite of Sean Combs, created a sexy soundtrack for the evening, including:

1. “Got to Give It Up,” Marvin Gaye
2. “Upside Down,” Fela Kuti
3. “E2-E4,” Manuel Göttsching