

BY SPOORTHY SATHEESH

home



Bates Masi
+ Architects
designed this
stunning Sagg
Farm residence in
Sagaponack, seen
here illuminated
at dusk.

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The work of Bates Masi + Architects (batesmasi.com) has become synonymous with the Hamptons' architectural tapestry. Renowned for its gentle consideration of the environment enwrapped in a modernistic expression, the firm puts this signature treatment on full display in its latest Sagaponack project. Here, Paul Masi takes us through the gorgeous family home that seeks to honor traditions of the area by applying the fundamental principles of agriculture to architecture. The ensuing results are progressive yet familiar.

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how do you bring about

your signature style in tandem with the vernacular of the Hamptons and the area's growing love of modern architecture?

The direction of our architectural design has been formed by the local vernacular and the long history of our firm. There is a tradition of building materials, forms and lifestyle to the area that has played a part in how we develop our ideas for each project.

How has your design transitioned over time, and what are some of the factors that affect the change?

Factors that affect the change are our clientele, their lifestyles and technology. Through the years these aspects have evolved and, in turn, so has our practice. For example, our firm is known for craft in architecture, and while this has remained a focus, the fabrication process has changed with technology. In some ways it has opened doors for new designs to explore.

Tell us more about your Sagg Farm project and the overall aesthetic that brings it together.

Sagaponack, with its flat terrain and fertile loam, has historically been a farming community set within the resort enclaves on the East End of Long Island. The open expanses of its potato fields sat in contrast to the forests and gardens of the surroundings. In recent years, fueled by its proximity to the ocean, the tide of development in Sagaponack has been



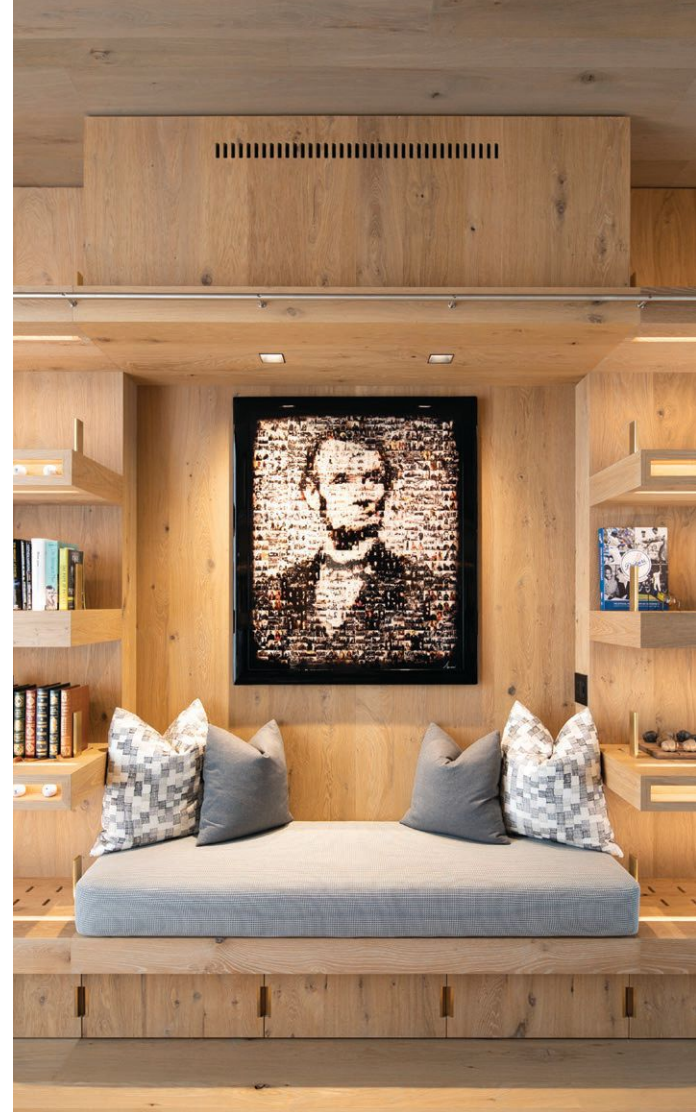
From top: Marble and wood details contrast beautifully in the Sagg Farm project's kitchen; the custom cabinetry was designed by Bates Masi + Architects.





Clockwise from top: The straight lines formed by the modern main stairway juxtapose the home's agricultural surroundings; the spa boasts a view of the lower-level courtyard; a natural color palette rules throughout the home, as seen here in the entry.





steady and inevitable. Farm fields have given way to residential subdivisions. This project seeks to honor the agricultural traditions of the area by applying the fundamental principles of agriculture to architecture: placing order on nature and maximizing access to light and air.

Walk us through the process and timeline of transforming the client's home.

On this particular project, the clients were well versed in construction and played a big role in the process. They added value to the project by bringing craftsmen they had worked with in the past such as artists and lighting designers who we were able to collaborate with to create unique design moments. Agriculture juxtaposes organic plant forms with meticulously cultivated straight rows. This beautiful contrast inspired the treatment of materials in the architecture. With the concept rooted in the vernacular of the area, the color palette was based on natural materials that will gradually weather and patina over time.

What were some of the unforeseen challenges?

During the construction document phase before we received the permit, Sagaponack's zoning regulations were changing. This prompted a series of significant amendments to the design in order to comply with the changing building code. Sagg Farm is a meticulously detailed project, so each minor adjustment then echoed throughout and required major coordination.

How does the end result reflect the area's agricultural traditions?

What is good for crops is also good for people. And so, by applying the principles of farming to architecture, the house is made more comfortable and more beautiful. At the same time, the disappearing historic character of the place is recorded in the design. ■



Clockwise from top: Organic shapes and materials are on full display in the dining room; architect Paul Masi; the clients helped bring in artists and craftsmen they had previously worked with to create wow moments throughout the home, such as the custom artwork seen here.

