



A 22-foot-wide foyer separates the wings of the 5,500-square-foot house.

## The Gables

*Evocative of the saltboxes of centuries past*

BY ERICA-LYNN HUBERTY • DURELL GODFREY PHOTOS

What goes around comes back around eventually, especially with architecture. The stark, slanted saltboxes of centuries ago gave way, in my childhood, to boxy Norman Jaffe houses, which eventually evolved into enormous, pointy Farrell “Dutch-revival” mansions in the early 2000s. Over the last five years or so, local architecture has circled back to a vernacular originating in humble saltboxes as filtered through a Jaffe vibe. Perhaps this is because of the growing urgency to live more in tandem with the natural world. Many East End residents, especially since Superstorm Sandy, have become keenly aware that the surrounding environment is fast changing and endangered, requiring less energy and more compromise on the part of those who live here.

Building “green” isn’t as straightforward as one might suppose, however. The architect Stuart Narofsky employed all the to-code tactics for years, checking off every box, dotting every “i” and crossing every “t” required by green building codes. Until he stopped, took a deep breath, and never looked back. Except, of course, when he looked back to the oldest, historically green, architectural methods.

Such is the case with the Bergstein house, The Gables, a 5,500-square-foot modern home created as a spec house, just outside East Hampton Village near the LongHouse Reserve. It ended up in the grateful possession of Bonnie and Joel Bergstein, who with their two children have filled the spaces with neutral furnishings, colorful art, and a friendly, almost bohemian feel. The family, after renting in East Hampton for five years, had been looking for a modern, sustainable residence where, Ms. Bergstein explained, “We could see the sky.” (Mr. Bergstein is well acquainted with real estate as president of the Lincoln Equities Group.)

“I went back into the history books,” Mr. Narofsky said about his sustainable designs, “before there was air-conditioning, before there was electricity, asking myself ‘how did people build dwellings to deal with their environment? What was natural to it? What did they do?’ To me, sustainability starts with that line of thinking.”

The finishes used in The Gables, such as cedar and bluestone, are traditional in East Hampton, and the overall shape and lines of the house — though angular and modern — sits in the landscape as if open and ready for the elements.

The house is also vaguely Palladian-inspired, featuring a three-gabled front elevation with each of the gables positioned to offer vistas. The living room takes advantage of natural light, and many windows provide views across the property and pool. Outside, a covered porch walkway spans the length of the house, on which the Bergsteins’ dog, Paisley, can be found lounging.

“Our persistence to give the house the organic architectural feeling it de-

served was a process, from the color and size of the rocks to the color of any blooms, being white and purple with lots of green wispy grasses,” Ms. Bergstein said about the landscaping, designed and implemented by Arthur Mendoza of Lavender Landscaping in Westhampton. “Just like the interior furnishings, we felt the exterior landscaping should complement the house.”

The 1.1-acre property includes a heat-

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