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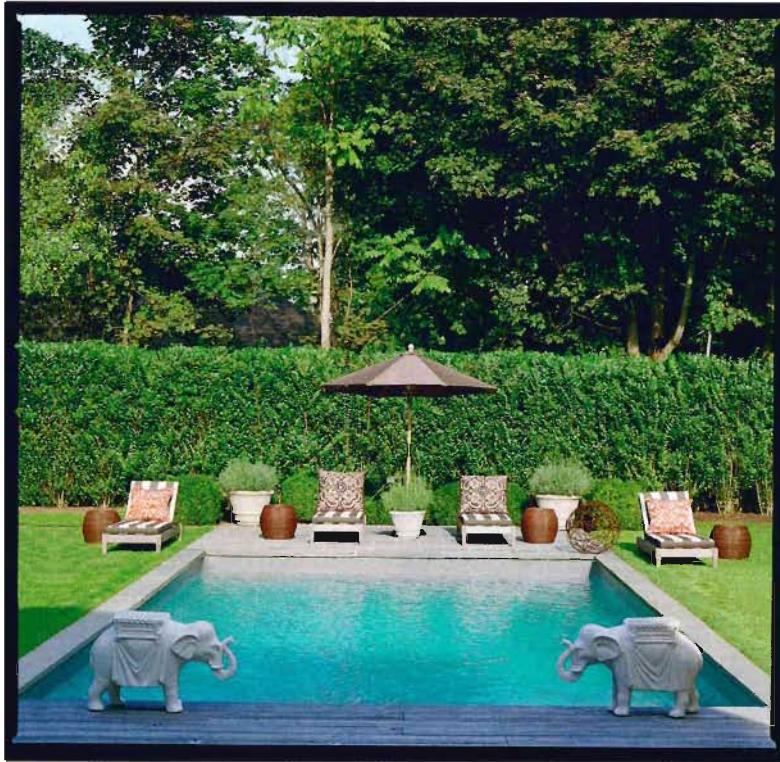
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# BEYOND SEX & THE CITY

**CANDACE BUSHNELL'S** DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; THE AUTHOR  
ON NEW YORK WOMEN, MAKING IT AS A WRITER AND NOT TAKING ANY CRAP

**BY GEORGE GURLEY**





# SOUTHAMPTON SIMPLIFIED

The charm and light of one  
designer's summer cottage.

When interior decorator Tim Whealon bought his cottage out in Southampton, he knew he couldn't compete in terms of square footage with the Hamptons Palaces that dominate the Long Island shoreline. But he figured he could bring a mix of old-world charm, clean lines and eclecticism to the weekend retreat. The result is a house so charming it makes you wonder why anyone would want to bother with more than a simple weekend cottage.

BY DAISY PRINCE • PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM WALDRON







The teak sofas and chairs on the porch are by Restoration Hardware, the cocktail table is from Mecox Gardens and the lanterns are from Homenature.





**BUILT IN 1914**, Mr. Whealon's idyll is a two-story, three-bedroom shingled house a block from the main street with a garden big enough for a dog to play in and small enough not to require a full-time gardener. (He does his own weeding, as stress relief.) After years of renting in the area, Mr. Whealon was decisive when it came to his cottage. His broker showed it to him on a windy day in March and he put in an offer immediately. (He declined to discuss price.) "The cottage is all about light and air, which captures the feeling I have for the

The living room sofas and leather ottoman are by Mr. Whealon, as is the Lucite table to the right. The sofa pillows are covered in linen and vintage materials. The vintage table lamp is by Aero. Right: A group of 1960's Harvey Probber chairs. The French chandelier is from Sentimento Antiques.







In the master bedroom, the bed is by Martyn Lawrence-Bullard, the pillow is by John Robshaw Textiles; the ceiling fixture is from Ann-Morris Antiques and the sconce is by Oly.

interior of this place,” he said.

Known as a decorator with, to say the least, a penchant for color, Mr. Whealon covered the front entrance hall in Phillip Jeffries material of a deep Madagascar blue, and offset it with a white staircase and modern photographs mounting the walls. “There is a clean crispness to my rooms but I also want them to be warm and inviting,” he said. The decorator put up ceiling moldings and stained all the floors a deep chocolate brown. His living room and dining rooms are pale pink but his bedroom is a

lavender gray; guest rooms are blue and green. The kitchen floor has a soothing checkerboard pattern and the walls are painted a white that Mr. Whealon mixes himself, perfected after countless jobs. The bathroom is equally pristine but instead of a having a modern, square sink, he chose a curved number with dual taps. The look is “cottage fresh,” as he likes to put it.

Inside, he was unafraid to mix art from different periods. One special find, he said, were 33 botanical prints by Italian artist Giuseppe Penone discovered at the art fair Art Basel.

They sit above a vintage 1950’s chest of drawers that Mr. Whealon found in the Dixie Highway antiques haven outside of Palm Beach. Harvey Prober chairs paired with a Lucite table (which he designed himself) offer another light touch. Chandeliers don’t usually call up the idea of relaxation, but his, from the 1930’s and painted white, has “a clean, beachy, modernist feel.”

Mr. Whealon has a relaxed attitude toward the project. Even if the wall colors fade, “I don’t believe in closing the curtains,” he said. Nothing makes me happier than to see kids running





The botanical prints are by Giuseppe Perone. The chest of drawers is 1950's vintage. The walls are painted Pink Ground by Farrow and Ball.

around this place. It gives it a life and flow. It's not a precious space. I like the livability that comes from having the windows open and the lilacs and lavender underneath the windows."

After graduating from Kenyon College, the Midwest-born designer spent a few years training to be a banker before deciding that number crunching wasn't for him. He ended up doing a Sotheby's art course in London that introduced him to Palladian architecture and he fell in love with some of the grand English houses when he

was there. "I loved Houghton," he said. "Neo-Palladian houses are so incredible, and I try to bring elements of that pared-down sensibility to my design."

He worked at Sotheby's for a year in its apprenticeship program, which meant that he rotated continually between departments. He started working directly for high-end clients who lived at 740 Park, buying art and antiques for them as well as traveling constantly. Then he had his "ahh-ha" moment and decided that it

was time to go into his own business.

Now, Mr. Whealon likes clients to take his advice from soup to nuts, so he recommends the architect, an art adviser and anything and everything they need to make a spectacular place to live. He loves long projects and doesn't feel his job is complete until the Champagne is in the fridge and the sheets are pressed and ready to go.

When it comes to his own place, Mr. Whealon is a bit of a magpie who picks up art and furni-





A guest room has a photograph by Jenny van Sommers hanging above the bed and a headboard upholstered in a Michael Devine fabric, custom-made bedding and a throw by Johnathan Adler; the walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Sea Foam. The master bath sink is "Belle Epoque" by Waterworks.

ture he loves and fits them into his space, rather than the other way around, "I don't understand people who get a tape measure out for everything." He shops for tidbits at the Marché aux Puce in Paris, furniture at Susanin's in Chicago, rugs from friends in Turkey, Swedish pieces from a Sag Harbor shop called Bloom and modernist designs from R.E. Steele in Southampton. He buys things first and mixes them afterwards.

He collects elephants with their trunks raised as they are a sign of prosperity, wisdom and longevity. They provide just a touch of exoticism around his pool, where he often entertains friends and neighbors in a laid-back style with bottles of rosé and barbecues. "My favorite afternoons are the ones where I don't leave the house at all." After spending time in his world, we didn't want to leave either. ●