

DESIGNER TIMOTHY  
GODBOLD BREATHED NEW  
LIFE INTO A HISTORIC  
SAG HARBOR BUNGALOW  
WITH PLENTY OF CLEAN  
LINES, A NEUTRAL COLOR  
PALETTE, AND A VIBE AS  
LAID-BACK AS ITS OWNER.

# haven *in the* hamptons

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY PAIGE PORTER FISCHER PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRIA GIOVAN STYLED BY MICHAEL WALTERS

**OPPOSITE** Graphic black and white objects join organic shapes and living things to give a clean, natural sensibility to Joe Daly's Sag Harbor bungalow. **THIS PHOTO** An original Dutch door opens to reveal interior designer Timothy Godbold's signature West Coast-inspired approach to casual decor that mixes old and new styles.







**J**OE DALY ALWAYS FELT RIGHT AT HOME IN THE Hamptons. From the small bungalow he rented in Sag Harbor, New York, he could step off his front porch and stroll to the harbor to watch the beautiful boats come and go or walk to the coffee shop to mingle with the locals—a diverse blend of artists, writers, and business owners. So when his landlord mentioned selling the century-old cedar-shingled cottage, Joe decided he'd rather buy it than be forced to leave the charming historic neighborhood.

Although he was willing to forgive some of the old home's flaws as a renter, Joe wanted it to be perfect and to maximize every square inch once he owned the place. "I didn't need a showhouse or anything close to fussy or pretentious," he says. "I wanted a relaxed and comfortable house where my friends and family could come and put their feet up and feel at home."

Joe hoped to hire Hamptons designer Timothy Godbold—known for his streamlined, West Coast-inspired aesthetic—to work his magic on the cottage. "He politely declined at first," Joe recalls. "He was very busy and in demand. I told him he couldn't say 'no' until he walked through the house. He came over and saw the place and changed his mind."

**OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT** Shapely black accessories pop off the white-painted brick fireplace. A staghorn fern, which requires no soil, acts as living sculpture. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** In the historic district of Sag Harbor, very little of a home's exterior can be changed—but that suited homeowner Joe Daly just fine. **BELOW** Godbold outfitted the compact living room with a custom U-shape sectional sofa dressed in hard-wearing velvet fabric in a forgiving driftwood gray shade. A round, white concrete coffee table brings a softer shape to the room's many right angles. Vintage artwork from Lost Art Salon in San Francisco hangs on the bookshelves.











**OPPOSITE** A custom porcelain chandelier serves up drama over a gold Calacatta marble dining table from Italy paired with vintage-modern Lawson-Fenning chairs. The console is one of Joe's vintage pieces that deliver personality and history. **ABOVE** A pass-through opened up the kitchen to the dining room. Next to it, a bar nook is backed with black-glazed brick tile. **RIGHT** To create a French bistro look for the kitchen, Godbold mixed industrial elements like blackened-steel hardware and open shelves with timeless materials such as Carrara marble and white subway tiles. **BELOW** Joe relaxes with his dog, Lulu, on a comfy porch swing.



Godbold first updated the infrastructure by leveling the foundation of the small house, whose wooden floors sloped as much as 2 inches from corner to corner in some of the rooms. He also added some essential modern ingredients like insulation, central heat, and air conditioning. "We had to get the actual house to be user-friendly before we could get to the fun part of decorating it," Godbold says.

Visually, Joe and Godbold had the same wish list in mind: clean lines, lots of white and neutrals, durable textiles, and functional yet comfortable furnishings that walk the line between classic, natural, and modern. "I have a dog and I have grandchildren," Joe says, "and I didn't want any part of the house to be off-limits to any of them."

Godbold smoothed the textured plaster walls then painted them—and all their gorgeous original moldings—bright white, giving the home the crisp, clean backdrop Joe desired. He removed a wall in the kitchen to open it onto the dining room, connecting the two spaces and visually enlarging each. Rooms were created out of nooks and corners, making





**ABOVE** Because Joe wasn't able to enlarge the historic home's footprint, outdoor spaces were outfitted for living. **LEFT** Joe loves his Eames chair, so Godbold gave it a prime spot at the top of the stairs—on a landing visible from the front door. The designer combed through boxes, selecting photographs and sketches to frame for a gallery wall. He also added a round rug to define the space. "I love a round rug," Godbold says, "for looks and practicality, because no one is coming up the stairs and tripping on a corner." The landing has become one of Joe's favorite "rooms" in the house, where he often goes to read and meditate. **OPPOSITE** Simple hooks on a pool house wall keep towels and sun hats at the ready for the cottage's pool, which Joe and his family use faithfully throughout the summer.

"I LOVED THIS COTTAGE ALL ALONG  
BECAUSE IT WAS JUST THAT—  
a very simple little cottage."

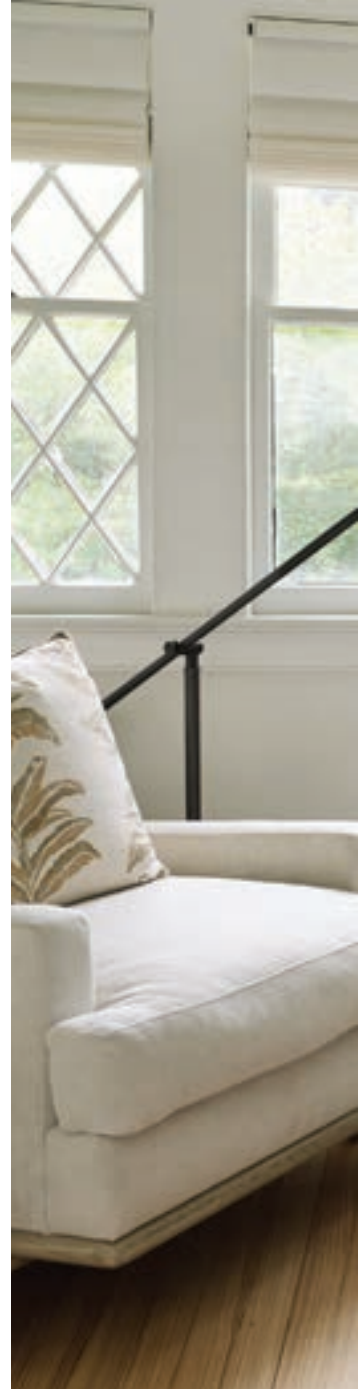
—HOMEOWNER JOE DALY





**RIGHT** Small floating shelves were built into the walls because there was no room for nightstands.

**BELOW** The existing tub was tucked neatly underneath a bank of sunny windows, which both homeowner and designer loved. But Godbold removed the wood floors and replaced them with tile mosaics, tiled the walls, and chose a clean-lined sink vanity to create a more airy feeling in the space.





the most of the 1,600 square feet. The designer added more pet- and kid-friendly textiles throughout the space, upholstering the custom sofa in the living room in a forgiving gray velvet and choosing braided leather barstools that can be wiped down after spills. And he effortlessly married stunning new furnishings with some of Joe's most meaningful pieces. "I really wanted every single space to have Joe's stamp on it, not mine," Godbold says. "The goal was to keep the house feeling personal."

When Joe saw the finished product, he was so pleased that he cried. "There's nothing like seeing the pieces in your home that have stories to tell," he says, "whether it's artwork that reminds you of a trip you took or furniture that brings to mind the friend or family member you inherited it from. Those are the things that really brought this house to life for me and made it feel like my home." □

RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 110.

#### OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT

"The shower was a dark hole," Godbold says, so he had a skylight put in. "It completely transformed the space and gave the shower this feeling of being an outdoor shower. It gets absolutely flooded with light."

**ABOVE** The house has three small bedrooms; this one is Joe's, which features a wall of original windows. Because of the diminutive scale, Godbold chose a simple, clean-lined bed. Ralph Lauren sconces provide reading light.