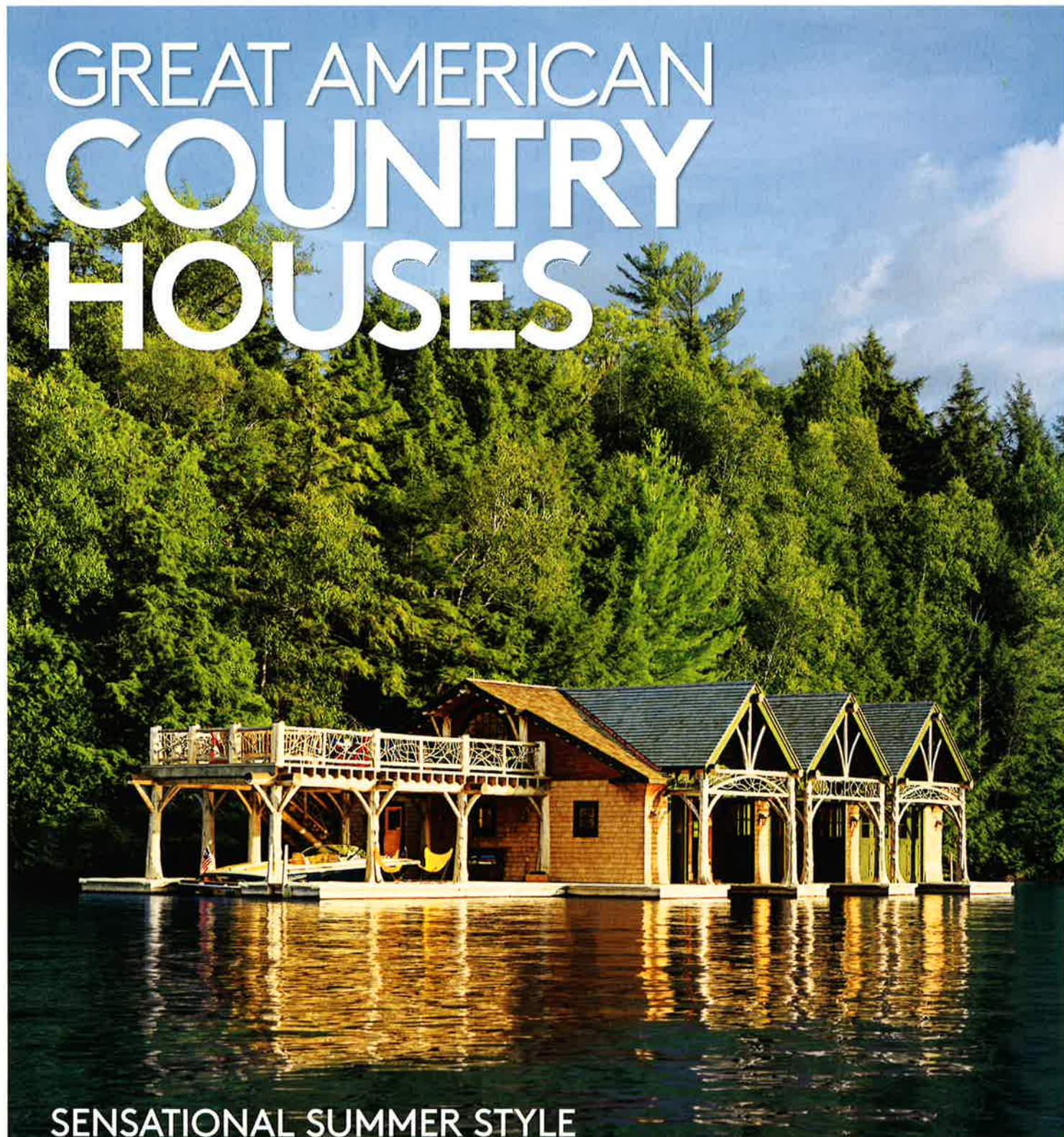


ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

JULY 2014

GREAT AMERICAN COUNTRY HOUSES



SENSATIONAL SUMMER STYLE
A LEGENDARY YACHT SETS SAIL
THE PLEASURES OF PROVENCE

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How many times have you sat on a pristine stretch of beach and thought to yourself, If only I could have this year-round?

Now imagine you've actually achieved that dream, relocating your family and work to a place most people only experience for a week or two at a time. Would that put an end to your vacation-home fantasies? In the case of Helen and Jeremy Parfit, a couple in the enviable position of calling Bermuda home, the answer was a resounding *no*. Helen had grown up on the island, and they decided to move there from London in 1997. But a few years ago, the Parfits (who also spend part of each spring in southern Spain) began looking for a base in the U.S., or, as Jeremy puts it, "a new adventure."

There were practical motivations, too. With business regularly bringing the pair to Manhattan (both work in the investment industry), and with one son already attending college in the States and the other soon to do the same, having a home convenient to New York City's airports made a lot of sense. Given the Parfits' desire to be close to the sea, along with their passion for gardens, it's hardly surprising that they focused their search on Long Island, quickly zeroing in on the picturesque Village of Southampton. "It reminds me of certain parts of England," says Jeremy, who grew up in Dorset.

After visiting a number of properties over several months, the couple came across a 1990s residence on a one-acre parcel just a few blocks from the ocean. While the house wasn't quite what they wanted, its location, the abundance of light afforded by the corner lot, and the mature plane trees and privet hedges lining the perimeter were simply too appealing to pass up. They immediately felt this was the perfect place to fashion the home they'd been dreaming of. Explains Jeremy, "We basically looked at it as, What can we do with this site?"

To help resolve that question, the Parfits turned to Brian Sawyer and John Berson, principals of the New York City architecture, landscape architecture, and interiors firm Sawyer|Berson. Jeremy had greatly admired one of their Hamptons projects published years earlier, and he and Helen were seeking the same



Clockwise from above: In the living room, a work by Jack Pierson is mounted on a blackened-steel fireplace surround fabricated by La Forge Française; an RH sofa and armchairs, all slipcovered in a Perennials fabric, flank an RH cocktail table. At the room's opposite end, a Chip Hooper photograph hangs above another RH sofa clad in Perennials fabric, and glass-bottle lamps from Laurin Copen Antiques rest atop side tables by Noir, which also made the barrel-back chairs; the pedestal table is a vintage piece from Ruby Beets. A starburst mirror from Lillian August animates the entrance hall; the console is by Crate and Barrel, and the chair is from English Country Antiques.