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COMPOUND INTEREST

The exterior of a retreat in Wainscott, New York, designed by Bates Masi + Architects, with interiors by Sandra Weingort and landscape design by Perry Guillot. For details, see Resources.

For an exceptional family home on Long Island, designer Sandra Weingort thinks inside the box.

By Camille Okhio Photographs by William Jess Laird

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any design studios won't touch a rental, but for the Miami- and New York-based interior designer Sandra Weingort, it was a rental that led her to the project of her dreams. Weingort, who founded her company in 2012 after nearly a decade at the ELLE DECOR A-List Titan firm Studio Sofield, was discovered by the renter's parents via

Instagram. They asked if she might consider taking on their daughter's New York City apartment if it meant next working on their 11,000-square-foot compound in Wainscott, New York, a Hamptons hamlet as famous for its farm stands as its pristine beaches. She said yes.

The home was designed by Bates Masi + Architects and completed in 2022, with interiors previously overseen by David Kleinberg Design Associates. "I almost declined, because I usually only do projects from the start," says Weingort. "But then the clients mentioned it was built by Bates Masi, whom I already knew and loved." She was given carte blanche to reimagine the living spaces for the family-oriented, art-collecting couple.

What followed was a crash course in some of the finest midcentury furniture the market has to offer. "They had just started to develop this newfound love for modernist and midcentury pieces, which of course aligns with my aesthetic," says Weingort. "They are passionate art collectors and wanted to bring that approach to their furniture."

The house is made up of three barnlike volumes containing separate living quarters—one for the parents and one for each of their adult children—linked by long hallways. "The idea of displaying the art is what organized the architecture and relationships of spaces," says Paul Masi, principal at Bates Masi. There is also an "art cube" that works as a gallery and a much-used poolhouse and terrace. "Paul calls it an heirloom home," says Weingort. "It was built to last forever, for their kids and future grandkids."

The architecture responds sensitively to Wainscott's historic vernacular with cedar siding that mimics the classic New England saltbox. Light enters through bronze-plated clerestory windows, while a limited palette of hard-wearing materials like limestone appears inside and out. Oak and gypsum plaster dominate each interior volume. The deceptively simple workings of the structure disappear further once inside, allowing Weingort's work to truly shine. Now, complementing important artworks by Dan Flavin, Wayne Thiebaud, John McCracken, and Lucy Dodd are prime examples of midcentury design of her choosing.

Alex Glauber, president of the Association of Professional Art Advisors and founder and principal of AWG Art

Advisory, has worked with the family on their extensive art collection since 2017. "The collecting journey is an experiential one, the culmination [of which] is getting to live with the work," says Glauber.

Guests are given a decidedly blue-chip welcome in the entry, where Alex Katz's *The Yellow House*, picked up at Sotheby's, presides over a Pierre Jeanneret table from 1954, a 1973 Pierre Chapo chair, and a George Nakashima stool. In the family room hangs another exceptional work, Alice Neel's *Pregnant Nude*. A warm orange sofa and chairs designed by Jeanneret in the 1950s flank the painting

In the family room, the sofa (left) is by Pierre Yovanovitch, and the sofa and lounge chairs (right) are by Pierre Jeanneret. Cocktail table by Jean Prouvé; lounge chairs by Olivier Mourgue; floor lamp by Le Corbusier; rug by Nasiri Carpets. Sculpture by Kenneth Price; wall artwork by John McCracken from David Zwirner. Interiors styled by Colin King.



as well as the custom stone fireplace that supports it.

At the room's other end, an ocean-blue Pierre Yovanovitch sofa seems the perfect answer to McCracken's nearby wall sculptures in complementary hues. At first glance, the arrangement seems casual, which is just as Weingort intended: Everything was placed to encourage conversation and, per the client's directive, to keep the focus on the art.

The family room and dining area see the most foot traffic and thus were designed with function top of mind. "It was important for [Weingort] to understand how we live, how we party, how we relax—how we do it all," says the wife. The

open-plan dining area includes a full kitchen (a "morning and happy-hour hub"), a bar around which 30 guests huddle during the holidays, and a dining table that seats at least 10. "The energy of this house is extremely calm," Weingort says. "You can really feel the quietness when you are here alone and the warmth when it is filled."

Weingort is looking forward to working with the family on a ground-up project in Mexico, where they recently purchased land. "She's a perfectionist like I've never seen, and an amazing collaborator," says the wife. "She truly knocked this project out of the park." ■



A dining table by Casey Johnson and Sandra Weingort in the kitchen and dining area. Vintage chairs and stools by Pierre Jeanneret; bird sculpture by Suzanne Ramié.

BELOW: An artwork by Alex Katz hangs in the entry. Table by Pierre Jeanneret; chair by Pierre Chapo; stool by George Nakashima.

OPPOSITE: In the office, the desk is by Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq. Chair and ottoman by Pierre Paulin; photograph by William Eggleston.



“They are passionate art collectors and wanted to bring that approach to their furniture.”
—Sandra Weingort





A pair of 1950s stools by Marolles from Magen H Gallery flank the vanity in the primary bathroom. Runner by Beauvais Carpets; vase, RW Guild.

OPPOSITE: An artwork by Lucy Dodd presides over the primary bedroom. Bed by David Kleinberg Design Associates; armchair by José Zanine Caldas; floor lamp by Max Ingrand.





Items pictured but not listed are from private collections.

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HOUSE CALL

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The new Edo sofa system, designed by the Swedish architectural studio Claesson Koivisto Rune, has been combined with the unmistakable design of Marengo sofa, designed by Mario Marengo in 1970.

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Christophe Delcourt imagined his SURO collection for Tribù as a majestic outdoor setting. The sophisticated material combination of SURO’s armchair creates an inviting cocoon-like seat, reminiscent of flower petals. The frame in teak or aluminum adds solidity to the seat’s structure, while the rounded fiber backrest provides embracing comfort.

tribu.com