



A HISTORY LESSON

RESPECTING THE PAST WHILE INSTILLING CONTEMPORARY STYLE INTO AN 1800S BARN.

ONE AFTERNOON THREE YEARS AGO, INTERIOR DESIGNER KERRY DELROSE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AND WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END. A FRIEND AND FORMER CLIENT WAS CALLING TO TELL HIM THAT HE AND HIS PARTNER HAD JUST FOUND THE PERFECT HAMPTONS RETREAT, AND THEY WERE BOTH HOPING TO GAIN HIS APPROVAL BEFORE MAKING AN OFFER.



Make Over | Originally built in Vermont in the 1800s, this East Hampton barn was transformed by interior designer Kerry Delrose into a chic retreat for a Manhattan-based finance couple. **Open Spaces** | "They did not want country," says the designer of his clients' wishes. "It would have just been too easy." Instead, he implemented a masculine scheme accented with dark, strong pieces that reflect the volume of the architecture. "It's casual, comfortable and stylish." The living room's streamlined sofa (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) was cloaked in a rich but textured brown wool from Hinson & Co. Connected to the kitchen through an open plan, the space features a double height ceiling that Delrose accentuated by placing massive ruby red lamps (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) positioned on a tall console. He had them converted from Mrs. MacDougall vases. **Best To Rest** | Lush landscaping surrounds the property (ABOVE AND OPPOSITE), which boasts a pool and tennis court. "One of our favorite things is to sit by the pool and just relax," says one of the owners, who use the house as a year-round weekend retreat. See *Resources*.



"What were they doing calling me?" asks Delrose with a laugh. "I told them if they had found the perfect house they should just go ahead and buy it!"

The couple can't quite be blamed for their initial hesitation, however. Both men are employed in the financial industry and their tastes are buttoned up as well—a masculine, modern aesthetic. Some years back Delrose designed their Manhattan apartment on Central Park West, and he got it just right: neutral colors, clean lines, nothing fussy. The East Hampton home the couple fell in love with in the Spring day couldn't have differed more. Located on the border of a secluded, large expanse of land, the "house" is actually a barn. Built in the 1800s, it had been transported on flatbed trucks, piece by precious piece from Vermont to the previous owners and their architect. "It's unique," says one of the clients. "We wanted something comfortable and fun with good energy, but the early barn look really isn't our style. We needed to have Kerry guarantee us that he could adapt his look to this type of property."

Assuring his clients that he could indeed work with any canvas, Delrose, who had never tackled such a rustic environment as a barn before, thoroughly relished the opportunity for an entirely new challenge.

From the start, he realized the absolute need to respect the structure's architectural history. While it's difficult to determine the building's age from the exterior, due in part to a new roof and windows, the interior still contains many of the original detail. Complete with original barn door, hayloft ladder and rich wood siding, the home "makes you feel like you've transcended time," says the designer. "I





Dining Style | Previous owners used the dining space (RIGHT) as a playroom, but the couple, who enjoy entertaining often, wanted a place to set out a buffet or host an intimate dinner party. Delrose selected a Ralph Lauren dining table, Crate & Barrel dining chairs and Lee Jofa curtain fabric. **Keeping Em Guessing** | While the designer tried to stick to a neutral palette, pops of color like the powder room's red Albert Hadley Fireworks wallpaper from Hinson (ABOVE) mix things up a bit in fun and unexpected ways. See *Resources*.







blem is if you start to change the original foot path, well then, there goes integrity of the historic barn. Knocking a wall out built over 160 years was just not an option."

Fortunately, only a few minor renovations were required. Divided among the floors, the home's main level features a large common space containing kitchen as well as the living and dining area, but this didn't exactly transpire with Delrose's intentions. "In my world," he says, "nobody really wants to have food in the middle of the living room." This sentiment was shared by clients, who as frequent entertainers, hoped Delrose would create a chic lodge-like décor inspired by iconic hotels such as the Delano. To that end, gutting and installing a slate floor, he relocated the dining area to a room and the kitchen, which boasts a grand fireplace and French doors leading to a terrace. Delrose added top-of-the-line appliances and chic tiles to the kitchen, bringing the whole look up a notch.

The living space, now made even larger, accommodates as many as 30 people seated comfortably. Designed in small vignettes, it is great for hosting intimate gatherings or for relaxing with a book. Keeping with the clients' wishes, Delrose opted for a neutral color palette dominated by solid blocks of tone with occasional pattern accent. Luxurious textiles including cashmere, mohair, silk and leather play a role by adding sumptuous texture. Contained bursts of

unexpected color add visual interest wherever Delrose managed to sneak them in. Bright red paint coats the windows' wood paneling while the same shade pops in the powder room via Albert Hadley's Fireworks wallcovering. In the living area, the designer placed two large Mrs. MacDougall ruby vases that he converted into lamps. Their voluptuous shapes and rich hue not only add a touch of drama, but their massive scale and height serve to emphasize the space's double-height ceiling. "Kerry convinces us to think outside the box," says one of the owners. "When you're looking for something a little extraordinary, he's glad to lead the way, and we're always happy with the results."

Adding to the luxury, many of the home's furnishings were custom designed by Delrose including settees and banquettes in the living area and all of the headboards in the four bedrooms. At a king-size scale, the master suite's headboard, cloaked in Ralph Lauren black suede and accented with lighting from Hinson & Co., is a true show stopper.

At the end of the day, the residents are thrilled that Delrose achieved his primary goal: letting the historical architecture shine above all else. "At night, relaxing in the living room, the light makes the old wood of the barn come alive," says one of the owners. It was this magical feeling that initially sold the couple on the house, and at the end of the day, after all of the changes, they remain thrilled that this feeling continues. ✨

Living | Divided among three levels, the barn's third floor is made up of an open sitting area and master suite. Steel doors, in what was originally the barn's hayloft (BELOW LEFT), lead to a bedroom. **Bed Head** | Delrose custom designed the headboard (OPPOSITE). Because of its scale, large side tables were not an option. To save space, Hinson lighting was mounted directly on the headboard. **Chair Affair** | Positioned near the balcony, a Ralph Lauren chair (BELOW RIGHT) combines with an Eileen Gray side table to create a cozy reading corner. See Resource

