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ONCE FARMLAND, THIS SUMMER RETREAT CELEBRATES ITS AGRARIAN ROOTS WITH BARN-INSPIRED BUILDINGS, MEADOW-STYLE LANDSCAPING, SPACE FOR SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE, AND AN OVERALL DESIGN CENTERED ON THE JOYS OF OUTDOOR LIFE



Stuart Goode and Allison Lasley's potting shed, sheathed in weather-silvered cedar, stands at the edge of a lawn planted with plum trees (in the background)—just a portion of the orchards that Stuart enjoys tending. Allison put in the beds of peonies and lavender as well as the two white wisteria standards that grow close at hand. ARCHITECT: JAMES MERRELL, A.I.A. FOR RESOURCES, SEE ADDRESS INDEX. PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM P. STEELE PRODUCED BY PAMELA ABRAHAMS WRITTEN BY MATTHEW HOLM

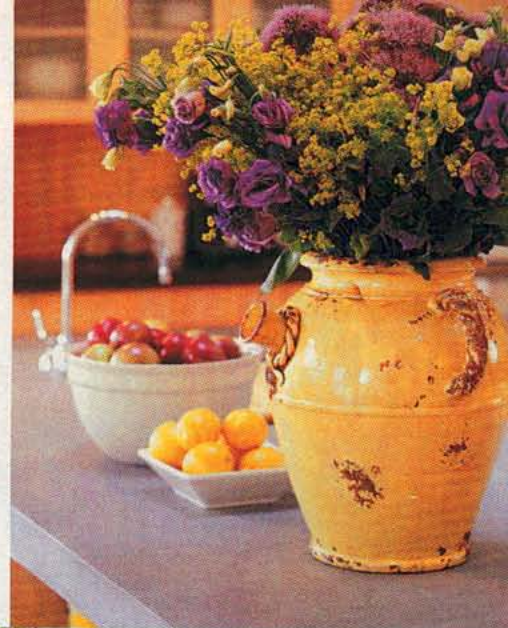


garden living

all this was grass when we started," architect James Merrell says of the field in Bridgehampton, N.Y., where husband and wife Stuart Goode and Allison Lasley built their summer home in 1994. James took his cues from the meadow and its agricultural history when designing the house and outbuildings, whose unembellished forms pay homage to farm buildings—especially the low barns of Tuscany, where Stuart and Allison make regular trips. The couple comes here during the summer to relax, entertain, and pursue their interests: Stuart cultivates fruit trees and grapevines within sight of the artist's studio where Allison, an abstract painter, works in mixed media, gleaning inspiration from her surroundings. "That relationship of the studio to the garden was very important," says James.



Opposite page: Southern pine salvaged from old barns and factories was recycled to fashion the interior trusses, flooring, and kitchen cabinets. The island's cast-concrete top was impregnated with a blue pigment—specially selected by Allison, who coordinated all of the colors and finishes throughout—to make it stand out against the wood tones, plaster, and concrete tiles on the back wall. "It's the kitchen's chromatic moment," says architect James Merrell. Local metal artist John Battle forged the island's legs and undercarriage. *This page, clockwise from top right:* An Italian glazed earthenware wine jug filled with fresh-cut flowers adds a punch of color. The garage/art studio lies across a courtyard from the main house (the maple tree marks the midpoint); Stuart trained a single grapevine up and across the building's stuccoed southern face. Suspended pot racks made of hand-forged steel suit the home's barn-like atmosphere. The concrete floor of the mudroom leads out through glass doors to the back patio and the pool beyond. Etched-glass doors obscure the contents of the hanging cabinets.





This page: Bay laurel (left) and orange (right) standards flank the patio table. *Opposite page, clockwise from top left:* A little dot of red in each of Allison's peonies identifies them as 'Festiva Maxima'. Runways were mowed into the meadow, leaving the house surrounded by waves of tall grasses and lavender. Stuart's homegrown peaches rest on a cast-concrete barbecue grill. The 15- by 60-foot lap pool invites guests to cool off. An espaliered kiwi tree grows along the plank fence. Siberian Irises bloom early in June. Beyond the gate lies a composting area.

