

# James Lane

— Design / Style —

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# GIDEON MENDELSON

*Photo by Eric Piasecki*



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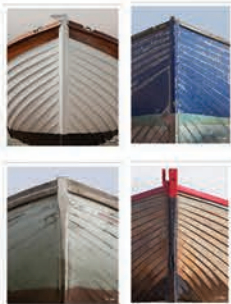


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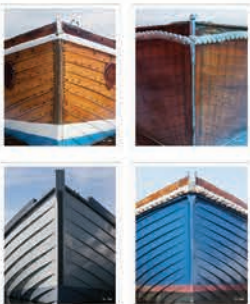


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The kitchen breakfast area.  
Photo by Eric Piasecki

# Gideon Mendelson

## A peek into the award-winning interior designer’s Sagaponack home

By Ty Wenzel

Nothing is more enjoyable for design enthusiasts than touring the homes of interior designers. To see how they adorn their homes in the Hamptons gives us a glimpse into their true selves and how they prefer to live — thus giving us clues into how we can elevate our own homes. One of our favorite design gurus is Gideon Mendelson, the namesake of the Mendelson Group and we get to peek into his Sagaponack home that his family uses as a weekend retreat.

Few understand how to combine textures and compelling tones quite like Mendelson while retaining a sense that the design feels historic in discipline. Every room in Mendelson’s home is traditional and deeply layered in pieces that “sparked joy.” In the corner of the vaulted-ceiling and sky-blue hued living room, the dark wood floors are lightened with a neutral Stark rug. A wingback chair that was found on 1st Dibs was reupholstered with a hand-woven ikat pattern from Birmingham Fabrics. Minimalist art by Brooklyn-based artist, Tara Donovan, brings a care-free ruffle to the otherwise classical room.

Mendelson has young children and we can imagine meals in his enchanting breakfast corner. Rich with natural tones, dark floors and whimsical art on the walls, the arched bay window casts the glow of natural light onto the solid wood frame Lorin Marsh chairs with French caning that surrounds the Holly Hunt dining table. The breezy Rogers and Goffigan café curtains subtly accentuate the mid-century-modern inspired custom David Weeks pendant by leaving the top of the windows bare, like



the frame of a painting. The main drapery called “Reverse Tile” in lapis on lotus in natural linen by Galbraith & Paul, continues the whimsical touch.

Nothing has been quite as elevated as the home office post-pandemic. Like the sun emerging from a stormy sky, the sputnik-inspired pendant is a show stopper from Downtown20. The angled walls are striped with light blue, eggshell white, and chestnut wall paper by Romo Fabrics stop at built-in storage cabinets topped with baby-blue tufted cushions that double as seating. Light blue accessories found on The End Of History add a contrast to the dark armed wood chairs picked up from 1st Dibs.

The home’s library also has multi-angled walls with a more traditional take in design. Rounded rooms give Mendelson an opportunity to incorporate interesting pieces like the custom benches he designed that surround the round Lee Jofa table seamlessly. Again, the notable pendant lamp by Remains centered in the octagonal ceiling papered by a subtle pattern by Osborne & Little. Pops of orange of the patterned cushions connect the room with the color



The family room.  
Photo by Eric Piasecki

of the back wall of the bookcases. Classic Circa bookcase lighting accentuate the purpose of the room, the books.

When a family hosts multiple children, the mud room becomes an important facet of any home. Mendelson’s pays homage to the local nautical mood with cream shiplap, in lieu of wainscoting, topped by a map of the East End. The charming striped cushion by Zoffany has probably helped many a child tie their shoelaces and is topped by Quadrille pillows. The aluminum cage pendant with clear glass by Remains seems as if it came off a vintage ocean liner.

All of Mendelson’s work is the beautiful layering of unexpected color, material and texture. The family room again utilizes blue-toned walls and ceiling. The reverse sunken ceiling showcases a pendant lamp whose brass-edged detail is incorporated with matching-colored painted lines within the indent of the ceiling. It almost appears like in-laid brass and is reminiscent of vintage stained glass design. The Mecox Gardens floor lamp grounds the ethereal room.

The traditional yet overstuffed MBM sofa with fabric by Rogers and Goffigan and ottoman invites all to

enjoy the sunshine streaming in behind them. The stately floor-to-ceiling drapes are also by Rogers and Goffigan.

Award-winning Mendelson owes a lot of his design genius to his late mother, also an interior designer. He studied architecture but the tug was there and after graduating from Columbia University, he founded the Mendelson Group in 2003. It’s in the blood, and we’re grateful for it.

To see many more images, visit our website. To learn more about Gideon Mendelson, visit [mendelsongroupinc.com](http://mendelsongroupinc.com).





Sachin and Babi Ahluwalia met as young aspiring fashion designers while studying at New York City’s Fashion Institute of Technology. Their story soon turned into a fashion love story. They bonded over their common interests and their upbringing in India. Soon that friendship grew into love. Together they went on to work for top designers including Oscar de la Renta, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Carolina Herrera, and Manolo Blahnik.

The line Sachin & Babi launched in 2009. This summer they debuted for the first time in the Hamptons at Matriark in Sag Harbor. The line is a ready-to-wear and accessories brand driven by a commitment to incredible craftsmanship.

We caught up with Babi to learn more.

**Your brand began with kismet and a love story. Tell us more about how it all started when you met at FIT.**

When you are so young and in your 20s and you find another creative, passionate person that shares your entrepreneurial mindset, it comes easily. You don’t know what you don’t know which makes anything possible, you take that faith in all things “doable” and you put that to good use. Together Sachin and I both had a hunger to learn more, so we started a “concept shop.” It was a design service and it started from a very niche perspective where we collaborated with high-end designers and enhanced their pieces through our brand of specialized novelty. We offered all different types of treatments — embroidery, novelty block prints, embellishment, that came with a unique sensibility for which our factories had unrivaled acumen, and from these collaborations, we then learned how to make and tailor garments. Growing up in the trade was a magnificent way to learn and grow our brand. We learned from the best of the best.

**What inspired you to launch your own brand, and what does your brand represent today?**

High design is so luxurious, and we adore it, however, when we decided to create our own brand, we wanted to offer things that were special and luxe but also accessible. Our label reflected all the things we loved about the fantastical elements of the grande design houses we had been exposed to, but we wanted something that a woman could admire, as well as wear more often.

**Talk about your family-run factory in Mumbai.**

That is a unique space. When Sachin and I inherited it about 25-26 years ago, the drapers were trained very well in Indian apparel and all of the unique artisanal elements for which India is known. When we started working with the European luxury fashion houses, they would send their technicians to our factory, and they would train our skilled artisans. Living in the US our taste was a bit more westernized, and it has been, and we saw a unique transition — producing creative pieces that cater to the west, with this added European training. The best thing about working with creative people is they are adaptable, they want to learn more, learn how to improve, how to use beads, drape better, add novelty, etc. We learned so much in this space and in turn, have been able to focus more on our consumers in this unique workshop.

**We can find your Fall collection at Matriark in Sag Harbor, where you recently hosted a trunk show. How did this partnership come about?**

We love Matriark and Patricia and her sensibility and how she has curated her boutique. She has such a unique point of view, and she knows her community well. That speaks to us. We love her support of female entrepreneurs. All this led us to our interest in Matriark. Patricia and her team have been fantastic partners and we are thrilled to grow with them as a brand.

**Your designs are known for embroidery, texture, and color. Tell us about how you use traditional Indian**

**embroidery techniques that meet a modern sensibility, as well as the fabrics sourced in Italy and Spain.**

For us — fabric from Spain and Italy are for more of an evening point of view. We need more fluid draping fabrics in order to create these pieces. We also focus on beautiful linens, cottons, and chiffons in our ready-to-wear. But local artisan embellishment and embroidery can’t be found anywhere else. It is a craft, an age-old craft that has been translated to modern times by people like us. We understand the western palate, but because we are from there and have been managing our own factory, we understand how to train the hands, and use the tech in a more modern way.

**What are some of the changes you’ve seen in the fashion industry lately?**

Oh my gosh — honestly, the game has changed so much. There is more visibility in our industry so there is a chance for everyone to rise up. The collections have changed, and the old format is not as relevant. As a brand, we realize that it’s about the right product, and servicing her and what she needs when she needs it. Fashion should make her feel great when she is out there conquering her day. It’s refreshing that the game has changed. You can have a unique point of view and be someone who knows the consumer and is true to themselves and their design and can put themselves in front of the person that will appreciate them.

**When visiting the East End, what does your perfect day look like?**

Oh, my goodness, so many wonderful places! We don’t have the luxury of being out East all summer, but we have fun on our weekends. We go to the local fish markets, buy produce, grill often, and spend time with friends and family. Since we do spend so much time together during the week, we like to do some of our own things when we are out East. Sachin likes to golf and practice his swing and I recently started surfing again. We love Sunset Beach and Shelter Island.







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# CP Complete

## The new and more intimate nature of construction

By Ty Wenzel

Home building and real estate has changed since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. The nuances of living and working at home while a home is being renovated or remodeled has created bonds in some cases on the East End. For some builders it changed the dynamic of how they work. We talked with Chris Hall of CP Complete to discuss how the process changed for him and his team while admiring his latest build, a pavilion that doubles as a luxury pool house.

**Please describe the labor of love project that CP Complete has recently completed.**

One year ago, we were presented with plans to build a “normal” Hamptons project. In most ways this was typical: pavilion (pool house) with all amenities; 85’ and 75” TVs, full bathroom, with accordion folding windows on two sides, tricked out audio/video/wifi throughout the sprawling three acres, an amazing pool with waterfall spa, imported marble tile (both inside and out), specimen trees, colorful plantings, an outdoor cooking area (complete with hybrid wood burning pizza oven), and construction of a basketball court (that is now used on a daily basis). What was not typical about this task was the experiences we encountered during this construction.

**In what ways was this project atypical?**

This creation actually required that our team become more familiar with one particular client and his family than ever before. The client is fairly high profile in his field, successful, very private individual. As a hardworking, goal oriented and driven person, he expects no less of others than he expects of himself. I respect that more

than I could possibly express. However, I must admit that I wasn’t looking forward to the daily accountability that comes with him living, working, and raising a family at my place of work. I grew to consider it a privilege to know and learn from this man who, in this new world, was lucky enough to run a business where every day was a very casual Friday dress code. Once again, it was his home, but my place of work. This was never discussed, because it was best to keep some thoughts to myself for obvious reasons; not the least of which is that it’s ridiculous to express that it is my workplace more than it is his home.

**What was the interaction with the client and his family on a daily basis?**

We often referred to the construction and renovation process as a carefully orchestrated ballet; excavators, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, mason, landscapers, pool builders, and architects all making sure that the school bus would have access to the upper driveway and the family could come and go while living a normal life. The intimate working relationship literally included the birth of a child, several medical challenges, bouts with Covid, wellness (thank God), freezing cold, blazing heat, meeting deadlines, watching budgets, and laughing (mostly at the end of the project). A caring and closeness develops with a family living in the midst of a major construction site. The ability and willingness to pause and pivot to accommodate each other became quite natural.

What was most fascinating to me was the unprecedented level of the collaborative and the creative nature created by proximity. A Zoom call with a client cannot replace the personal nature and the nuance of a look or a gesture. This process took patience; patience from all of us. The

sense of accomplishment and pride by the homeowner was palpable. He and his family were truly proud of their contribution. This pride didn’t simply come from writing a check and getting the job done, it came from the shared effort toward a common goal. Our construction team knows the pride that comes from a job well done, we’ve experienced that for decades and it feels good. It was a thrill to see the smile on our client’s face that reflected this emotion, because he was a part of the construction conversation and part of that fulfilling sense of accomplishment.

Part of the familiarity was our ability to listen and learn. As a family, these clients are excellent stewards of the planet. This project was a daily education on how every aspect of our lives, both personally and professionally, are impactful. From the simplicity of talks about solar panel placement (they are planning for 82 on the three structures, the maximum allowable), electric car charger installation and approaching heating and cooling and household appliances from a net zero/non-fossil fuel approach, where decarbonizing, solarizing, and electrifying were priorities, we were fortunate to be given a private education. On a micro level, learning about the bees that make this Hamptons oasis their home was also a fascinat-

ing and a unique masterclass that included learning about the honeybee management calendar.

**You’ve often referred to your team during conversations about your work, please elaborate.**

There were architects, landscape designers, landscape lighting designer, and decorators, plumbers, electricians, pool builders, masons, and landscapers. Many of these individuals have been friends and colleagues for quite some time. The credit goes to them for working through Covid, supply chain issues, rising prices, and labor shortages. They never complained and showed up each day to do the highest quality work. They were also open minded, accepting of questions and comments from our client, and flexible enough to adapt. The confidence in their own ability manifested itself through being less rigid and less “proud.” These are signs of a true professional. I am honored to work beside the team we have assembled.

**While discussing this project, you seem to have a more romantic view than a technical view of the building process.**

It was truly touching when, on the final day of construction, our client’s daughter began clapping and the whole family joined in. That was an incredibly emotional moment, and it was one of the wonderful byproducts of the new world where working at home and living through construction has become commonplace and occasionally provides exceptional experiences. All of the planning and implementation of every aspect of the project was well worth it.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Some of what people enjoy most does not involve new innovations in technology; watching a baseball game, taking a walk on the beach, kayaking on our local waters, seeing live music in the vineyards, or bringing your children to one of the many summer carnivals. The experience of those pastimes is still pretty much the same as it always has been. Creating this project for this lovely family that talks the talk and walks the walk, was also a throwback in many ways. At its core, it is back to basics for good people that simply want to revel in their private time together, enjoy each other’s company, and appreciate the fruits of their labor.

Visit [cpcomplete.com](http://cpcomplete.com)



Chris Hall of CP Complete.



# Hamptons Fashion Week

## Southampton shows included Nicole Miller’s 40th anniversary

The fourth annual Hampton Fashion Week hit the runway from August 5 to 7 and was packed with festivities, celebrity designers, pop-up tastings, and a Shop, Sip, and Stroll through Southampton Village, complete with a Jobs Lane runway show called Runway On Jobs Lane.

Candace Bushnell, creator of “Sex and the City,” presented the Fashion Icon Award to Nicole Miller for “Designer of the Year,” celebrating her 40th anniversary in fashion.

Other honorees celebrated included Beauty Sponsor, Alicia Grande, the CEO of Grande Cosmetics, who was introduced by James Lane Post’s Jessica Mackin-Cipro. Grande presented the “Rising Star” award to designer Gloria Lee. Dee Rivera, founder of Hamptons Fashion Week, presented celebrity designer Cesar Galindo with the “Trendsetter of the Year” award. President of Schneps Media, Victoria Schneps,

presented the “Media Maven of the Year” award to award-winning author Constance C.R. White.

Hamptons Fashion Week’s Runway on Jobs Lane, launched its first fashion show featuring Southampton stores Marina St. Barths, Unsubscribed, and FiveStory. Jobs Lane turned into a live runway with models showcasing designs from each store. The party continued with the Hamptons Fashion Week sip and shop at select stores, including Hidden Gems, Ralph Lauren, FiveStory, Marina St. Barths, and Christian Louboutin.

Saturday included Hamptons Fashion Week’s Full Frontal Fashion day of shows at the Southampton Arts Center. The day began with the sustainable collections of Equals Human and Gloria Lee under the Garden tent. The day also included the premier of Hamptons Swim Week featuring BOLD Swim and Origin of Oceans + SORABYRD by JORDAN BYRD.

Exhibitors during the day in-

cluded Grande Cosmetics, Nestseekers and Amazing World Realty, Marc Harvey Beauty, YouCam, The Ellen Hermanson Foundation, Power up With Samsung, Smart Water, and more. Guests enjoyed signature cocktails from Belvoir, Wine365 Brands, Portofino Gin, and Maison Marcel Wine, as well as small bites from restaurants and brands including Ruta Oaxaca, Backyard Barbeque, The Complete Burger, DeJesus Deli & Grocery,

Scott’s Protein Balls, and Liege Waffle.

New this year was an introduction to the fashion metaverse presented by MetaBurnett of Burnett New York, a metaverse fashion installation for guests, presenting a glimpse into a new world of experiential fashion.

The night ended with a bang as celebrity designer Cesar Galindo presented his collection. Then design icon Nicole Miller presented

her archives of 40 years of fashion, highlighting pieces from her collections from the 1980s to the 2010s.

Later that evening guests ended the night with a private after party at an estate sponsored by Nestseekers and Amazing World Realty.

The weekend festivities concluded with the invite-only Bites, Bubbles, and Brunch for press, VIP guests, and designers at the Southampton Arts Center, curated by

Picnics and Peonies Luxury Picnics. Special guests enjoyed a meet and greet and Q&A with Fashion Icon Award honoree, Constance White who brought her new book “How To Slay.”

Guests were treated with mini pizzas by Dolce & Gelato with other bites catered by The Golden Pear, and special Belvoir Farm Cocktails. The day ended with a special fashion presentation by Diana Couture.



Clockwise from top left: Candace Bushnell, Nicole Miller, Cesar Galindo. Photos by Oliver Archer

## Editor’s Picks

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

### Summer To Fall

We still have summer on our mind as we enter September — my favorite month to be on the East End. Here are a few favorites that caught our eye as we enter the late summer season, heading into fall.



Pink City Prints - Maple Ditsy Petworth Dress. \$255



Sachin and Babi - Sanza Dress In Olive Venetia Petals, sold at Matriark in Sag Harbor. \$295



Wolford - Romance Net Bodysuit. \$330



Inner Beauty Cosmetics - Shine Infusion Lip Oil. \$22



Caroline Ellen - Flat Hinged Bangle with Pave Cognac Diamond in 18K Yellow Gold, sold at The Loupe. \$14,700



14th night - Natural Surf Spray. \$58



Oishii Omakase Berry.

Photo by Drew Escrivá



The Eugenia brand hat by Eugenia Valliades. @hamptons hats.





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