

# James Lane

— Design & Style —

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## JEAN SHAFIROFF

*Photo by Michael Paniccia*





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# Jean Shafiroff

## Style & Philanthropy

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

**J**ean Shafiroff is a well-known philanthropist and humanitarian in New York City, Palm Beach, the Hamptons, and beyond. She works extensively as a volunteer fundraiser and she does so in her own signature style. For years she has worked with up-and-coming designers to champion their brands as she showcases them at events for her many high-profile philanthropic endeavors — she serves on the boards of eight charitable organizations and is the chair of many charity galas, including those that support women's rights, rights of the underserved, health care, and animal welfare.

### Tell us about what you've been up to this summer in terms of your philanthropic work.

The summer has been packed for me and others involved in philanthropy. This summer in the Hamptons, I chaired the Southampton History Museum gala. I hosted the kickoff party for the Stony Brook Southampton Hospital gala at my home. I held a Bastille Day luncheon in New York City at Michael's that was in honor of the French Heritage Society.

I'm a member of the Southampton Hospital Association Board. And I've been on that board for a few years, but I've been very involved with the hospital since about 2007. I chaired the Southampton Animal Shelter gala. I was honored by the Southampton African American Museum that opened a few years ago. And with that charity, I've been involved as a co-chair for the past three years. This was their third annual gala. I'm on the benefit committee of the Diabetes Research Foundation. I will chair the Ellen Hermanson Foundation gala.

My fundraising for all the charities that I'm involved with is as a volunteer. I also believe in writing checks, and so I do.

I chair about eight to 10 galas a year. And I host many events at my home in the Hamptons and my home in New York City. As an acting philanthropist, I believe that you must volunteer your time, your

knowledge, and be generous, as generous as you can.

I believe in the work that I do. I love the work and I feel very grateful and blessed. I'm brought in because of my knowledge, my ability to fundraise, and to bring people to the plate and make them feel welcome and happy. I believe in sharing everything in a very professional way.

It's key for a good charity to be run professionally and not to make people feel excluded. I write about that in my book "Successful Philanthropy: How To Make A Life By What You Give." It's very important to make everyone feel good about what they're doing for that charity. Everyone needs to be treated with dignity and respect. I have a whole chapter in my book devoted to the treatment of paid employees, volunteers, donors, and those serviced by a charity.

### We love the message that you put out about the importance of giving. There are so many ways for people on the East End to get involved.

I agree completely, and there are so many wonderful volunteers here on the East End; for example, the volunteer ambulance drivers, people volunteering their services at animal shelters, volunteering their time to work on an event. This is all wonderful. The premise of my book that I wrote in 2016 — with an introduction by Georgina Bloomberg and a foreword by Scott Elkins, who's a big philanthropic consultant both here and in England — is that anyone can be a philanthropist if you don't have the funds to give.

You can become a philanthropist by giving your time and knowledge. That being said, I believe that anyone who has financial resources has an obligation to give, and they should give.

I think it's important not only to support the charities that I might be involved with, but to support other people's charities. There's so much need, and we should try to support as much as we can.



Jean wearing Victor de Souza (above and on the cover). Photo by Michael Paniccia

### Let's talk about some of the designers that you've worked with, and how you spotlight them through your philanthropic work.

Well, I happen to love style and fashion, and I started buying gowns because I needed to attend charity galas. And if the event called for black-tie attire, well that meant a long gown or dress. So, I initially started by buying gowns by Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera, Mary McFadden, Zang Toi, and little bit of Valentino.

I started to work with lesser-known designers by purchasing their work, primarily couture work. And I started first with Victor de Souza.

I want to say it was 2009 for French Heritage. And at that time, Bill Cunningham from the New York Times came and put me in the New York Times wearing Victor's gown. So that was very nice for Victor. I wasn't on social media back then.

I got to know B Michael, a Harlem-based fashion designer, and I started buying his work. He is known as being the designer for quite a few celebrities, including Cicely Tyson, who passed away recently, who I was also friendly with.

I've worn his pieces to many galas in New York City. And most of what I've purchased from him has been couture, but I've also purchased other pieces from him. Malan Breton is the newest addition. Malan is a fashion designer big in Europe. And I started wearing a lot of his clothing recently.

Recently I wore a piece by Alex Vinash. He has a store in Southampton and everyone loved that gown. I have a very large gown collection, about 250 pieces, I think. And I often go to my archives. Most of my pieces I collected when I got very involved in the philanthropic world. To me, fashion is art.

I feel no hesitation about repeating an outfit. As a matter of fact, it's very chic to repeat, it shows confidence, and the designers actually love it because they don't expect anyone to purchase something to wear once only, that makes no sense.

### Do you have any favorite looks from this summer that you've worn?

I love the gown I wore to the Stony Brook Southampton Hospital gala. It's a Wes Gordon, the designer for Carolina Herrera. It was a white dress with big black polka dots. The polka dots are actually beaded, and it's a very beautiful piece. I love the high-low gown I wore to the Parrish Art Museum gala, another Wes Gordon by Carolina Herrera piece.

I really enjoyed the yellow outfit I wore to the Southampton History Museum gala by Oscar de la Renta. I liked the white dress with the flowers and the poof that I wore to the Southampton African American Museum gala. And for the first time ever, I wore a big blue gown to the Southampton Animal Shelter by Monique Lhuillier.

Of course, I also liked the gown by Alex Vinash. I put it on my Instagram reels and it was very well received. I did wear to the New York Botanical Gardens in June a really beautiful Victor de Souza couture gown. And then in May I wore a beautiful red couture gown by Malan Breton to the Viennese Opera Ball.

For more casual, I wear a lot of Zimmermann and Ulla Johnson.

### You work with the Fashion Institute of Technology as well?

I've been on the board of The Museum at FIT called the Couture Council since 2010. I just love my involvement there. The exhibits and the creativity coming out of the museum are extraordinary. I love that. FIT educates young people to

be fashion designers and to be involved in the fashion world. It's really a great institution.

I'm greatly honored to be involved. We do a lunch and this year we're honoring Gabriela Hearst. We do the luncheon every year at Lincoln Center. This year's luncheon is September 6.

### Do you have any style icons?

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, I just loved her style and I thought she was a great style icon. I loved the way Princess Diana dressed. I love the way Kate Middleton dresses. I love Iris Apfel. I think she's a great inspiration. She is 100 years old, and I've met her many times and she continues to dress. And I think that gives great inspiration to women at any age.

I also am enjoying the fashion of Jordan Roth. He was the emcee at the Guild Hall gala that I recently attended.

### How do you like to enjoy your free time when you're in the Hamptons?

I like to be with my family and relax with friends. We have some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, no question. I just love the beaches. Long walks on the beach are very special. I enjoy all the restaurants. I also enjoy the shopping.

I feel very blessed to be out here. The Hamptons are really one of the most beautiful spots in the world. And we're very fortunate to be able to be here. It's very, very special.

I'd like to add that when you are in a community, I think it's vitally important, whether you're a summer resident or full-time resident, to support locally. People forget that there's a lot of need in the Hamptons. So, quoted as the place where the rich and famous come to summer, well, we are a community that strives to serve and help everyone.



Jean wearing Malan Breton. Photo by Michael Paniccia





Photo by Kim Miller

# Kristin Sheeler

## The Evolution Of NIBI-MTK

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

**F**ounder Kristin Sheeler started NIBI-MTK following her years at Ralph Lauren leading the color, print, and pattern division. What started as swimwear and a series of pop-ups has grown to include three storefronts located in Montauk, Bridgehampton, and Westhampton.

### Tell us about your background in fashion. You led Ralph Lauren's color, print, and pattern division?

Yes, I led Ralph Lauren's color, print, and pattern division for many years. I graduated from Syracuse University with a BFA in textile design and after a couple years developing prints with Schumacher & Co I was so excited to get my first opportunity at Ralph Lauren. I spent three years at Ralph as a print stylist then jumped to Adrienne Vittadini to direct creative development of their print lines. That was a great experience which really finished setting me up for my return to Ralph Lauren. I returned to take on color, print, and pattern and loved everything about it — the design, print development, quality control, everything. Of course, I already knew the Ralph aesthetic and had grown my talents but now I was developing in a new way. While running the division I was traveling to the mills to confirm strike-offs and production quality so frequently that I ended up spending a lot of time in Asia and Indonesia; it was great for me personally and professionally. Spending so much time around some of the world's most beautiful beaches while focusing on technical production details for the lines I oversaw started to fuse the aesthetic that Ralph is known for with the simple yet beautiful designs I was finding around the world. I was always inspired by Bali and back in the '90s was so untouched and beautiful. It really shaped my sense of style and how I design to this day.

I continued with Ralph for several years adding responsibilities such as vintage and continued to discover additional lens and layers of design. Eventually I

moved on and did creative and concept work for Victoria's Secret, then did the initial concept design for the launch of Abercrombie's new Gilly Hicks line. I was sent to Australia to live and to create the handwriting for the new concept. (Everyone at A&F spent two years calling me "Gilly.") And then did creative direction at several brands including senior director at Aéropostale and finally Senior VP of creative direction for Delia's. All those stops continued to add layers, depth, and dimension to my design eye.

### Did you always know you wanted to be a designer?

I have always been interested in art and as a young girl I loved to paint and design. So yes, I knew from an early age that some kind of artistic design was my path. I originally started college with a graphics focus but quickly fell in love with textile design and switched my major to align with the passion I had found and never looked back. I was an art history minor and really felt that print and pattern was just another form of art where the canvas was fabric. I still absolutely love that aspect of textile design.

### When did you first come to Montauk?

We used to come infrequently with Ralph Lauren for various events but 1997 is the first time I remember being here with enough time to see the town and be on the beaches. I instantly fell in love with this town — I felt like it was the most magical place on earth. I remember sitting on the beach in Ditch Plains saying I wanted to live here one day. There were so many creative people who lived out here at that time and we all just loved how inspiring this town was and how we all could just get away from New York City and be free.

### And how did the town inspire you?

The town was just so amazing — the



Photo courtesy NIBI-MTK

sunsets, the landscapes, and the colors as the day progressed from dawn to dusk. I also loved how laid back everyone was, yet at the same time so stoked after a surf session. That excitement captured me, and I just needed to become a surfer and continue to take in everything Montauk was offering. I picked up a long board, got in the water, and never looked back. The surf culture that was here at that time was amazing — the vibe, the fashion, the attitude all inspired me.

### Can you tell us about the early days of NIBI-MTK and how you grew the brand?

In late 2013 I was realizing I couldn't fully satisfy my creative drive through established brands. I took some time off to re-focus and immersed myself full-time in Montauk. I loved the collision of peaceful quietude and explosive energy that had been growing in Montauk and fully embraced the atmosphere. After a couple months of contemplation and meetings in an attempt to start a concept consulting business I realized something more organic is what I needed to do. The idea to start a swim line hit me like a lightning bolt. The town had surf shops and t-shirt/hoodie shops with a couple of clothing stores but no fashion womens beachwear. I started designing with a passion and drive I hadn't had for years and within six weeks I had developed the NIBI-MTK swim line.

2014 was a season of pop-ups all over the East End testing the brand — I actually felt like I had become a traveling pop-up show. I was friends with so many of the local businesses and they would let me pop up at the hotels, restaurants, or put designs in the local surf shops. However, it was totally worth it — at every event the NIBI-MTK tent was swarmed with people. "Unique," "Finally," "Where have you been?" were comments I heard over and over. It was astounding! Throughout the summer I continued to add items to the "tent" — jewelry, accessories, etc. I remember saying that our customers were like butterflies, they just needed something pretty to draw them in and they would fly in... and they did.

As the recognition grew we did a couple pop-ups in the same hotel with great outcomes that impressed the property's forward-thinking manager. Over the winter he convinced the owners to explore the changes starting in Montauk and allow him to open a boutique and an art gallery on the property for the 2015 summer season and he asked NIBI to be the boutique. We launched at the hotel (The Atlantic Terrace) in spring 2015 and quickly became the hidden gem that needed to be found. We created an indoor-outdoor space with higher end beach fashion.

### Tell us about the concept for NIBI-MTK today.

NIBI continues to be the place for barefoot boho luxury and a place that casual beach meets Hamptons style. With my experience as a concept designer and trend forecaster I am always looking at what's coming and trying to push the NIBI-MTK look to the front and trend forward. We are always on or slightly ahead of trend and my customers appreciate that they are getting things ahead of the masses. My concept around my brand is to make each

woman feel very unique, empowered, and special. The fabrics I use and the colors I create for all my print designs are worked on until I feel the colors are perfect. I also try to curate the design collection so you always feel like you are by the sea and since I am designing and manufacturing the line myself, I am able to provide unique designs and true hand-blocked fashion. I always want everyone to feel so special and I only create 30 pieces of each design run. This is also distributed to three locations and the women love that you do not see the same dress everywhere out in the Hamptons.

### Talk about your store locations throughout the Hamptons.

While we of course stayed consistent in our layout and strive to ensure every customer has a consistent experience, each location definitely has a slightly unique vibe. The Montauk location was the original and hums with energy every day, unless it's a beach day. Montauk is my home and really has a boho inspired feel. The second location, Bridgehampton, thrives off of the quieter sophistication of the town yet doesn't miss a beat on a great summer weekend. The women of Bridgehampton love the mix we offer from a day at the beach or an evening event where they can always find a perfect NIBI dress. Westhampton, our newest location at only three seasons old, has a vibe that is perfectly matched to the rejuvenated Westhampton Beach town. We decided to open in Westhampton as we felt the town needed our beachy vibe designs and they love to also have special designs for events and dinner parties.

Bridgehampton and Westhampton remain

open year round while Montauk closes for a few months over the winter while we use that location to stage the next year's designs. I think the most impressive aspect of the stores is the symmetry of how each supports the other and how well they all perform together. We love that customers can shop any of the stores and have a great experience and that we have a great geographic distribution that supports our customers from the western edges of the Hamptons all the way to "The End."

### What is your go-to look for summer?

I love to wear things that are flowy, breezy, and casual yet with style. I spent years with Ralph living out of a suitcase or backpack in Indonesia and grew to love a day-to-night look which captured a style and luxury that was manageable, practical, and in-style. That day-to-night aspect and boho chic style has remained an important aspect of my personal style and my brand aesthetic.

### What's next for you and the brand?

So much! We are always looking for the next great location to open a new store and have feelers in a few warmer, winter locations where we can capitalize on an extended summer vibe. But even more exciting are the results of the trial wholesale work we've done recently. We are currently working on building the team to support a much larger wholesale operation and expect to be moving much more actively into the wholesale market over the next couple seasons. We are always being asked "Why is this not in my town!?" and we want to dress all our amazing strong, boho chic women.



Photo courtesy NIBI-MTK





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# Fallon & Ava

## Sisters Perfecting The Turtleneck

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

**F**or sisters Fallon and Ava King a black turtleneck and jeans has always been their go-to look. The duo has created the namesake line, Fallon & Ava, designing a classic turtleneck style for every woman. We spoke with the sisters to learn more.

### Tell us about your backgrounds. You both attended the Fashion Institute of Technology?

**Fallon:** Yes, I majored in fashion design at FIT. When it came to applying for college, there was no other option for me. It had to be FIT. It was my dream to go there since I was 14. In addition to co-founding Fallon & Ava, I am also currently the senior designer at the fashion brand Sachin & Babi as well as an embroidery designer for Carolina Herrera. I always wanted to work with luxury brands like these because there's something so rewarding and exciting about designing pieces that are special, thoughtfully crafted, one of a kind, and meant to last. That's why when creating Fallon & Ava, there was no question that it had to give that feeling of luxury. That's what we have experience in and what we've always had an appreciation for.

**Ava:** Yes, I majored in Advertising and Marketing Communications. The road to FIT and moving to New York was a lot different than Fallon's. I started dancing at the age of 2 years old and pursued a career in ballet, dancing all over the country. It wasn't until I was 18 that I decided I wanted a change for myself. Since Fallon is four years older than me, while she was at FIT in New York City, my family and I would visit her often. My own love for New York quickly grew, but I didn't know what I wanted to be or what I wanted to do after I quit ballet. It was Fallon who introduced me to FIT and gave me the thought of another career in public relations. While FIT was never a dream school for me, it was the best decision I ever made deciding to go there. In addition to co-founding Fallon & Ava, I am also currently a luxury wedding and event planner. I always had an aptitude for entertaining and I loved to cook, so moving into the events industry felt very seamless to me. Working with high-end clientele in luxury events really helped me understand the customer for Fallon & Ava and be

able to produce events for our brand.

### Did you always know you'd want to be in the fashion industry?

**Fallon:** I knew I wanted to be a fashion designer and live in New York since I was 7 years old. When I was young I was always the kid at recess who, instead of playing kickball on the playground, I was sitting on the side sketching in my sketchbook. I always dreamed about having my own line someday. Starting a line seemed so daunting at first, but after a few years working in the industry, I had the opportunity to experience more than just the realm of design and also learn about production and e-commerce. Having a more holistic understanding of the industry, made it easier to take the leap and start a brand but what made it even easier was knowing I wasn't taking this leap alone but with my sister and best friend.

**Ava:** I was surrounded by fashion my whole life. Our mother is such an elegant woman, and I always admired her style growing up. Timeless, chic, but never too overdone. To me, she started the quiet luxury trend before it was even a thing. Then, with Fallon knowing she wanted to be a fashion designer since she was 7, I got to see the fashion world through her eyes. I remember watching Project Runway with her all the time as kids. It was inspiring to see her dream all those years and for it to come true now. For me, while I was always surrounded by fashion my whole life, it was something I slowly found on my own as I got older and more so when I moved to New York. I was taught that to make a great first impression, was to dress well and that always stuck with me. I went through many different phases when it came to my style, but the one thing that was in my wardrobe from day one was a turtleneck.

### Tell us about the concept for Fallon & Ava.

**Fallon:** Fallon & Ava is the first and only brand that specializes solely in turtlenecks, making us the destination for the perfect turtleneck. As life long turtleneck lovers, we found there's something about wearing an impeccably made and well-fitted turtleneck that instantly gives you confidence. Our turtlenecks are designed to



be a timeless, wardrobe essential that can look equally elegant in a business meeting, on a date, or at a black tie event.

**Ava:** We launched the brand with two styles, the Classic Turtleneck in black, beige, and our signature blue and The Bow Turtleneck in black. We took the classic turtleneck and gave it an upgrade with the bow, a concept we invented when solving common problems that women have when wearing turtlenecks. The number one complaint women have when wearing turtlenecks is that they can feel restrictive in it and it doesn't form to their neck. The attached grosgrain ribbon ties in the back making the neck adjustable for comfort without losing its functionality and style. This design has a patent pending. This past spring, we launched the sleeveless turtleneck in pink peony and the sleeveless bow turtleneck in signature blue. The bow has become our best seller, and we love that its functionality also adds a beautiful touch of femininity and fashion, creating a statement to any look.

### As a family business and working together as sisters, how has family inspired you?

**Fallon:** Family has and always will be the most important thing in our lives. Ava and I do everything together. Not only do we work together, but we also live together, travel together, and hang out with the same friends. We're also extremely close with our parents, so family naturally became the core value of this brand from the start. When we first came up with the idea for Fallon & Ava, our very first brand meeting was as a whole family after dinner on Christmas Day in 2020. We sat around the dining table with our notepads and pens and together brainstormed ideas on what we envisioned for the brand. We wouldn't be who we are and we wouldn't be where we are without the love and guidance of our parents. Our mother, especially, was the inspiration for starting a turtleneck brand. When we were young, our mother would always dress us in turtlenecks. We grew up wearing them and they soon became our signature look. Besides her love for classic, timeless style, she says turtlenecks were the one thing that the three of us could all match in because a turtleneck is one of the few articles of clothing that a baby can wear, a mother can wear, and a grandmother can wear.

**Ava:** Everything we do is inspired by family and what our parents taught us. We incorporated many elements from our childhood and from our family into the brand. Our signature blue color is the color of our family home. Our mother, who loves interior decorating, has been an inspiration in everything we do. Our signature blue is a way for us to bring a little bit of home and family to our customers.

### Talk a little about your values as a company.

**Fallon:** Our core values as a company are family, kindness, human connection, and women empowerment. We do this the Fallon & Ava way, the way our parents taught us: to be kind, to create an authentic connection, to support women, to give back, and to never forget where you came from and who has been by your side through it all... family. These values built this company and we will carry them with us in everything we do. The Fallon & Ava turtleneck is more than just a turtleneck. It's a mission, a secret weapon, an aspiration, a family, and a little a piece of home.

**Ava:** Being a woman in today's society, it is important for us to support and uplift one another, and we wanted that to be at the forefront of our brand. Our friends have told us that they consciously choose to wear our turtleneck when they know they need to feel extra confident or powerful that day. We had a friend wear it for her professional headshot, one wore it for an important interview, and another wore it for a meeting with the head of the company she works for. Hearing these stories mean the world to us. Our mission as a brand is to serve as a platform for women to embrace their inner power, allowing them to navigate the world with confidence and poise while wearing a turtleneck.

### What makes the perfect turtleneck? Tell us about the materials you use to produce your pieces.

**Fallon:** Our turtlenecks are made in a 40-year old family owned factory in Tuscany, Italy of sustainable Italian yarns. Our yarns contain a certified LENZING™ ECOVERO™ fiber, a sustainable viscose derived from certified renewable wood sources. Its manufacturing process gener-

ates up to 50 percent lower water impact and CO2 emissions. Even our styles with the bow at the back use an Italian grosgrain ribbon made with a viscose that originates from sustainably managed forests. Our yarns are lightweight, buttery-soft, and breathable making our turtlenecks perfect for layering and able to be worn year round.

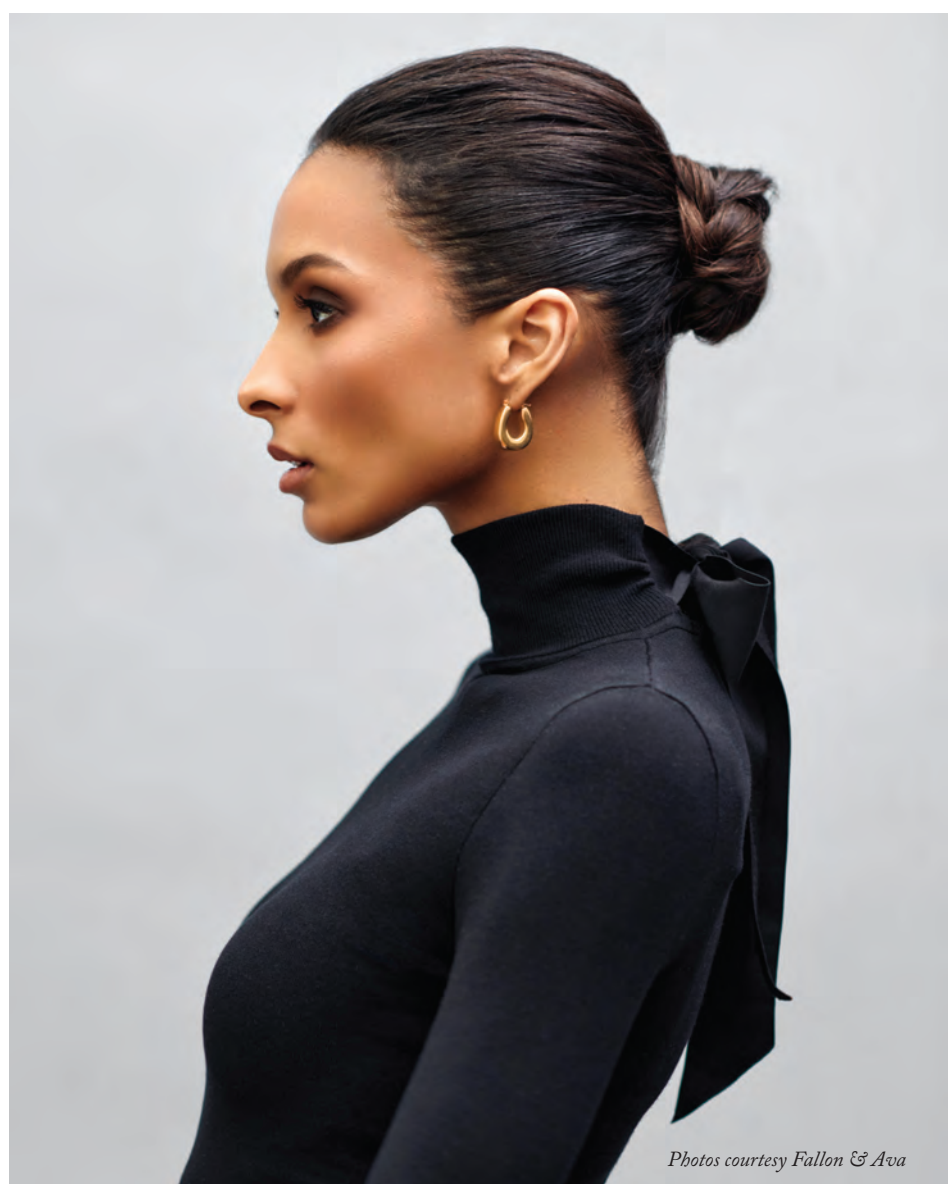
**Ava:** Fallon and I wore turtlenecks our whole life. Over the years we had our favorites from different brands, but there was never the perfect one, so when we set out to create the perfect turtleneck, not only were the materials we used so important but also the fit. Our turtleneck contours the body by naturally curving in at the waist. It fits like a bodysuit without the discomfort and struggles of a bodysuit. It elongates the figure and moves with your body while staying tucked in all day without bunching or unwanted bulkiness.

Our neck has a fixed fold, so it's always standing at that perfect, desired height and it never looks messy with too many folds or sits too short. Our neck is knitted with a fine rib, which gives the neck excellent elasticity, so you can easily slip it over your head, and once it's on, it comfortably contours the neck without it falling down or stretching out.

### What's next for you and the brand?

**Fallon:** We found we've seen most success from having in person events and trunk shows so we have a couple lined up for this fall. It's the best way for us to incorporate one of our core values of human connection. When we had our pop up shop in Chelsea last fall one of our favorite parts was meeting new people everyday and many of those people have become some of our close friends. We're excited to meet and connect with more people this fall!

**Ava:** We have a lot of ideas for the future of Fallon & Ava, including more colors and variations of the turtleneck. With quiet luxury still on the rise, we believe there is a long future for elevated basics, and one thing we know for sure is that turtlenecks will never go out of style. We have also had many requests for a men's collection... so that could be something we look into for the future.



Photos courtesy Fallon & Ava



# In A World Of Trends, Vintage Remains Timeless

## An Interview With Kathy Murphy Of Hampton Flea + Vintage

By Lisa Frohlich of *Hamptons NY Style*

**V**intage clothing is not only a sustainable fashion choice, it's a way to connect with history and express individuality. The vintage world encourages a break from the cycle of fast fashion, where trends quickly come and go. I love how vintage pieces reflect styles from various eras, showcasing designs that have stood the test of time. I recently had the opportunity to meet Kathy Murphy, founder of Hampton Flea + Vintage. We spoke about how she got started in the vintage market and her most prized vintage possessions.

**I am such a big fan of the Hampton Flea + Vintage platform you have built over the last few years. How did this idea take shape and how are you keeping up with the expansion?**

I've always been a collector of vintage fashion and a huge enthusiast of mid-century architecture and furniture. During the pandemic, I was lucky enough to fulfill my dream of relocating to Palm Springs, California, which to me is the mecca of all things mid-century and modern. Having the time on my hands, and the ability to slow things down a bit, I came up with this idea of creating a vintage experience in the Hamptons. The East End is a special place to me where I have been summering for a long time. I wanted to build a unique shopping experience and a platform for the creative vintage community. Right from the start, the show was a success and we expanded from four shows in the first season to 10 shows this summer for our third season. With the help of our amazing team and our professional



*Erin Silvers of Zingara with Kathy Murphy of Hampton Flea*

vendors, we are prepared for the expansion and can't wait for what's next.

**What is your background and how did you get into vintage fashion, furniture, and hand-crafted goods?**

I lived in Brooklyn for over 20 years and my background is in the fine art world. I was the publisher of *Modern Painters Magazine* and then the global director of *Art Palm Springs*, *Art Aspen*, and *SOFA Chicago*. I've always been passionate about vintage. And, the community of vintage dealers are very similar to the art world. These are small business owners who are very talented at bringing unique, one-of-a-kind items to the market. I currently spend summers in Southampton and winters in Miami.



*Vintage dresses from Swanee Grace.*

**Can you tell me about your most prized vintage possessions?**

My most prized vintage possessions are the clothes I purchased from our vendors. This summer I acquired a fantastic '60s dress from *Collective Good Shop*. In Palm Springs during 100-plus degree temperatures, I purchased my favorite blue fur coat from the shop *The End*. I can't wait for the opportunity to wear this fur coat over the next year.

**How many vendors do you include in each show? How do**

**you recruit these vendors?**

We typically have 50-plus vendors per show. We work with top vintage dealers in New York City and beyond. Having spent so much time in California, we have several vendors that come from Los Angeles to be with us such as *Trust Fund 21* and *Shop Ome*. We've even had vendors come as far as Italy to be with us for one day. What we created is truly amazing and people will travel to be a part of it.

**How does Hampton Flea give back to the Hamptons community?**

We work closely with the Southampton Animal Shelter.

**What's next for Hampton Flea + Vintage?**

Last year, we had our first NYC holiday show at the Prince George Ballroom: *Hampton Vintage*. This show was limited to the top vintage fashion, jewelry, and accessories dealers. We also want to bring our Hampton Flea family to warm destinations this winter... so please stay tuned. Our schedule can be found on our Instagram @hamptonflea or our website hamptonflea.com.



*Lisa Frohlich enjoying the Hampton Flea and Vintage event in Southampton.*



*Beautiful dresses from Lisa Victoria Vintage.*





# Michael Derrig

## The Hamptons Oasis Of The Landscape Visionary

By Ty Wenzel

When Michael Derrig's unmistakable lime green Landscape Details trucks rumble through Hamptons traffic, you know he is weaving his magic to transform another estate. But the real hidden gem is Derrig's office, nestled at 103 Montauk Highway in East Hampton — a naturalistic sanctuary seamlessly melding indoor and outdoor living spaces.

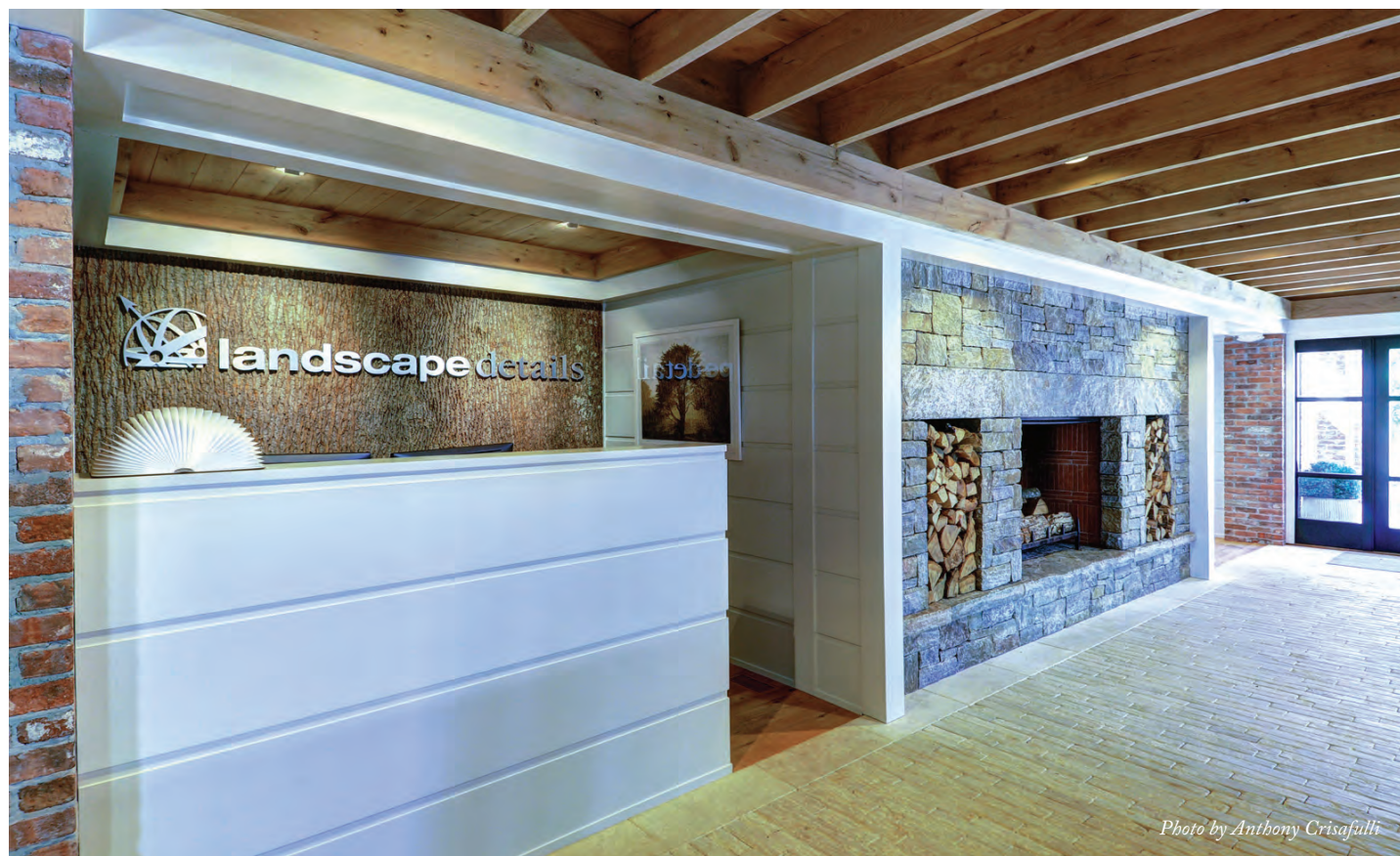
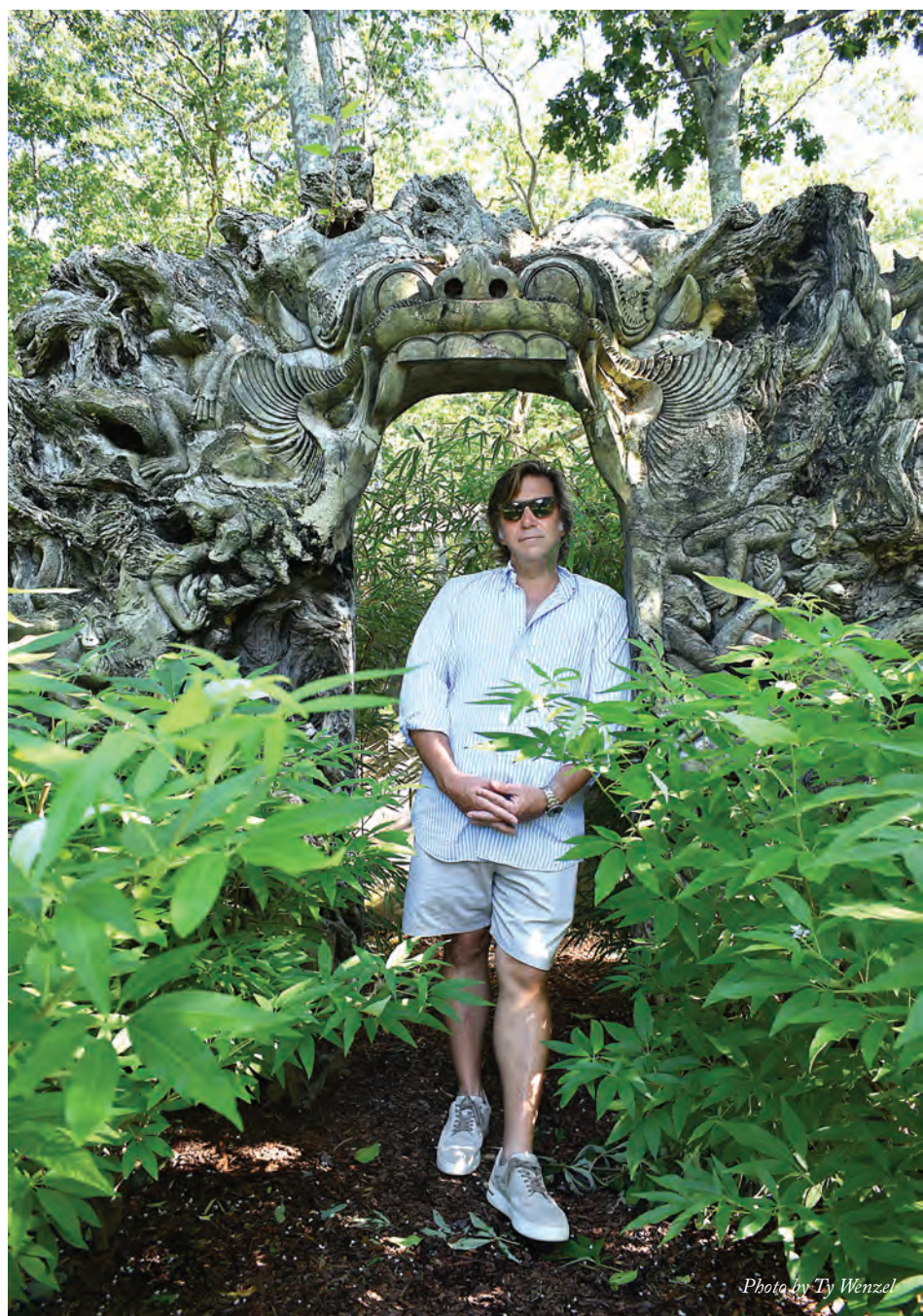
Derrig took an unexpected path to becoming one of the Hamptons' most sought-after landscape designers. "I started out as a computer science major at Rutgers University and was intrigued by the name Landscape Architect, as I've always loved being outdoors," he explained. "I did a little research on it and quickly decided that is what I wanted to do." Chasing that passion has defined his over two decades of success. "I guess I've been

more than a little lucky doing what I love all these years," Derrig reflected.

In addition to his landscape mastery, Derrig now builds luxury homes through his aptly named firm, Building Details. "I am finishing up a project in Sag Harbor that is a complete renovation of a 10,000 sq. ft. house set on five acres," he said. "We installed our first padel court, a mix between tennis and squash, as well as a luxury spa and gym on the ground floor." He has an array of new construction and renovation projects across the Hamptons in progress, catering to discerning homeowners seeking seamless indoor/outdoor living.

Yet Derrig's office remains his personal sanctuary and creative headquarters. "I spend a lot of time in the office, it's almost a second home for me and we meet with clients here to discuss and customize their projects," he said. "It was important for me to feel at home in my office, that's why I have the big fireplace and a private garden." The soaring windows flood the space with natural light while the inviting fireplace and cozy furnishings create a relaxed vibe for meetings with clients.

For the interior design, Derrig collaborated with acclaimed designer Bill Beeton to articulate his vision. The pièce de résistance is the real bark walls enveloping visitors inside. "I first saw it in a restaurant and knew that it would be perfect for my office," Derrig recalled. "Trees got me into



this business so making it feel like you're in the woods upon entering my office made total sense." After several interviews with Derrig, we can attest that it's a completely immersive experience.

Outside, bluestone paths meander through a series of cleverly crafted vignettes reflecting Derrig's nature-inspired aesthetic. "That spot is one of my favorite places to meditate and find inspiration," described Derrig of the serene lily pond, guarded by lush greenery and a Buddha statue. A gracefully curved corten steel wall pays subtle homage to harmonizing structures with the land's natural contours. In the sleek yet cozy retro guest cottage, friends from afar can experience Hamptons living at its finest. One of the showstoppers is an ornately hand-carved dragon door from Bali, a commanding work of art behind the building.

After over two decades designing landscapes across the Hamptons, Derrig's office stands

as a deeply personal artistic statement — the pinnacle of his signature aesthetic.

"I'm working on an amazing 11-acre project in East Hampton integrating three properties into one," he shared. "It has old majestic trees that I was able to incorporate into my design."

Michael Derrig has cultivated far more than manicured grounds on sprawling estates. He has crafted living environments where people can appreciate nature's splendor. His office is an oasis reflecting his creative vision and passion for harmonizing structures with the natural world. A haven where Derrig incubates custom visions for clients, turning Hamptons properties into private Edens.

As the morning sun rises over the Atlantic's sparkling waters, you can find Derrig savoring solitary walks along the beach before his day begins in his office — a sanctuary where his life's work and unique aesthetic continues to evolve and bloom.



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