

# COUNTRY HOUSE 134

## Sweet Dreams

Elizabeth Taylor was such a fan of Federico Pratesi that, no matter where she was, she never slept a night without her beloved Pratesi Italian sheets. The company's new resort collection is an homage to peaceful havens—including Georgica Beach, after which the designer's favorite towel is named.

Call 212-288-2315 for Hamptons home delivery.

*Pratesi*



Amagansett home by Mark Hampton Design

## 5 QUESTIONS FOR...



...interior designer and author of *The Language of Interior Design*, Southampton resident ALEXIA HAMPTON



## MAISON 24

With the opening of its new Beach Couture Shop, Maison 24 becomes not just a home-furnishings company, but a clothing company as well. Owners Allison and Louis Julius plan to keep the shop stocked with swimwear, T-shirts, totes, jewelry, eyewear, watches, and beach items like backgammon sets and playing cards. "We look for classic clothing with something different," says Allison. 2424 Main St., Bridgehampton, 888-806-2424, maison24.com

Diane von Furstenberg's new DVF HOME line features decorative yet functional bedding, tabletop, and accessories in colorful fabrics and fabulous textures, such as pillows and shams in rainbow, garden, and animal prints, and trays in a snakeskin pattern.

Visit [dvyf.com](http://dvyf.com); [bloomingdales.com](http://bloomingdales.com)



Powerstone metal tray (LEFT); double old-fashioned glasses in Erawan blue



A Custom Cool bespoke rug with a map of the Hamptons

## Magic Carpets

A great rug can be the centerpiece of a living space—and a business. Realizing that, two years ago designer and entrepreneur Eliza Gatfield started Custom Cool, a firm that creates bespoke rugs emblazoned with modern graphics, drawings, maps—even abstract portraits. This month the company opens a 1,000-square-foot studio personalizing children's rugs, cushions, handbags, and table linens that are unique and ethically made: Gatfield partners with GoodWeave, an organization committed to ending child labor within the textile industry. 44 Quogue St., Quogue;

**How did you come up with the book's title?** Design really is a language. It can be taught and it can be learned. That doesn't mean it can be mastered, but it isn't necessarily the mystifying subject people believe it to be. I break it down into four elements: contrast—what makes your eyes pop; proportion—the "grammar" of the language, the most structural element; color—this functions as an adjective, gives you a way to make things beachy, urban, formal, playful, bohemian; and balance—the sum total of it all.

**Who are your favorite clients?** I love working with people who have specific tastes, I find that challenging. For a year after my father [Mark Hampton] died, I was attracted to working for difficult men—it was so Freudian! But I like people with a sense of style who want to have a dialogue, who have their own two cents to add, but don't mind if you're a dissenting voice.

**Your favorite Hamptons design stores are....?** There are so many—I love Mecox Gardens, English Country Antiques, Old Town Crossing, and Lauren Copen Antiques, to name a few. And I'm happy to say that they're not only my favorite Hamptons stores, but my favorite stores in general.

**What's the most important thing to look for in an interior designer?** Compatible taste and good energy. A lot of the process is personal, and it's expensive, so if you don't like the person, it's going to be a tough road to hell.

**What are you proudest of?** That I'm the mother of three functioning children who don't hate me yet.

Mark Hampton, 212-753-4110;