



THIS DRESSY Shingle Style house deep in Northwest began as a builder's cottage and is now an art showcase for the owners of the Lizan Tops Gallery.

DESIGN

House Is Showcase For Paintings

BY MARJORIE CHESTER

After using their apartment in a landmark Fifth Avenue brownstone as a venue for selling their large collection of Old Master drawings and prints, Arnie Lizan and Elizabeth Tops decided to open shop on Newtown Lane in East Hampton. That was 10 years ago, when they were renting a house in Sag Harbor and looking for something to buy.

"We were commuting to and from New York and wanted to live here full time," said Mr. Lizan, who met his wife on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Diane Saatchi showed the couple a small cottage high on a hill in the Powder Hill section of Northwest Woods, a solar house built in the late '70s. The couple immediately saw its possibilities, and hired the architect Aryeh Siegel to transform it.

"It was one of my earliest jobs,"

said the 40-year-old architect, who is now designing a house and studio for the artist John Chamberlain on Shelter Island. "Everything got renovated."

He added a large living room on one end and a guest wing and garage connected by a porte cochere on the other, doubling the house's original size. He left the central part of the house, over the main sitting area, open to the rafters, creating a soaring space flooded with light from the upstairs floor-to-ceiling windows.

Clearly Shingle Style as we know it today, the house is painted all white and accentuated with Palladian windows, tall pilasters, and colonial-style brass lanterns uniformly placed to the left and right of every doorway, including the white entry gates down the hill. A powerful five-foot-high head of Archimedes in white plaster,

sculpted by Alexis Gianis, sits by the front door. The house took a year and a half to build. The couple moved in five years ago.

Chartreuse Pillows

"We wanted the house as a blank canvas to feature our contemporary artists of Long Island, a showcase so people could understand our art," said Mr. Lizan. But this is no SoHo loft with vast white walls.

"It's all about brilliant color and fascinating art," said the noted interior designer Noel Jeffrey, whom the Lizans hired to decorate the house. "It demonstrates that you don't necessarily have to have neutral colors to show off an adventurous collection of art."

"We did unusual things with furniture," Mr. Jeffrey said. "We upholstered the antique French daybed in the middle of the sitting room in

black and used chartreuse pillows. Most people would do it with damask, but we used a modern twist."

In the entrance gallery, opposite a playful work in paper by the artist Alan Shields, a Milton Avery pen-and-ink drawing of a female figure hangs over a French iron console table. The shapely curves of the nude mimic the sensuous curves of the table.

A circular area rug with a stylized pattern of leaves and vines anchors the conversation group in the sitting room. The antique French daybed contrasts nicely with a pair of quirky country chairs of different shapes in black and white checked cotton. The informal seating group seems a welcoming island on the sleek enameled black wooden floors. Delicate French crystal sconces and a Picasso lithograph grace the fireplace.

Sunny Dining Room

A large abstract oil by the painter Connie Fox dominates the living room, hanging over a sofa covered with a classic Fortuny fabric. Two Venetian side chairs found at auction, with gilded legs and reupholstered in quilted turquoise taffeta, flank the sofa, and a grand Venetian Deco mirror graces the mantel. A circa 1940 Gio Ponti burled table, stacked high with art books, snuggles in a corner brightened by an Esteban Vicente drawing and a Paul Serusier oil in vibrant orange. A Deco standing lamp from the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach is close by.

Mr. Siegel converted the original outdoor terrace in front of the house into a sunny dining room. The continental-style table and cabinetry were custom designed, and the French provincial chairs are finished in off-white to match the painted brick floor. There's also a library on the first floor, decorated in an exotic African motif of dark greens and browns. The Roman shades are in a fabric that hints at animals roaming around a jungle.

"This house is about a mixture of color and objects," said Mr. Lizan.



AN ABSTRACT painting by Connie Fox dominates the eclectic mix of furnishings in the living room.



THE MASTER BEDROOM suite, with its off-white and silver palette, is the only subdued room in the house.

"It's eclectic, the things we like to live with."

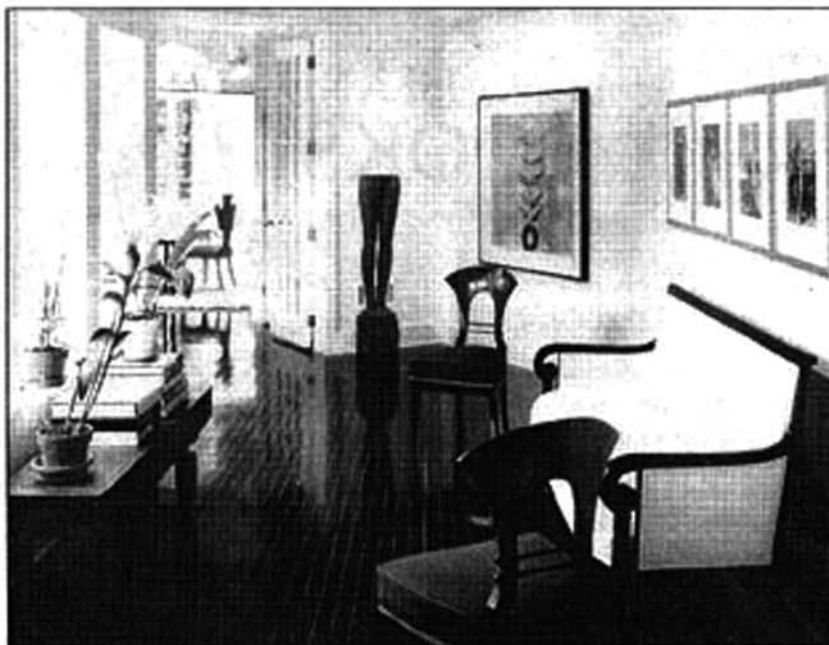
The upstairs guest room on the far left is right out of Hollywood: shocking pink walls, a Venetian side chair in fuchsia that suggests an acrobat in midair, a mirrored bedside console, a funky Ionic column floor lamp, also from the Eden Roc Hotel, and a French upholstered headboard with acanthus leaf carving and patterned button tufts.

"I call this the Jayne Mansfield room," Mr. Lizan said. "We have guests coming this weekend from California, so it's very appropriate."

The master bedroom suite, directly over the living room, is the only subdued room in the house. Mr. Jeffrey used an off-white and silver palette, with sumptuous accents. There's a contemporary silver leaf floor lamp with a brushed fringe shade, a delicate crystal and mirrored tea table, which Mr. Lizan said was from Baccarat, a Matisse drawing, a draped four-poster canopy bed.

The marbled bathroom is equally formal. There's black and white toile wallpaper and a decoupage antique French baker's cabinet. "It's my favorite piece in the house, and we put it in the bathroom," Mr. Lizan said.

The upstairs gallery that connects



THE UPSTAIRS gallery that connects the two bedrooms forms a perfect space for displaying art.

the two bedrooms has enough space for another conversational grouping and sufficient wall and floor space to display prized art. Old-fashioned photographs by Horst in silver frames float over a white sofa, and a large still life painting by Dan Rizzie adds color. There are also works by Denise Regan, Ralph Carpentier, and Pete

Turner. All this against the shiny black floors is stunning.

"Our homes and where we live are very important to us. We are all about social events, Elizabeth and I. It's part of our business. We have a lot of friends out here and we like to entertain and have artists and clients, and it becomes fun," Mr. Lizan said.



WITH WALLS painted shocking pink, an Art Deco lamp from the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach, and a matching headboard and quilt with patterned button tufts, this is called the Jayne Mansfield room by Mr. Lizan.