

# AD100



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# DISCOVERIES



## World of: Gachot Studios

With deep ties to the local community, designers *John* and *Christine Gachot* craft a compelling family oasis on New York's Shelter Island

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NGOC MINH NGO



1. A BUCKMINSTER FULLER DYMAXION MAP HANGS IN THE STUDIO.  
2. CHRISTINE AND JOHN GACHOT.

# DISCOVERIES *world of*



1. THE PAINTING STUDIO OCCUPIES A FORMER CARRIAGE SHED. 2. JACK ALIGHTS ON A STAIRCASE WRAPPED IN A WALLPAPER DEVELOPED FOR THE SHINOLA HOTEL IN DETROIT. 3. THE HOUSE IS A 1932 CENTER HALL COLONIAL.

**S**helter Island, a sylvan community on the eastern end of New York's Long Island, possesses a quality that has all but disappeared from the moneyed enclaves of the nearby Hamptons: simple, old-fashioned charm. "It feels like Mayberry, slow and peaceful," says designer John Gachot, referencing the fictitious locale of *The Andy Griffith Show*. "We're perpetually in a time warp here."

Gachot knows of what he speaks. As a child, he spent his summers on the island, whiling away lazy days of fishing and grilling, far removed from the urban grit of Manhattan. "That's the experience we wanted for our kids—the kind of freedom and spontaneity that they don't get in the city," explains Gachot's wife, Christine, who is also his business partner in the AD100 design firm Gachot Studios. "Everyone house-hops, the kids disappear for hours with their friends, and there's always someone in the pool. It's a special place," she adds.

For years, the Gachots lived out their Shelter Island idyll in a 900-square-foot shack that was the ne plus ultra of rustic repose. But as their two sons—Boris, 16, and Jack, 11—continued to grow, the family decamped in 2017 to an archetypal 1932 center hall Colonial with room to spare. "We'd driven by the place for years and loved it. During the holidays, there was always a Christmas tree in the window, and it just looked perfect," John recalls. So when they heard the house was on the market, the couple immediately put in an offer. "We knew there was a pool somewhere, but we'd never actually seen it.



"We didn't even realize that the studio was part of the property," Christine says, referring to the petite carriage shed that now serves as a painting studio and yoga room.

Since the house was in excellent condition, the Gachots' ministrations were subtle and precise—refinished floors, a new kitchen, striped awnings,

# DISCOVERIES *world of*

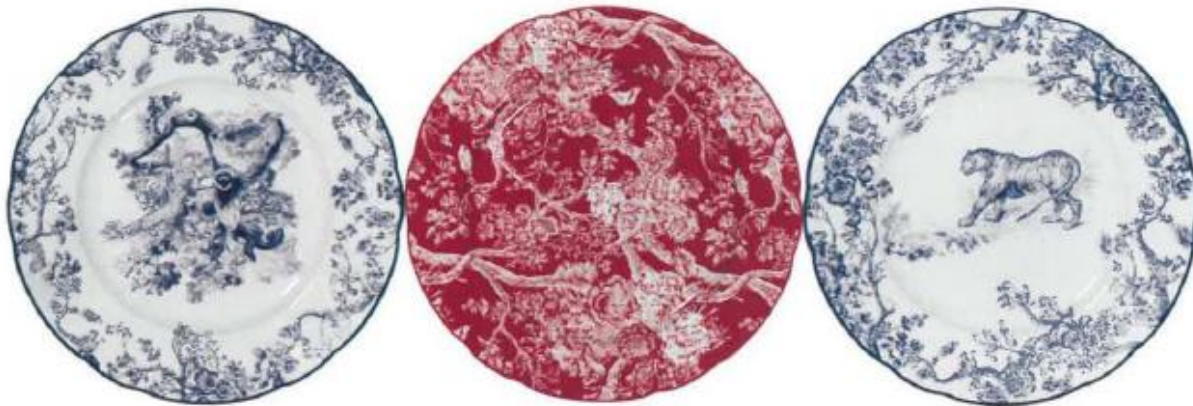


1. A PAINTING BY JOHN GACHOT PRESIDES OVER THE LIVING ROOM.  
2. BORIS CANNONBALLS INTO THE POOL.



and a jaunty mix of furniture and art that hints at the couple's personal and professional history. The William Sofield-designed tusk table in the studio, for example, is a memento of the couple's tenure at Studio Sofield, where they first met in the 1990s. The armchairs in the living room are prototypes for a project for Marc Jacobs. And the wallpaper that covers the rear staircase was developed for the Gachots' new Shinola Hotel in Detroit. "It's a supercasual mash-up of things we love. Nothing is particularly fancy or precious," John observes. "That's the Shelter Island way." [gachotstudios.com](http://gachotstudios.com)

—MAYER RUS



## SERVING LOOKS

Toile de Jouy has long been a part of Dior's heritage: Monsieur Dior used the classic pattern as early as 1947, when he furnished his Paris atelier at 30 Avenue Montaigne. Now the fashion house has revisited the motif, adding fresh twists in the form of wild animals. The results appear not only in the brand's cruise collection but also in a capsule home line that includes plates, cushions, and more. Holiday shoppers can spot them in Dior windows worldwide. [dior.com](http://dior.com) —GAY GASSMANN