

# southforker

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APRIL / MAY 2024

*Life in living color  
with designer  
**Shea Keating***



**FROZEN FUN**  
WITH  
HAMPTON ICE

THE  
**BEAUTIFUL  
BENCHES** OF  
NICO YEKTAI

ANSWERING  
THE PRAYERS  
OF **ART  
LOVERS** AT  
THE CHURCH

**AT HOME IN  
NATURE** WITH  
BATES MASI







**ABOUT THE COVER**  
April / May 2024

It doesn't always happen this way with covers when an image hits you and you say, "That's the one!" Sometimes it's clear, sometimes you need to think on it (and, honestly, our photogs here are so damn talented, they really do make this decision hard sometimes!). But when I saw this inspired shot of Shea Keating on her rainbow runner steps, disco balls in the background and all, I had my heart set on it. Thanks, Doug Young! This picture just makes me smile.



Ice man Albert Vigneau of Hampton Ice shows off a slab of his beautiful, clear ice.

IN FEBRUARY, when we were shooting the photos for this issue's Southside Sips story with cocktail guru Jarhn Blutstein, photographer Doug Young showed up with a sprig of green that he'd plucked from the ground outside his house. "Anyone know what this is?" he asked, holding the frondy little sprig in the air. "I thought it was cool and maybe might work as a garnish. But is it edible?" It was. The piece of greenery that caught his attention is called purslane, a sharp, sour-ish (but not unpleasantly so!) wild succulent that I'd become familiar with while writing a book called *Forager's Cocktails*. How it managed to stay alive in the cold and snow, I can't say because typically this plant grows in the spring and summer. But there it was, alive and well and saying, "Hey guys! Spring is just around the corner!"

The cocktail Blutstein made — the Snap Pea Gin Sour on p. 94 — is the most beautiful green color and, had it vocal abilities, would be hollering, "Hey, hey! Warm weather on the way!" It was so green, that our awesome art director Wendy Scofield (who, along with Courtney Eckersley, make these pages so damn beautiful every time) said to me one day: Is it too green?!

My birthday is the first day of spring. Green is my favorite color. There is no version of too green in my world. In fact, there is no occasion when there's too much color, certainly not if you're Sag Harbor designer Shea Keating (p. 32). Looking at her life-seizing, happy-making, disco-ball visions for color-saturated interiors feel like that moment when Dorothy lands in Oz (or maybe when Bella Baxter wakes up with a new brain?) and which are captured in amazing technicolor-kapow detail by photographer Young and writer Lauren Parker. It's just so cool to see somebody bucking the everyone-in-driftwood-gray color scheme that's been foisted upon these parts, but in the friendliest kind of way.

And speaking of living large, sometime last year these videos of an ever-smiling, shaggy-haired Dead Head looking kinda guy shouting, "HII!" started popping up on my Insta feed. All but impossible to ignore, I started

looking forward to his rants on ice — yup, ice! — in which it quickly became obvious that this world of frozen water had become a calling for Al Vigneau, and I felt his pain. The cocktail renaissance has been alive and well for nearly 20 years, and while many spots on the South Fork make gorgeous drinks, few and far between care about the most important ingredient in the glass. Emily Toy learned all about Vigneau's nascent company, Hampton Ice (p. 44), and how this former finance guy kicked it all to the curb for cubes (and I hope you dig how photographer Jeremy Garretson captured a bit of Vigneau's mad scientist vibe — I know I do!).

There's so much spring saturation on these pages — a trek to Madoo (p. 25), some lingering in LongHouse Reserve (p. 87) and an intimate chat with landscape color-grabbing designer Frederico Azevedo (p. 28) — not to mention the launch of our new food column, Eat Local (p. 22 — thanks for letting us take over a corner of your dining room, Captain Jack's!), all of us at Southforker are feeling a little extra revved up about the changing of the seasons. We hope these pages get you there, too.

Get out there and smell the flowers, people!

**Amy Zavatto**  
Editor-in-Chief, Southforker





## Frederico Azevedo

For the Unlimited Earth Care designer of some of the Hamptons most stunning gardens, natural beauty is never boring. **Amy Zavatto**

FOR HAMPTONS landscape designer Frederico Azevedo, creating a beautiful garden requires more than just plants. For him, it's about creativity, color and kindness.

Azevedo, owner of and creative visionary behind Unlimited Earth Care in Bridgehampton, knew his garden path in life from the get-go. As a small boy, he found himself drawn to the outdoors, creating gardens of vegetables and flowers at his parents' city and beach homes in his native Brazil. "I always had that natural thing flowing in my life," he says. "I didn't really even have to think about it."

His influences are equally vast and vital: the technical form and function of Japanese-influenced landscape design in Brazil; the creativity he found and flourished under working in

North America; and the wild color, texture and pattern influences of his time spent in England.

"When I first came here to work in 1990, everything was white, in both home and garden," he says. "All that Philippe Starck and earlier Martha Stewart influence. If you have too much of a color in a dining room or a kitchen, there's something wrong — it's the same in nature. When color is balanced all around, then you have the right environment."

That balance plays into his clients, too. In the Americas, landscape design can seem like a bit of a luxury; in England, it's an every-man norm for all walks of society. "A post office worker in England will hire a landscape designer if they want a home garden. It's part of the culture there for generations," Azevedo says. Although certainly his works can be seen adorning the grounds of some of the Hamptons' tonier homes, his aim is to create that kind of peaceful beauty wherever he can and to apply that kind of balance to his work, too.

"I knew a mother from the [Shinnecock] reservation in Southampton, and her daughter was getting married. She came to me with all these magazine clips — her dream was to have a garden designed by me for the wedding," he says. The woman's budget was very limited, but Azevedo saw and related to her passion to create something beautiful. "I designed it and I didn't charge her," he says. "Sometimes, you do it for love and not the money. It's about understanding the needs of people and sharing something. That's what makes your career all worth it. That's the whole meaning!"

*Here are a few of Frederico Azevedo's favorite South Fork things:*

**Favorite beach** I have to be up very early. By 5:30 a.m., I'm in my

office, so I usually leave home in the dark and come home in the dark! I think because of that, my favorite place is Long Beach in Sag Harbor because you can see both east and west from there. I can see the moon coming up in the east and the sun setting in the west, so it's all the light crashing around you, with one coming one up and one going down.

**Favorite perennial and favorite native plants** I love calla lily.

And I also love echinacea — the thing is, it attracts a lot of wildlife and pollinators because it has a big pollen center. When the petals are gone, the center of the plant becomes the fruit and it's just beautiful.

**Favorite cocktail** A Hendricks gin martini with a cucumber slice from Le Bilboquet in Sag Harbor.

**Favorite garden that you didn't design** The city, Central Park. On the South Fork, Madoo [Conservancy].

**Favorite art gallery or museum on the South Fork** The Parrish. There's wonderful variety between sculpture, photos and paintings, and I think they are very well curated and they have a good flow to them, too.

**Favorite place to bring out-of-town guests** Shelter Island. I live in North Haven, close to the ferry, and I like to get everybody on the bikes and have day biking all around the island. We go to the farm stands and stores and trails and see the different beaches, and then we end up at Sunset Beach. I've been going there for the food and atmosphere since it opened in 1997, when they used to have Brazilian bands on Sundays. ☺