



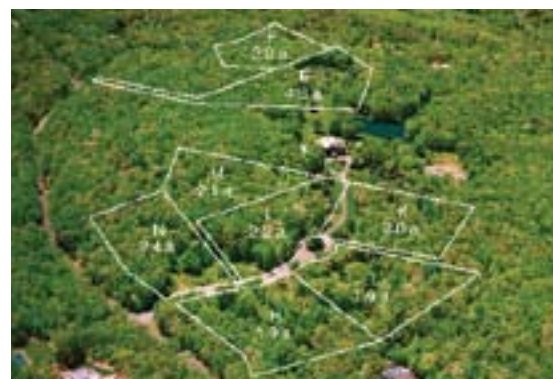
PROJECT

Green Ideas *by Samuel T. Clover*

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY 2007 HC&G IDEA HOUSE



Back to Nature | The builders and designers of the 2007 HC&G Idea House (LEFT), nestled in an Amagansett woodland preserve and part of a future six-home community (BELOW), combine conservation with elegance. **Solar Flair** | When completed, the Idea House's pool house and pool will run entirely on energy collected by solar panels installed by GreenLogic on the pool house roof, such as the low-profile panels on this home (BOTTOM).



America is going green, and the 2007 HC&G Idea House is no exception. Part of a six-house community in the former Warner LeRoy estate (now a protected Amagansett woodland), the house's environmental footprint was a big consideration from the start. Noting that local zoning prohibits the removal of more than 20 percent of the surrounding forest, Idea House builder/developer Rich Gherardi of Sand Dollar Development says, "It's the most rigorous zoning requirement around. We were very careful about not taking down the mature trees that cover the entire LeRoy estate. This house is in a beautiful wooded forest that just doesn't exist anywhere else in the Hamptons." In terms of construction materials, Gherardi takes pains to exceed minimum standards both to prevent waste and to ensure quality construction. For example, he is using 5/8-inch drywall instead of the standard 1/2-inch drywall, which helps to keep temperatures cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Much of the décor, too, will be environmentally friendly. In the Formal Living Room, design directors Brian Brady and Franco Biscardi are using natural cotton and linen upholstery, as well as window treatments of hand-woven reed shades framed by raw silk draperies. They are also "recycling" by using beautiful furnishings

from Sentimento Antiques and Mecox Gardens. For the Porch, designer Eugenia Au Kim, who embraces Fung Shui techniques, is creating a tent-like atmosphere with natural drapery. "I'm calling it the summer pavilion," she says. "This space is a gift to oneself, a place to relax physically and spiritually, because I think that's a part of green living, too." In addition to natural polyresin furniture from Walters Wicker, Kim is using natural hand-woven vine chairs and clay and porcelain dinnerware, all from Thailand. To echo the surrounding landscape, she is installing a riverstone area rug. "I wanted a very tactile, sensuous feeling, and also to ground the area in the earth," Kim says.

Charlie Marder's landscaping will respect the indigenous flora while playing off the interior designers' creations. Surrounding Kim's porch, for example, will be indigenous glacial rock supplemented by Japanese maples, lending a Far Eastern feel. To manage the local deer population, in some areas Marder is using deer-resistant plants such as American hollies and mountain laurel, and in others hedges that attract deer, which the animals will naturally prune.

Run entirely by solar energy, the pool house is one of the estate's signature green attributes. "Our idea was to provide enough power to operate the pool house and the pool equipment," says Marc Clejan of GreenLogic. "We're using framed panels,



the traditional solar photovoltaic panels. There are other alternatives—films, laminates, membranes—but we're using panels because it's the lowest cost to install, has the best financial return and will offer the most output per square foot." With government incentives and utility rebates (see "Net Worth," pg. 36, for details), Clejan says homeowners pay on average 60 percent of the cost of a solar system. "We feel that people should be able to have whatever kind of house they want, and when you add these features it becomes ecologically beneficial. People should be able to have their cake and eat it, too." ☀