

# HCG

Hamptons Cottages and Gardens

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## VICTORIA HAGAN

After receiving a BFA from Parsons, Interior Designer Victoria Hagan inquired about getting a start in design. “I had asked someone how you get started in the field, and they said it was so important to have an internship. It was a lucky day in my career when I started interning for Simone Feldman. I learned so much from her. She later became my partner until she passed away in 1991. We have an internship program in our office because I think it’s so important to open students’ eyes to the reality of the business. I’ve had interns who have grown to become senior designers in the office, and it’s very exciting and rewarding to watch their career path.” Hagan says of this issue’s “Uptown Elegance” (page 102): “This project had such a unique architectural challenge, so my favorite part was working on the floor plans and seeing the potential of combining the three apartments together. We were able to understand the transformation of the previously divided units into a beautiful, livable layout that the newly conceived larger spaces would provide.”

## SABINA SZATKO

In this issue’s “Fresh Take” (page 110), Designer Sabina Szatko of S.M.S. Interiors ventures into a new design pursuit. “This was my first project coming out of a long ten-year run at Tom Scheerer,” says Szatko. “It was a time for me to spread my wings and understand how it works when you’re the boss and directing the client into making movements, and trusting the process.” When it came to discovering her passion, Szatko says, “I feel like a lot of people have this similar story: I moved around a lot as a kid. My parents are from Europe, we moved to the states, and my parents are big home renovators themselves, so I feel it was something ingrained in me. When we were moving while I was in fourth grade, I was drawing up a floor plan!”



## BROOKE ABRAMS

Before establishing her eponymous firm, Brooke Abrams Interiors, Abrams says of her start, “I moved to New York right after college from the Midwest. My first job was working for Portico Interiors.” As for her own home featured in this issue’s “At Ease” (page 124), Abrams was keen to make it reflect her family’s lifestyle in Montauk. “I spend so much time designing houses for others that it was nice to do it for our family home.” —Shannon Assenza