

ABSTRACT

Project Name: Six Square House

Location: Bridgehampton, NY

Entry Category: Residential Design

Description of Project:

The landscape design for Six Square House ties three structures together through unified textures and geometries. The 1.4 acre lot in Bridgehampton, NY, includes an 1850 farm house, the recently-completed “Six Square House,” and a pool house.

Three distinct landscapes stitch the property into an intuitive tapestry—shifting the axis of focus along a consistent ground plane. A hedge-lined drive delivers you to the site’s center. Here, a meadow creates a sense of wilderness. A turf-grass axis is the entertainment core, establishing connection between all three structures. The end result is a landscape and habitat for play, entertainment, and exploration.

NARRATIVE

Context

This 1.4 acre site is close to downtown Bridgehampton and is surrounded by privet hedges and populated by mature trees. An 1850 farm house (Front House) is sited close to the road. With the recent completion of Six Square House (Middle House), the farm house is now used to entertain extended family members while the middle house serves as the client's private residence. The Pool House, designed and built with the Middle House, anchors the property's back corner. The Middle House—the “nucleus” of the site—consists of six overlapping squares that respond to existing trees and viewsheds.

Using the Middle House as the nucleus, we laid out several design objectives:

- Curate a sequential transition from the traditional to modern buildings
- Organize outdoor spaces to facilitate gatherings
- Respond to regional inspirations for landscape and material characters
- Shift the client's focus through the site along a unified “carpet” of plantings and materials
- Celebrate and accentuate the character of existing trees
- Establish a distinct threshold for the meadow to welcome those arriving from the parking area
- Create a long vista from the Front House to the Pool House

Site Strategies:

Long, secluded entry

A 150' hedge-lined entry drive was restored, terminating at a mature tree at the center of the site which is fronted by the meadow threshold. The drive then turns to the auto court dotted with existing trees. A bluestone-paved threshold and path leads people to the Front House.

Establishing Meadow Threshold between Front House and the Middle House

A meadow threshold creates a sense of calm as soon as you arrive on the property, and makes the Middle House appear to emerge from nature. A bluestone path leads from the auto court to the Middle House's courtyard. The meadow surrounds and accentuates an existing black oak tree.

Creating a Long Vista between Front House and Pool House

The long lawn is an area for active entertaining. It also creates a vista across much of the property— illustrating how topography is navigated with a gentle slope. Likewise, this sightline provides a safety function as the owner can maintain unobstructed views of their children in the pool from the Front House kitchen and the dining patio.

Use regionally sourced materials in a unique way

In the Hamptons, bluestone is regionally sourced, widely available, and economical to use. However, we wanted our paving design to stand out with memorable patterns and combinations.

The 42” main path was designed with linear-cut natural cleft bluestone with warmer tones. We developed a system of color combinations that give a textured, crafted finish to the path—contrasting with the Middle House’s concrete plinth. The threshold paving at-grade at the entrance of each building uses a large-format natural cleft. This contrasts with the raised patio space, which is paved with thermal-finish bluestone that is more refined in texture and color.

Lastly, the tire tracks leading to the Middle House garage are paved with bluestone cobbles.

Planting and Garden space respond to local ecology and habitat

The client intends this property to be most used during the summer months as a restorative gathering place for family and friends. The gardens address these programs accordingly.

The Hamptons are a place of diverse natural resources and long-established garden traditions. The planting design balanced the desire for naturalized plantings as well as the more curated garden species. The two types of planting also respond to two distinct types of program spaces: active entertainment and recreation and peaceful meditation. The stark dichotomy between the meadow and the manicured lawn encourages you to transition from one physical space to another, and from one mental state to another.

The meadow is seeded with native meadow mix to create an ever-changing threshold for the Middle House. Grass with spring and early summer bulbs along the north border recall the dune grass along the Hamptons’ beaches. The meadow and grass frames the lawn with long vistas between the Front House and Pool House. The southwest corner of the property is covered with mature trees, so mixed fern plugs were planted to restore the forest floor.

Formal plantings include lines of hydrangeas that separate the auto court from the Front House, and creates enclosure for the Pool House. The private garden next to the Middle House bedroom has layers of ferns interplanted with astilbes. A hawthorn tree creates a focal point from the master bathroom. Six Ginkgo trees were planted along the lawn to create sporadic shade and form park-like gathering spaces.





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FRONT HOUSE

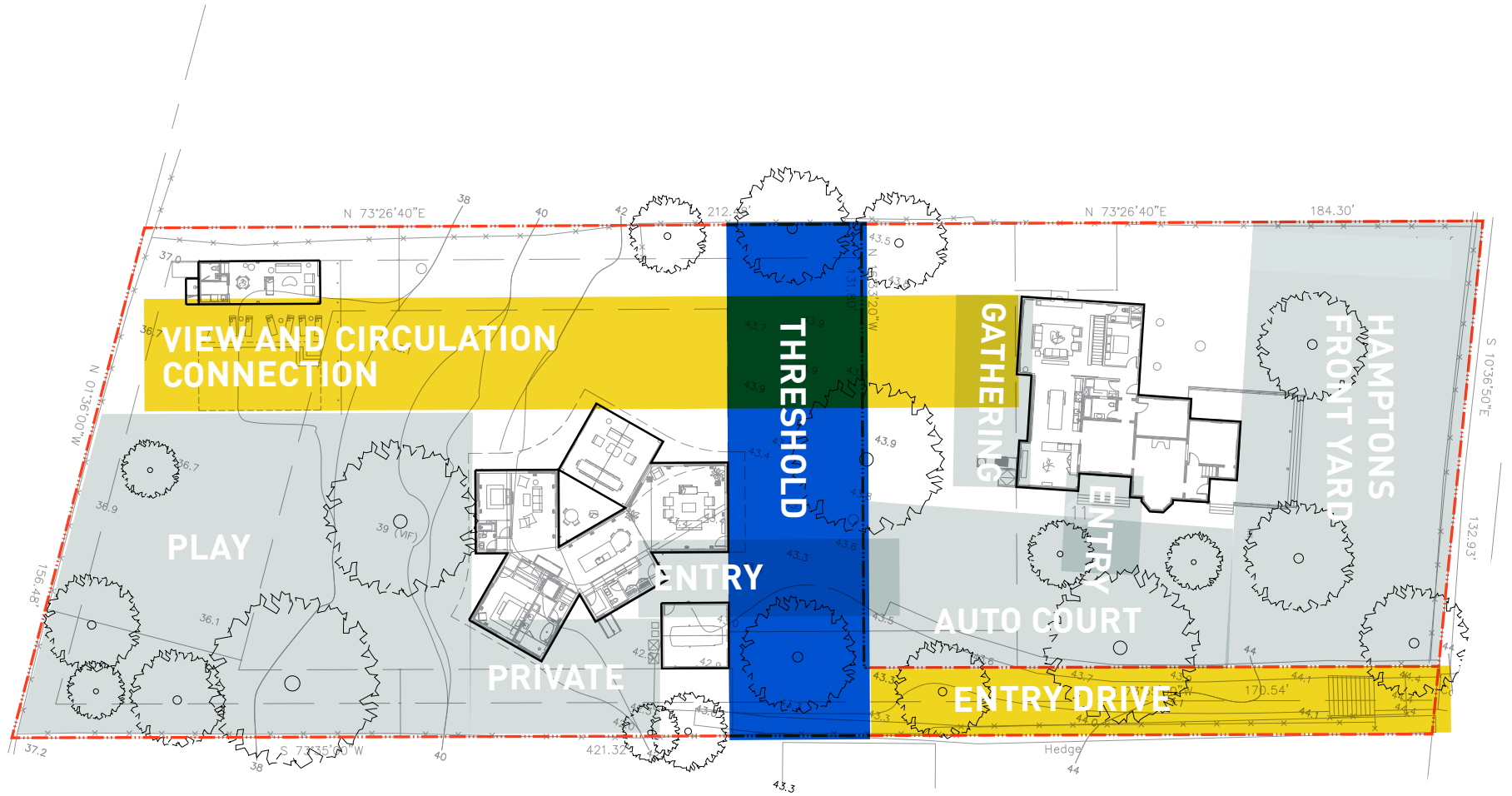
Formal, Cozy, Condensed

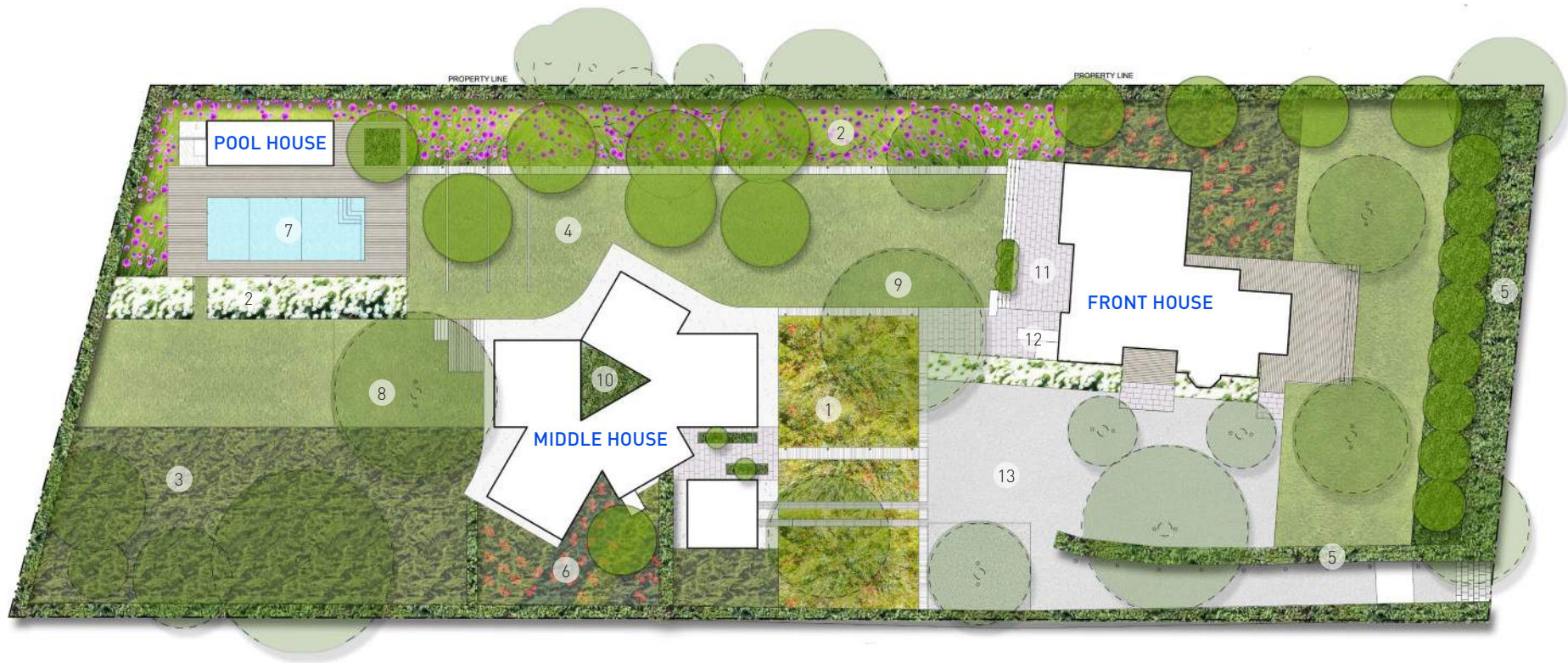
MIDDLE HOUSE

Relaxed, Free, Spread-out

POOL HOUSE

Open to landscape, Casual





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|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Meadow Mix | 5. Hedge | 8. Existing Beech Tree | 11. Outdoor Dining |
| 2. Perennial Garden | 6. Private Garden | 9. Existing Black Oak Tree | 12. Outdoor Grill |
| 3. Fern | 7. Pool | 10. Courtyard | 13. Auto Court |
| 4. Play Lawn | | | |



0' 15' 30' 60'



Meadow plantings and mature trees create the sense that Six Square House rises out of nature.



Locally-sourced bluestone paved path leads to the front door courtyard of the Middle House.



Bluestone path serves as a border for the gravel auto court, connecting people to the patio and lawn to the north.



The landscape incorporates and accentuates several character trees on the property, including this black oak within the meadow threshold.



A lawn area establishes a long vista from the farm house (in background) to the pool house. Grasses along the border recall the sand dune grasses of the Hamptons' beaches.



Thermal finish bluestone steps subtly negotiated the slopes and create contrasts to the warm toned bluestone path.



Hydrangeas create a sense of cozy enclosure for the pool deck.

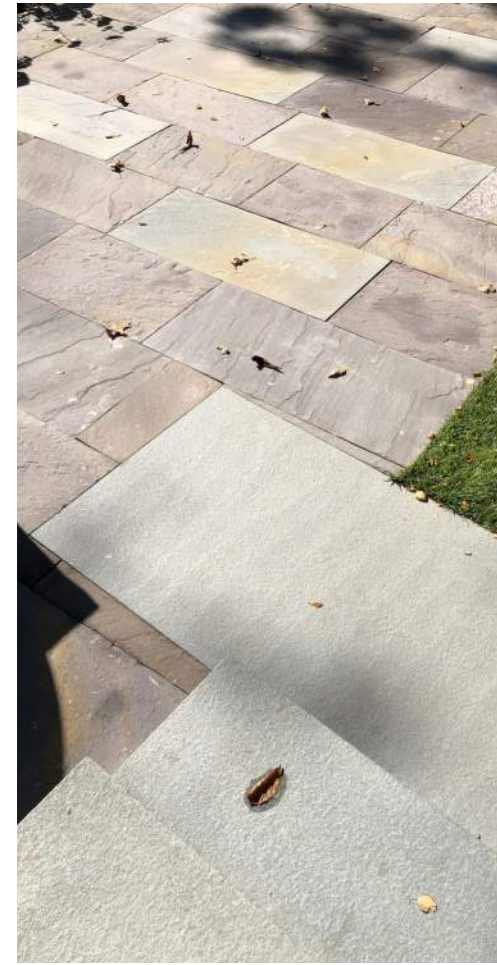


The stark dichotomy between the meadow and the manicured lawn encourages you to transition from one physical space to another, and from a meditative state of nature exploration to one of active socializing.

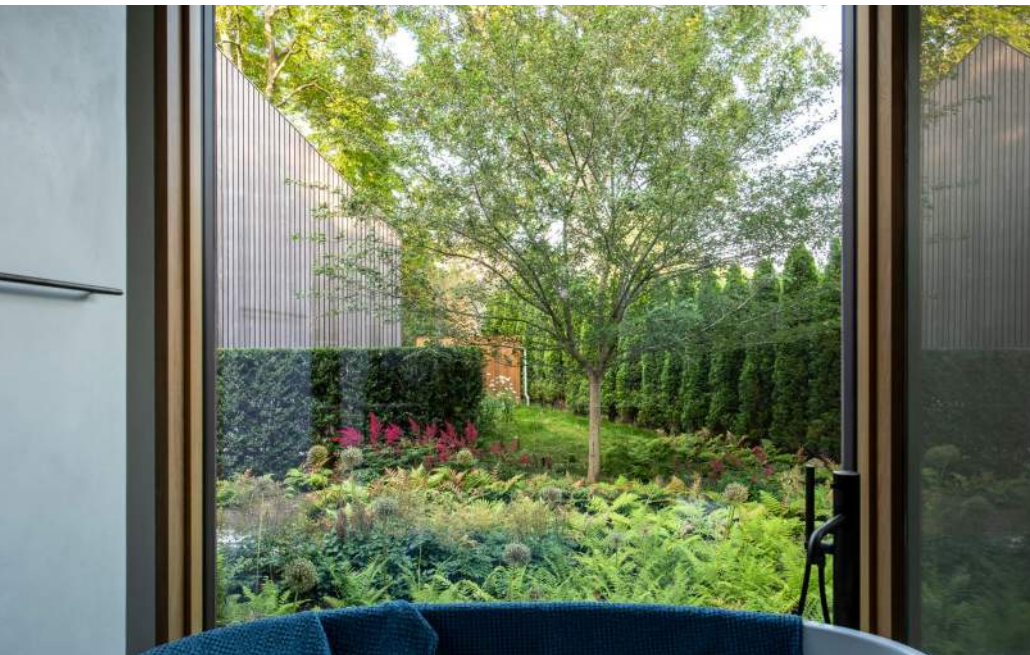


The diverse planting design brings nature to the interior





We used bluestone through the project as it is a regionally-sourced material. However, we wanted our paving designs to stand out with a diverse range of memorable patterns and combinations.



The plant and garden design brings different color and texture throughout the year.