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# DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

## CHARLES PAVARINI

BY SARAH PARKER YOUNG

Charles Pavarini III's exceptional design sensibility is rooted in the legacy of his grandfather who created historic landmarks such as the Seagram Tower, the United Nations headquarters, and the State Theater at Lincoln Center. Well known for his European flavor, this talented designer melds contemporary design with classical principles to create exquisite interiors. Additionally, his extensive experience as a costume and set designer allows Pavarini to conceive of spaces of any scale and proportion. This unique ability imbues his projects with a refined sense of drama. Pavarini has participated in the prestigious Kips Bay Decorator Show House event on numerous occasions, including the current one where he has designed an eco-chic wellness indoor/outdoor retreat. His work in showhouses has been featured nationwide in the *Washington Post*, the *Daily News*, the *New York Times*, and many others.

The interview below covers this exceptional designer's design style and the interior decoration of this Southampton home.

**How do you enhance the flow from the interior to the landscape with a beach house?**

My vision for a home always passes through the windows to the exterior. The general design sensibility (whether traditional or contemporary, more or less chromatic, formal or informal) permeates my vision for the home and its property as a whole, should I have command of both interior and exterior, as I did on this project. Like a photographer sees through a lens, I look through the windows. The feeling from inside the





Photography by Marco Ricca

home looking out to the property should meld. I often choose similar shapes, colors, and styles of furnishings inside and out, and I make choices about their placement judiciously so that a similar experience continues from inside to outside. I even work with the landscapers to create focal points for trees and shrubs as well as jardinières and gates, etc. to create definite focal points visible from within the home. This method enhances the flow of design from the interior to the landscape and results in a more cohesive and complete experience for the people living in the home.

#### **What is your favorite room in the home?**

Certainly the dining room is my favorite room in the home! Given my Italian heritage, dining may be the key element in a successful home as it bonds the guests and gives great pleasure and forum for conversation and intellectual bonding. Furthermore, it provides the opportunity to collect beautiful tableware, linens, candlesticks and stunning centerpieces. What's more heartwarming than a beautifully set and decorated dining table seated with friends and family looking forward to a special dining experience.





**Can you tell us a little about the stunning chandelier in the dining room?**

I flipped when I came across that stunning cobalt Murano chandelier at Lorin Marsh! While its color is its most striking quality, the curls, rings, and teardrops give it a whimsical, fanciful look without it feeling heavy and formal. It made for an absolutely perfect contrast to the salmon-colored walls and also set the tone for the selections of china and crystal.

**The combination of blue and coral tones is striking, what appealed to you about this palette?**

I envisioned a highly chromatic scheme with high-contrast given the house would only be occupied in the summer months. Coral tones were necessary given the theme 'beach house' I was developing in my mind, and deep blues presented the perfect contrast for the custom coral tone I had mixed for the walls. Given the highly-saturated tones on opposite sides of the color wheel, the result was an extremely uplifting environment that created a sunny feeling even on cloudy days!





**How do you make design successful with a mix of antiques and more modern pieces?**

It all comes down to shapes. Whether traditional or contemporary, new or antique, the shapes need to relate. Given the client's predilection for traditional French style, I mixed new and old pieces having curvilinear forms. Then I began designing upholstered furniture and custom linen-wrapped tables that carried the same lines of the antiques. With that, I pulled together a harmonious yet eclectic mix of new and old with consistency in form.

**Whose dog is sitting on the bench?**

That's my best friend, Fred Astaire. He travels with me everywhere! I rescued Fred for my mom, who shared the final years of her life in his company. Upon her passing, he became my right-hand man and mascot. He loves my job as he is wel-

comed on all my jobsites for his knowledge of proper home etiquette and uncanny ability to follow directives. Most importantly, he brings a levity to stressful days.

**Do you have any favorite places in the Hamptons to shop, eat, and relax?**

I have always loved and shopped Mecox Gardens, John Salibello Antiques, and MONC XIII. They all are curators of the best of antique, vintage, and new furnishings of the upmost style and quality. Furthermore, their leadership and reputations speak for themselves. When by the shore, all I can think of is lobster, so I head straight to Silver's for the perfect lobster roll!

**Charles Pavarini**  
[pavarinidesign.com](http://pavarinidesign.com)