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SUMMER LOVING

AT THEIR LONG ISLAND HOME, VERONICA AND JAMIE BEARD LIVE IT UP WITH EYE-POPPING HUES AND ZESTY PATTERNS

TEXT BY KRISTINA STEWART WARD · PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON UPTON · PRODUCED BY CYNTHIA FRANK



Facing page: Veronica Swanson Beard. This page: The living room of the Beards' Southampton, New York, residence, which was designed by architect Kelly F. Faloon and decorated by Chiqui and Nena Woolworth; the sofas are upholstered in a China Seas fabric, and a 1960s ceramic sculpture from Amy Perlin Antiques sits atop a vintage cocktail table from Homenature. See Resources.

THAT RECALL THE CHIC OF THE '70S



"WE WOULD LOVE to be able to pack up this house and ship it to Florida every winter," says Veronica Swanson Beard of the bayfront home in Southampton, New York, where she spends weekends with her husband, Jamie, a real-estate developer, and their sons, two-year-old Clarke and newborn Halsey. With interiors inspired by Palm Beach—coral-pink walls, crocodile textures, tropical prints, acres of sisal—the property would certainly be a perfect fit amid white sand and palm trees. The casualness of the place is key. "I spent my childhood in formal houses where we couldn't sit in the living room," says Beard, who was shuttled between Florida and Northern California in her youth. "With this house, I wanted everybody to feel they could plop down anywhere in a wet bathing suit and just relax."

Her decorators, Chiqui and Nena Woolworth, share that sensibility—which should come as no surprise, since they are Beard's aunt and cousin, respectively. All three women have a particular affection for Palm Beach in the late 1960s, a time and place that proved seminal in the family history, since it was where fashion designer and society renegade Lilly Pulitzer introduced Beard's parents to each other. (Her father, frozen-food scion W. Clarke Swanson Jr., owns the award-winning Napa Valley winery Swanson Vineyards; her half-Cuban mother, Elizabeth, is "the CEO of my father," Beard says with a laugh.) That the septuagenarian, nearly-always-barefoot Pulitzer is one of Beard's



idols is clearly reflected in the free-spirited verve of her Southampton home, where flora- and fauna-motif fabrics and snappy colors join forces with groovy vintage furnishings ('70s cocktail tables) and earthily evocative pieces (a twig chandelier, woven-rope planters). "I love everything about Lilly's early days," Beard says. "She created the first resort uniform with those little shift dresses. Bright colors; long, tan legs—it's so iconic."

Jamie Beard's side of the family has had a major influence on the house as well. Artist Peter Beard is his uncle, and several of his hand-illustrated photographs of African wildlife adorn the walls of the residence, their subjects echoed in the decor. An elephant-gray strié finish is painted on the walls of the entrance hall, antelope-spot carpeting bounds up the staircase to the bedrooms, and the red walls of the study are embossed with a crocodile-hide pattern. "We wanted to be playful with the animal theme," Veronica Beard explains, adding slyly, "After all, this place has a history of wildlife." Long before she and her husband built this home with Connecticut-based architect Kelly F. Faloon, the site was occupied by a well-worn cottage shared by 15 rakish bachelors known far and wide for hosting summer-weekend bacchanals. "It had been



The dining room's chandelier and chairs are from
Bell, the grapevine table is by Jayson Home &
Garden, and the pillows are by Madeline Wein-
rib; the hand-colored photograph is by Peter
Leard. Facing page, from top: A pair of Barrel
Lounge chairs by Laura Kirar for McGuire in the
living room. On the deck is a grill by Weber, an
Italian cocktail table from R. E. Steele, a bench
by Restoration Hardware, and pillows and cot-
ton rugs by Madeline Weinrib. See Resources.

