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## Fall Fabric Fantasy

Southampton Chalet | East Meets West | Brazilian Dreaming





MEET THE ARCHITECT

# Nicholas Botta

by Orli Ben-Dor



**Sunny Days** | Bright yellow trim accents a shingle-style house in Bridgehampton (LEFT) designed by architect Nicholas Botta. **The Designer** | An East Hampton native, Botta (BELOW LEFT) works with a thorough understanding of the East End aesthetic and pays close attention to the relationship between the structure and the site's natural landscape, including sunlight and breezes. **Home Style** | This five-bedroom, two-story house (BELOW RIGHT) sits on just over an acre in the Georgica area. **Beaming** | Exposed beams (BOTTOM) create a lofty look in the living room of this Botta-designed East Hampton home. See Resources.



**What do you love about the Hamptons?** I grew up in East Hampton, so I have a special appreciation and respect for the area. I love the natural beauty of the landscape, from the ocean on the south side to the bay on the north and all the farm fields in between. The community is great, and the people are friendly. It's a wonderful place to live and work. **Do you have a favorite place here?** The ocean. I try to get to the beach every day, even if it's only for a few minutes. I also like to surf, so I will usually spend a few hours a week in the water. **Describe your home:** An efficient use of space that is very light and open to the outside. **Where did you study?** I studied at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the New York Institute of Technology. I have been practicing architecture for over 10 years and started my own firm three years ago. **What are your favorite materials?** Natural woods and stone. I feel that using natural materials helps the building work better with the site. **What's your design philosophy?** To attempt to minimize the boundaries between interior and exterior spaces. I like to use a lot of glass and have rooms that open up to exterior terraces, so when you are in the room you feel that the space outside is part of it. **What's your greatest extravagance and your greatest bargain?** My extravagance turned out also to be my greatest bargain: the property I purchased a few years ago in East Hampton. **What's something you can never have too much of?** Time. I love spending time with my family, and you can never have too much of that. **Do you have a favorite building or structure?** I don't have a favorite, but the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is a very elegant structure for something that was built for function. **When is your most creative time of the day?** Creativity can come at any time, sometimes when I'm not consciously thinking about it. **Describe your clients:** My friends. It is important to have a great relationship with my clients. A home is very personal, and in order for me to properly design for someone, I have to get to know them on a personal level. **What would you do for work if you weren't an architect?** I've wanted to be an architect since I was about 12. I really couldn't imagine being anything else. It would have to be something creative; I love the process of an idea becoming reality. See Resources.

