

# domino

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The interplay of an antique English dresser, hand-painted lamp shade and black-and-white quilt creates drama.



As in the other bedroom, an unusual textile—in this case, a crewelwork throw—lends personality to a ready-made headboard.

## nooks, amplified

Horizontal stripes visually widen an interior (the same way they do a person), so Elrod and Cohler laid down bold, brown-and-white rugs in the pint-size chambers. Topping antique Chinese tables with oversize mercury lamp sets up a textural frisson and emphasizes the room's verticality. Brown trim on the paper lamp shades subtly echoes the floors. While other people might detect an instinct for masterminding appealing compositions, Elrod sees the decor as simply "offhand eclecticism" (his Manhattan apartment is far more serious). Either way, what Elrod calls "the least-planned thing I've ever done" is quietly instructive, as only a gentleman's home can be.

## discreet prints

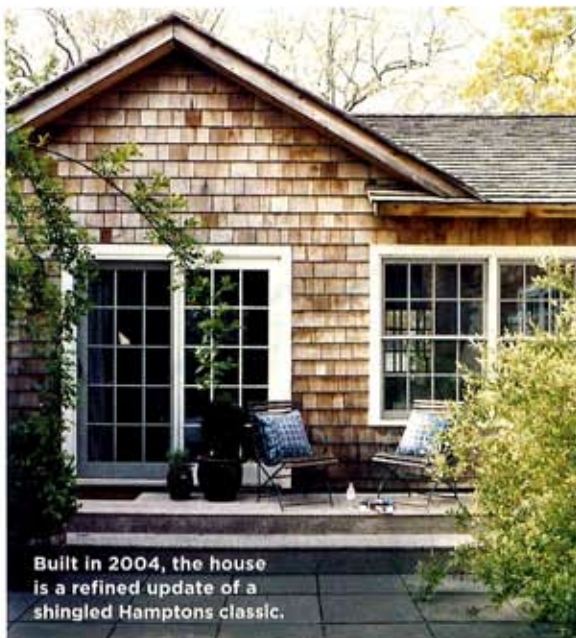
Elrod's deft layering of menswear-inspired fabrics proves that, used wisely, like-minded designs can enliven a petite space without overwhelming it. The blue-bordered bedding, vintage French ticking check pillow and seersucker headboard and chair generate a pulled-together ambience, while a cotton Indian rug draped over the headboard injects an unexpected ethnic note. The yellow painting and Deco-era staircase table warm the room's cool tones.



**RUG** (on headboard) Madeline Weinrib 4' x 6' cotton dhurrie "Amagansett" \$299 Denton & Gardner Ltd. (631) 537-4796 **TASK LAMPS** (similar to shown) "Counterpoise" \$499 each, restorationhardware.com **ARTWORK** Ken Rush oil on linen "Yellow #1," Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery (212) 644-7171 for other works by artist **WALL PAINT** Wickham Gray RHC-171, benjaminmoore.com for stores

**opposite page: ARTWORK** (above dresser) Slim Aarons "Family Snapper" archival print of Babe Paley \$2,850 Denton & Gardner Ltd. (631) 537-4796 **RUG** (similar to shown) 8' x 10' wool "Abrash Stripe" \$2,850 wshome.com **HEADBOARD** Sea grass \$399 potterybarn.com **LAMPS** (similar to shown) "Aurora" \$2,110 each, Christopher Spitzmiller (212) 563-1144

Commanding the minimal wall space, beach scenes and waterscapes cultivate breezy nonchalance.



Built in 2004, the house is a refined update of a shingled Hamptons classic.

## restrained forms

Aside from the rare curve of a sofa or chair, Elrod infused the cottage with angularity to underscore the precision he was going for (hence his penchant for venetian blinds and square pillows). In the dining area, the contours of a '70s Parsons table are reinforced by the prominent right angles of Louis XVI chairs (themselves inset with a traditional Provençal check). A curtainless multipaned window provides a fitting backdrop. The centerpiece, bought at a nearby shop that specializes in airplane and ship models, inserts a sculptural beauty into the straight-lined setting.

**TABLE** (similar to shown) Parsons \$399 westelm.com **CHAIRS** (similar to shown) "Anita's" \$919 each, calicocorners.com for stores **CHAIR-SEAT FABRIC** "Horsehair Sateen II" about \$490/yard, Lee Jofa (800) 453-3563 for information **SAILBOAT** 20" x 24" \$165 Beach Bungalow (631) 725-4292 **WINDOWS** (similar to shown) 400 Series double-hung from \$225 each, and **DOORS** (similar to shown, inset) 400 Series "Frenchwood" from \$799 each, andersenwindows.com for stores

**opposite page:** **SOFA** (similar to shown) "Samantha's" \$2,039 calicocorners.com for stores **SOFA FABRIC** Royal Oak "Gibb Texture" about \$194/yard, Lee Jofa (800) 453-3563 for information **STRIPED PILLOWS** 24" French linen \$168 each, Homenature (631) 287-6277 **CHAIR WITH LEATHER SEAT** (similar to shown) "Louis" in Mocha \$549.95 and **MIRROR** (similar to shown) "Siena" \$359.95 ballarddesigns.com

## just-so dimensions

With real estate at a premium, furniture was selected for its modest scale and cleanness of line. Here in the second sitting area, that meant that even the biggest piece in the room—a tufted Syrie Maugham-esque sofa—be taut and understated; pale upholstery in a cotton-and-rayon blend plays down any stiffness and ensures that the look-at-me detailing doesn't call too much attention to itself. Slender legs on the fauteuil chairs and a glass-topped coffee table offset the sofa's solidity and play to the room's airiness. Neatly stacked tomes within easy reach of reading spots eliminate the need for bookshelves.



One room, three separate zones. →

## a debonair color scheme

The heart of the 2,000-square-foot house is a main room divided into three parts: a central dining space bookended by two seating areas. The walls were already painted a sandy hue, which Elrod liked for the sense of expansiveness imparted, so he added sea-grass rugs to extend the natural mood. Then he established a relaxed, dapper tone with decorous furniture covered in casual fabrics: corduroy on an English Regency sofa, linen on an antique French armchair. Vibrant blue dashes via the pillows and lamp foster a deliberate, decorated feel, while chocolate-brown accents throughout (here, blinds and pillows) provide modern punctuation.

