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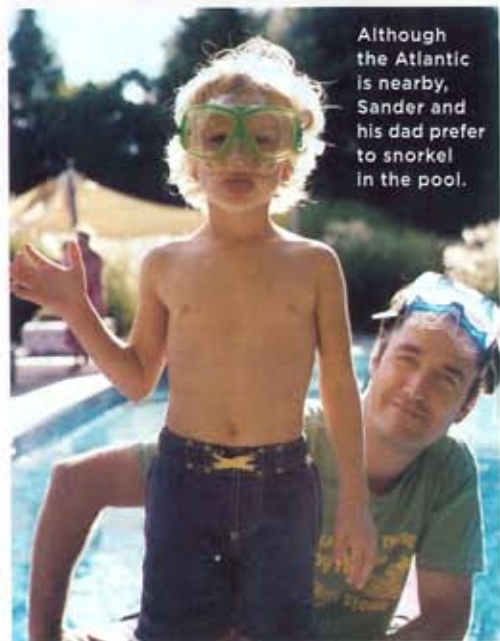
Around the pool, lush willow grass offers privacy while sugar maples and cypress trees supply shade.



Adjusting to the sylvan isolation was a challenge. Refurbishing the old pool helped make the property a hot spot for hanging out with neighbors and “a nice vacation getaway for our New York friends,” Schott says. When it’s warm, life takes place outside. Hamid built sustainable ipe-wood decks that act as open-air rooms for eating, playing and lounging. Out here, the furniture couldn’t be more straightforward: an IKEA table and benches, ottomans made from leftover deck wood, and an awning constructed of posts and all-weather fabric (above). And the couple isn’t done yet: This summer, thanks to an uncle who’s coming to help, there will be a new addition to the landscape—a playhouse for Franny, much like the ones her Swedish cousins romp in.

BENCHES Custom ipe \$375 each, GN Woodwork (718) 643-6968 **DECKING** ipe \$6.35/square foot, libertycedar.com for information **CANOPY** Coolaroo 11' x 10' shade sail \$228 gain.com **TOWELS** Talesma \$32 each, Erica Tanov (510) 849-3331

opposite page: **DOORS** Custom sugar pine, prices vary, GN Woodwork (718) 643-6968 **HOUSE STAIN** (similar to shown) WoodScapes in Black Alder #5W3022, sherwin-williams.com for stores **TABLE AND BENCHES** (similar to shown) Teak \$1,699.99 patiofurnitureusa.com **POTS** Terrazzo \$60 and \$80 each, The Farmer's Daughter (401) 792-1340



Although the Atlantic is nearby, Sander and his dad prefer to snorkel in the pool.



In anticipation of Franny's birth, the couple undertook another renovation to the 1,400-square-foot main building: an addition for the master bedroom. Hewing closely in style to the original structure, the room (below) is dominated by custom windows overlooking a Japanese-style rock garden. "The sun comes up right in our faces," Schott says. Cheerful fabrics, such as the exuberant floral from Erica Tanov, mimic the colors of the landscape. In order to let more light into Sander and Franny's room and to concoct a passageway between the two bedrooms, Schott and Hamid installed a shoji screen embellished with a Josef Frank print. It remains open during the day and is often transformed into an imaginary ice-cream stand.

WINDOW FRAMES Custom sugar pine, prices vary, GN Woodwork (718) 643-6968 **ROLLER SHADES** #846 Calypso/Fawn from \$41 each, smithnoble.com **FLOOR CUSHIONS** Banana leaf "Alseda" \$29.99 each, and **CABINETS** "Tråby" \$89.99 each, ikea.com for stores **BEDDING** Better Living suzani pillow \$218 and bedspread \$632 Erica Tanov (510) 849-3331 **PILLOW** (oil floor cushion) Krage Rosenberg "Fili Grande" \$78 nonchalantmom.com
 opposite page: **CBEDENZA** Russel Wright vintage, prices vary, 1stdibs.com **SCREEN FABRIC** Josef Frank "Windows" \$240/yard, justscandinavian.com for information **CHAIRS** (similar to shown) Eames "LCW" \$799 each, dvr.com **RUG** 32" x 98" "Sveje" \$19.99 ikea.com for stores

The woven floor cushions (from IKEA) have been a staple for Schott since she lived in New York. At one point, they served as bedside tables.





A fabric-covered screen connects the hallway to the Kids' room.



In the hallway to her bedroom, Schott corralled art and family photos above a Russel Wright credenza and yellow-painted Eames chairs from Acme Antiques, in Providence.

A Moroccan rug adds a layer of coziness to the cement floor, which conceals an energy-efficient radiant-heat system.



In a nod to Schott's roots, she and Hamid strove to create what they call a "warm modernism," marked by classic mid-century and Scandinavian furniture, healthy doses of vibrancy against a white background—and lots of wood, much of it from small manufacturers. The bulk of the day takes place in the large central section, where the crew gathers for everything from eating to movie-watching. Two seating areas (one with a TV) flank the doors to the deck; a low table can be moved as needed and is surrounded by Moroccan floor pillows. "A regular dining room would have felt too formal," Schott explains. Aside from the Ligne Roset Togo love seat and ottoman, which Schott cherishes for their comfort and durability ("They're like a jungle gym for the kids"), most items have been handed down from relatives, bought vintage or made by friends. Schott re-covered an heirloom wooden sofa in surplus fabric from one of her fashion projects. "We rarely buy anything new because we like recycling old furniture," she explains.

Birthday and dinner parties alike are casual affairs centered around a vintage table.



BEANBAG CHAIR \$265 eazybear.com

opposite page: LOVE SEAT "Togo" \$1,915 and OTTOMAN \$865 ligne-roset.com for stores
 PILLOW (on sofa, right) Lucky Fish "Crowds Print" \$84 nonchalantmom.com CREDENZA
 Custom 24" x 72" white oak \$4,400 and SHELVES Custom 12" x 72", prices vary, GN Woodwork
 (718) 643-6968 WALLSCONCE George Nelson \$325 thw.com SPHERICAL LAMP Roost 18" "Cebu"
 \$360 Furbish (973) 761-0311 BUG Beni Quarain \$3,500 Imports from Marrakesh (212) 675-9700
 RADIANT-HEAT SYSTEM MZ25 Series from \$3,684 monitorproducts.com for information





Oversize letters and numbers identify the compound's three buildings and lend graphic punch to the pastoral environs.

HOUSELETTERS Vintage from \$85 to \$225 each, Paula Rubenstein Ltd. (212) 966-8954 POT 16" "Diskret" \$34.99 Ikea.com for stores HAMMOCK (opposite) Recycled-plastic "Ultimate" \$189 galam.com

Carina Schott describes with awe her relatives in Sweden who raise sheep and weave textiles in complete self-sufficiency. Though she doesn't tend her own flock, she does enjoy a bucolic setting. Schott, fashion designer and owner of children's boutique Nonchalant Mom, and her husband, a figurative painter who works out of an at-home studio, have set up a remarkably self-contained haven for themselves and their children, Sander, 6, and Franny, 2.

The transplanted New Yorkers pointed their car to parts unknown in the wake of 9/11, and ended up falling in love with a tiny house in rural Matunuck, RI, a surfing town that

empties in winter. Part of a '50s mini-compound that also included a guest cottage, a laundry shack and a neglected pool, the main building had great bones and an appealing connection to the outdoors, but required a ton of labor (back then, it wasn't even habitable in cold weather). Fortunately, Schott had developed a strong do-it-yourself ethos watching her father put up a summer cabin in Minnesota, where she grew up. Her husband, Hamid, who as a child divided his time between Long Beach, CA, and Brighton, England, was more of a city mouse, but found his inner handyman and did many of the initial improvements himself.

kid-tested, modernist-approved

Carina Schott and her husband, Karim Hamid, took a chance when they departed NYC for greener pastures. A house purchase, two DIY renovations, a second child and a career change later, the gamble paid off: Their Rhode Island dwelling is a model of sustainable, indoor-outdoor living with Scandinavian flair.

photographs by MELANIE ACEVEDO produced by REBECCA OMWEG text by ARIANA SPEYER



Red doors energize the exterior, which was stained black to blend in with the landscape.