



New York architect West Chin brings urban style to Hamptons shoppers

the city mouse at his country house

Clockwise from top right: West Chin Architect's namesake principal outside his retail-studio hybrid in East Hampton, New York. Jonah Takagi's pendant fixtures for Roll & Hill. A Paola Lenti sectional. The courtyard entry.

You don't have to dig too deep in the Hamptons to find evidence of a longstanding love affair with modernism, going back to Gordon Bunshaft, Philip Johnson, and Charles Gwathmey. Yes, there's still a glut of gambrel-roofed spec mansions "out east," as many weekend New Yorkers like to call these Long Island villages. But a modern-contemporary aesthetic—perhaps a taste for standing out from the crowd—is having another major moment. In other words, perfect timing for architect and part-time Hamptons resident West Chin's cleverly named West/Out East. The combination shop, showroom, and studio in East Hampton brings high-end furnishings to both designers and well-heeled consumers clamoring for cutting-edge style. The affable Chin gives us a tour. ➤

CROSS *lines*



Why this location and why now?

I realized that none of the things I source in the city for my Hamptons clients were available out here. There was a void in the market for modern, contemporary, and even edgy design, which is really taking off. Then I got a call saying that a commercial space I'd been watching for three or four years—a 1900 farmhouse that had become an architect's office and a clothing boutique—was finally available. So I jumped.

What inspired you to add retail to your already busy life as an in-demand architect?

At first, the space was going to be my office, plus a showroom offering a few furniture lines; but I started thinking that I didn't need so much room for a workplace, so it evolved into more retail. Then when we were "shopping" for merchandise to sell, it was like when I

go crazy ordering sushi à la carte. I was picking everything! Next thing you know, I'm carrying 30 lines of furniture, 20 of accessories, five lighting companies, rugs, kitchen cabinetry, bathroom fixtures and fittings, closet systems, and artwork.

Do you see any common thread?

The lines all represent our style architecturally. They're pieces we typically choose for our clients. It's all very high end, top-notch quality. We represent Boffi, which is pretty much the Ferrari of kitchens and bathrooms. We've got lighting from Bocci, Roll & Hill, and David Weeks, rugs by Paola Lenti, and furniture from De La Espada, Fritz Hansen, FTF Design Studio, and Living Divani. The best of the best, in my opinion.

Was it easy to convince these manufacturers to show with you?

Every company we talked to was extremely interested, because there hadn't been an entity in the Hamptons that could represent them well. All our vendors are excited that this place now exists. ➤

From top: A Boffi bathtub by Marcel Wanders. West Chin on the wool-carpeted staircase. Ottomans by Patricia Urquiola for Gandia Blasco.

Opposite: Piero Lissoni's sectional for Living Divani.