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Southampton Residence 1
 Completed: 2010
 Location: Southampton, NY

russoarchitect.com

Paul Russo Architect

NEW YORK-BASED COMPANY'S DESIGNS ARE
 THE MEETING PLACE OF FORM AND FUNCTION

by Jamie Farshchi

Paul Russo always takes his first meeting on the site of his client's future home. They will stand on the lot and imagine the design together; the client sharing their vision, Russo drawing attention to the peaks and troughs of the landscape, the movement of the sun and the direction of prevailing winds.

"We try and utilize the site as effectively as we can," Russo says. "Of course no one wants a pool in the shade and everyone wants their space maximized." It is this balance between the poetic and the practical, the form and the function of design that Russo's namesake firm, Paul Russo Architect, prides itself on.

Located in Locust Valley, NY, Paul Russo Architect was established in 2001 after Russo spent five years as a project architect in Manhattan. The full-service firm designs custom residential, commercial and retail design and works across New York and New Jersey. Russo says designing in the Hamptons is unlike designing anywhere else in the United States.

"The Hamptons is really quite special," he says. "We work with a secluded and influential client base and every amenity has to be considered. There is a real attention to detail on the homes out here."

While client expectations in the Hamptons might be high, environmental considerations also play a pivotal role in the firm's designs, as sites often have challenges such as sand dunes obscuring

waterfront views along with flooding and hurricane zone regulations.

One of the firm's recent Hamptons residences, the Southampton Private Residence #1 was designed as an 'upside down house;' the residence elevates all of the living and entertaining areas to the second level (including the decking and pool areas) to address flooding regulations and to maximize views of the Atlantic Ocean.

The traditional cedar shingle style home was designed as a getaway for a family local to the area and incorporates floor-to-ceiling French doors to bridge the divide between indoor and outdoor entertaining. The residence also features a boardwalk extending from the second floor deck across the dunes to the beach, giving a sense of connectedness with the ocean beyond.

There is something romantic and highly functional about the home's design. It is at once practical and idyllic, a design sensibility that Russo says, is at the very foundation of his love for architecture.

"Architecture is a combination of science and art," Russo says. "I love what I do and my clients love that I love it. It's a great feeling to be working on something we're both really invested in." ■



01
 The three-story entry foyer provides a spectacular feeling upon entering the home. Wide panel wood flooring and nautical colored detailing provide a luxurious ambiance.

02
 This shingle-style dwelling main facade faces north looking over Mecox Bay. From the road the home is guarded by vegetation for a private feeling.

03
 The dining room and great room is complete with a center fireplace and elegantly-sloped ceilings. The large windows and doors allow plenty of natural light.

04
 A pristine white kitchen allows for plenty of room for cooking and conversation with a beautiful marble counter top island and an abundance of storage in custom built cabinetry.

PHOTOS: RON PAPAGEORGE ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

02



03



04



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