

# LESSON PLANS

*Steven Gambrel brings clarity and coherence  
to a Bridgehampton home that has  
been an unwieldy amalgam of farmhouse and school building since the 1840s*

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In the 1840s, a farmhouse was erected in Bridgehampton, New York, a quiet agricultural community on the South Fork of Long Island. The builders relocated an old one-room schoolhouse from the main street of the village and turned it into a wing of the house, a common practice in the 19th century—why waste perfectly good wood? The house continued to grow over the decades, with additions in the 1870s and 1900s, until it became something of an architectural jumble, with an ill-suited Italianate cornice and porch columns.

Still, it was a lovable jumble. Five years ago, a couple with three young daughters stumbled across a listing for the house on 1stdibs. The Manhattan residents already owned a weekend house in neighboring Sagaponack. “We’d always been enamored with the idea of finding an idyllic farmhouse,” says the wife. “But we didn’t plan on moving. My husband said, ‘Over my dead body are we buying another house.’ Then we drove to see it the next day, and within 24 hours, we had put in an offer.”

It was clear, however, that their new purchase needed to be gently coaxed into the 21st century. Through mutual friends, the couple became acquainted with the family who had, until recently, owned the house for three generations. “It hadn’t really changed much,” says the wife. “Same layouts, same floors. The only change they had made since their grandmother’s day was to add bathrooms. Back then, they would use chamber pots.” The couple soon realized that they didn’t have a clear sense of how to make the house function for their family.

Enter Steven Gambrel. The husband and wife, who both work in the hedge-fund industry, met Gambrel when he did a project for one of her colleagues. The interior designer, who has worked on dozens of homes in the Hamptons, has also owned six cottages in nearby Sag Harbor. He embraced the farmhouse’s mix of architectural styles. “It’s a quirky house, and I didn’t want to lose that,” he says. “The 18th-century schoolhouse wing is an important part of the history of the area, and I wanted to maintain its spirit.”

Nonetheless, the house had to be largely reconstructed from the foundation up. Gambrel enlisted Historical Concepts, a firm based in New York and Atlanta that builds and restores houses while respecting a project’s local vernacular, from materials to colors. In the end, says Gambrel, “every single thing was replaced except the interior staircase and railing. But it looks like the same building on the outside.” In fact, it looks immeasurably better. The inappropriate Italianate details have been jettisoned. A new wing wraps around two sides of the building and encompasses the living room, master bedroom, and a

**OPPOSITE:** In the living room of a weekend home in Bridgehampton, New York, designed by Steven Gambrel, the custom sofa is upholstered in a Mark Alexander fabric, the same Arabel Fabrics linen is used for both the curtains and the armchair, the Thebes-style caned stools are vintage, the cocktail table is by Dos Gallos, and the abaca rug is by Stark; the ceiling is painted in Super White by Benjamin Moore, with beams in Armory by Pratt & Lambert. **ABOVE:** Awnings shade the back of the house. For details, see Resources.



The family room's custom furnishings include a sofa upholstered in a Lee Jofa fabric, a tufted sofa in a Chapas Textiles weave, a leather ottoman, and a pair of armchairs covered in a Kravet linen blend; the 1950s cerused-oak side table and 19th-century copper lantern are French, the curtains are of a Home Couture fabric, and the wallpaper is by Phillip Jeffries.







The dining room's Julian Chichester chairs are covered in Lulu DK and Rose Tarlow Melrose House fabrics, the 18th-century pendant light is French, the curtains are of a fabric by Eskayel, and the trim is painted in Aegean Teal by Benjamin Moore.



A custom sofa in the living room is upholstered in a de Le Cuona fabric, the side table is by Henredon, the chest is a 19th-century ship's cabinet, and the French still life is from the 1930s.



The mudroom's ceiling light is by Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co., the 19th-century mirrors were found in Antwerp, the pine floors are from Heritage Wide Plank Flooring, and the door is painted in Coach Green by Fine Paints of Europe. For details, see Resources.



The kitchen's marble sink has fittings by Sonoma Forge, the cabinetry is painted in Benjamin Moore's Hearthstone, and a collection of 1930s Bea Evan paintings found in Europe are in new frames by Bark Frameworks. **OPPOSITE:** On the covered porch, the dining table and benches are of New Zealand teak, the rattan sofa by Bielecky Brothers has cushions in a Perennials fabric, and the pendant lights are from Circa Antiques; the walls are painted in White, the ceiling in Silver Gray, and the window frames and doors in Black, all by Fine Paints of Europe. For details, see Resources.









In the master bedroom, the bed is upholstered in an Arabel Fabrics linen and dressed in Schweitzer Linen bedding with a Serena & Lily quilt, the sofa is covered in a Mark Alexander fabric, and the chair and ottoman are upholstered in a Lauren Hwang fabric; the side tables by Olivier Gagnère are from Neotu, the chandelier is from the 1940s, and the 1973 screen prints are by Robert Mangold. For details, see Resources.







The laundry room's washing machine is by LG, the sea-grass hamper is from Crate & Barrel, and the marble wall tile is by Walker Zanger.



In a bathroom, the ceiling lights are by Remains Lighting, the walls are painted in Benjamin Moore's Stonington Gray, and the window frame is painted in Genteel Gray by Pratt & Lambert; the wooden ship artwork was found in Europe.





screened porch. The formerly choppy interior has been reconfigured to comfortably accommodate a contemporary family of five. True to houses from this era, the rooms feel intimate, with low ceilings. “It’s not a grand home,” says Gambrel. “It’s rambling and charming.”

At the beginning of the endeavor, Gambrel walked the clients through his own Sag Harbor residence. “My husband and I fell in love with its cozy elegance,” the wife says. “We wanted that vibe, and Steven gave it to us.” For their living room, Gambrel chose a palette of pale neutrals. “It’s old Hamptons,” he says, “sand and biscuit and oyster and driftwood, dry and not shiny. The room is meant to look like it’s always been there.” A lofty family room now occupies the schoolhouse wing, which has a similar color scheme but is accented in bursts of green and blue that complement the garden outside the window. Bohemian patterns give the room a younger, hipper feel.

A pair of run-down buildings in a corner of the yard posed a challenge. “One was a potting shed with a huge tree growing out of the middle,” the wife says. “The other was a garage that was so rotten with mold, I wouldn’t let my kids near it.” Gambrel, working with Historical Concepts, transformed the structures into an entertainment space and a guesthouse outfitted with a bedroom, dining table, bar, and fireplace. The family installed a pool, as well as an open-air glass pergola for lounging that was inspired by a greenhouse-style dining pavilion the wife had admired at Stockholm’s Ilse Crawford–designed Ett Hem hotel.

The hardest part about working with Gambrel, the wife says, is the fact that the home is now complete. “When Steven leaves your life, you feel like a little bit of creativity slips through your fingers. I’m dying to find another project to work on with him, because he brings so much joy to the process.” ■





Beside the pool, the awning is made of salvaged corrugated-and-wired glass, and the custom outdoor furniture is topped with cushions covered in a Perennials fabric; the pool surround and patio are of Kota stone, and the topiaries are boxwood; the garden design is by Marders. **OPPOSITE:** The guest room in the poolhouse contains a John Himmel bed dressed in Schweitzer Linen bedding, a Swedish painted chest, and a rug by Restoration Hardware; the matchstick Roman shades are custom. For details, see Resources.





Hunt Studio, upholstered in Asti leather from Keelen Leathers (keelenleathers.com). Oscar dining table with custom marble top from Egg Collective (eggcollective.com). Agnes chandelier by Lindsey Adelman from Roll & Hill (rollandhill.com).

**PAGE 143:** In entry foyer, wall trim painted in Day's End, #2133-30, by Benjamin Moore (benjaminmoore.com). Four Seasons rug by Kyle Bunting (kylebunting.com). Bench by Paul M. Jones from John Boone (johnbooneinc.com). Walls in custom shagreen, to the trade from Edelman Leather (edelmanleather.com). Artwork by Damian Loeb from Acquavella Galleries (acquavella.com). Halo chandelier by Paul Loebach from Roll & Hill. In living room, Bell side table by Sebastian Herkner from Avenue Road (avenue-road.com). Serge Mouille Three-Arm floor lamp, #464314, from Design Within Reach (dwr.com). Chair by Julian Mayor from Twenty First Gallery (21stgallery.com). Fragile Future wall light by Studio Drift from Carpenters Workshop Gallery (carpentersworkshopgallery.com). In foyer, custom Magnolia mirror and Stones console by Hudson Furniture (hudsonfurnitureinc.com). Rug by Tai Ping. Custom sectional sofa from Avenue Road, upholstered in Silk & Sexy mohair, in Satellite, by Great Plains, to the trade from Holly Hunt.

**PAGE 144:** In master bedroom, custom Eclipse rug from Tai Ping. Hamilton bed, #1123946, by Minotti from DDC NYC (ddcnyc.com). Bedding by E. Braun & Co. (ebraunnewyork.com). Elliot nightstand by Philippe Hurel (philippe-hurel.com). Custom wall finish by Atelier Premiere (atelier-premiere.com). In guest bedroom, Plié bed by Joseph Jeup, to the trade from Holly Hunt, upholstered in Phinda Ré fabric by Toyine Sellers (toyinesellers.com). Bedding by E. Braun & Co. Cage bench by Anne and Vincent Corbiere from Twenty First Gallery, upholstered in fabric by Soie de Lune (soiedelune.com).

**PAGE 145:** In master bathroom, CL.1 fittings by Dornbracht (dornbracht.com).

#### LESSON PLANS

**PAGES 146–155:** Interior design by Steven Gambrel of S.R. Gambrel, Inc. (srgambrel.com). Architecture by Andrew Cogar of Historical Concepts (historicalconcepts.com). Landscaping by Marders (marders.com).

**PAGE 146:** In living room, custom armchair upholstered in #P904 fabric, from Arabel Fabrics (arabelfabrics.com). Custom rug from Stark (starkcarpet.com). Custom sofa upholstered in Hypotenuse fabric, #M257, to the trade by Mark Alexander (markalexander.com). Cocktail table from Dos Gallos (dosgallos.com). Ceiling beams painted in Armory, #29-26, by Pratt & Lambert (prattandlambert.com). Window frame painted in Englewood Cliffs, #1607, by Benjamin Moore (benjaminmoore.com).

**PAGE 148:** In family room, armchairs upholstered in Nunui linen blend, #31859, to the trade from Kravet (kravet.com). Custom ottoman upholstered in Little Angels II leather by Keelen Leathers (keelenleathers.com). Custom sofa upholstered in Cartmel fabric, in Cream, #2012121-1, by Lee Jofa (leejofa.com). Custom tufted sofa upholstered in Aegean fabric by Chapas Textiles (chapastextiles.com). Madera curtain fabric, in Cream, #HC1850C-02, by Home Couture from Quadrille (quadrillefabrics.com). Driftwood wallpaper, in Morning Fog, #6203, to the trade from Phillip Jeffries (phillipjeffries.com).

**PAGE 149:** In dining room, Lucia chairs, to the trade from Julian Chichester (julianchichester.com). Chair seats and fronts upholstered in Oasis fabric, in Mediterranean, #63580-3, by Lulu DK (luludk.com). Chair backs upholstered in Ticking fabric, in Pewter/Mallard, #2330/04, to the trade from Rose Tarlow Melrose House (rosetarlow.com). Wall trim painted in Aegean Teal, #2136-40, by Benjamin Moore. Natale curtain fabric, in Viridian, by Eskayel from Studio Four NYC (studiofournyc.com). In mud room, pine flooring by Heritage Wide Plank Flooring (heritagewideplankflooring.com). Doors painted in Coach Green, #3088, by Fine Paints of Europe (finepaintsofeurope.com). Alabax light fixture, by Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co. (schoolhouse.com).

In living room, side table by Henredon from Archive (archivehome.net). Custom sofa upholstered in Buffalo fabric, in Dust, #BUF6, by de Le Cuona (delecuona.com). Tape trim by Studio Four NYC.

**PAGE 150:** In kitchen, Brownstone faucet, to the trade from Sonoma Forge (sonomaforge.com). Door painted in Coach Green, #3088, by Fine Paints of Europe. Artwork in frames by Bark Frameworks (barkframeworks.com).

**PAGE 151:** On covered porch, rattan sofa from Bielecky Brothers Inc. (bieleckybrothers.com). Cushion upholstered with In The Rough fabric, in Pumice, #957-208, to the trade from Perennials (perennialsfabrics.com). Light pendants from Circa Antiques (circaantiques.com). Ceiling painted in Silver Gray, by Fine Paints of Europe.

**PAGES 152–153:** In master bedroom, side tables by Olivier Gagnère for Neotu, from H.M. Luther (hmluther.com). Custom sofa upholstered in Tel-luride fabric, in Natural, #M287/01, to the trade by Mark Alexander. #P485 bed fabric, in Wine Berry, by Arabel Fabrics. Chambers quilt from Serena & Lily (serenaandlily.com). Custom bedding by Schweitzer Linen (schweitzerlinen.com).

**PAGE 153:** In laundry room, sea-grass hamper from Crate & Barrel (crateandbarrel.com). Ursula curtain fabric, in Flaxen, #4244, to the trade from Pindler (pindler.com). Marble wall tiles to the trade from Walker Zanger (walkerzanger.com). TurboWash washer by LG (lg.com). In shared bath, walls painted in Stonington Gray, #HC-170, by Benjamin Moore. Window framing painted in Genteel Gray, #33-12, by Pratt & Lambert. Easton faucets, #EALS11, from Waterworks (waterworks.com). Billie flush-mount light fixtures, #HL1497, from Remains Lighting (remains.com).

**PAGE 154:** In poolhouse bedroom, area rug from Restoration Hardware (rh.com). Art Moderne bed, #JLP 04 KNF, from John Himmel (johnhimmel.com).

Custom bedding by Schweitzer Linen. Custom shades by Mark David Interiors (markdavidinteriors.com).

**PAGES 154–155:** On covered pool deck, Rough 'N Rowdy cushion fabric, #955-28, from Perennials.

#### OPEN TO INTERPRETATION

**PAGES 156–163:** Interior design by Roberto Peregalli and Laura Sartori Rimini of Studio Peregalli (studioperegalli.com).

#### THE BIG SWITCH

**PAGES 164–169:** Interior design by Ernest de la Torre of De la Torre Design Studio Ltd. (delatorredesign.com). Architecture by Eric Robledo Autrey of De la Torre Design Studio Ltd.

**PAGES 164–165:** In living room, custom wall plaster by Fresco Decorative Painting (frescodeco.com). Antique fireplace from Westland London (westlandlondon.com). Indian sandstone flooring from Paris Ceramics (parisceramicsusa.com). Sofa upholstered in wool-silk blend by Toyine Sellers (toyinesellers.com). Artwork over mantel by Ross Bleckner from Mary Boone Gallery (maryboonegallery.com). 19th-century Belgian cabinet from Christie's (christies.com). Pendant light by Hervé Van der Straeten (vanderstraeten.fr). Silk rug by Fort Street Studio (fortstreetstudio.com).

**PAGE 166:** In family room, inlaid straw marquetry wall-covering by Lison de Caunes (lisondecaunes.com). In kitchen, chairs upholstered in fabric by Larsen, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout (cowtan.com). Cuban ceramic floor tile from Paris Ceramics. Island countertop and cabinetry from Bulthaup (bulthaup.com). Sink fittings by Grohe (grohe.com). Pendant lights by Isamu Noguchi from Noguchi Museum (noguchi.org). Oven by Miele (mieleusa.com). Walls painted in Linen White, #912, by Benjamin Moore (benjaminmoore.com).

**PAGE 167:** In foyer, wall painted in Pitch Blue, #220, by Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com). Bench by Marc Bankowsky from Maison Gerard (maisongerard.com). Door painted in Midnight, #2131-20, by Benjamin Moore.

**PAGE 168:** In front garden, planter boxes painted in Pitch Blue, #220, by Farrow & Ball. In powder room, walls painted in Midnight, #2131-20, by Benjamin Moore. Artwork by Shantell Martin (shantellmartin

.art). Sink fittings by Waterworks (waterworks.com). **PAGE 169:** In master bedroom, walls upholstered in wool suiting by Ralph Lauren (ralphlauren.com). Ceiling covered in tea-leaf paper, to the trade from Stark (starkcarpet.com). Wool carpet, to the trade from Hokanson (scottgroupstudio.com). Embroidered curtain fabric, to the trade from Holland & Sherry (hollandandsherry.com). Stool by Carol Egan from Maison Gerard. Coverlet by Pratesi (pratesi.com). Sheets by Frette (frette.com).

#### FIELD NOTES

**PAGES 170–177:** Interior design by Richard Mishaan of Richard Mishaan Design (richardmishaan.com).

**PAGES 170–171:** In living area, antique wood chairs upholstered in Zhen velvet, in Turquoise, #8012129-13, to the trade from Bruntschwig & Fils (bruntschwig.com). Custom ottoman by Richard Mishaan Design, upholstered in Rajah fabric, in Beige, #11028-01, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout (cowtan.com). Armchair by George Smith (georgesmith.com), upholstered in fabric by Nina Campbell, to the trade from Osborne & Little (osborneandlittle.com). Sofa, to the trade from Jonas (jonasworkroom.com), upholstered in Thanon linen velvet, in Avocado, #BR-89776-434, to the trade from Bruntschwig & Fils.

**PAGES 172–173:** In family room, solid-colored sofa and rug from Restoration Hardware (rh.com). Walls painted in Opaline, #OC-33, by Benjamin Moore (benjaminmoore.com).

**PAGE 174:** In kitchen, antique stools by Arthur Umanoff (1stdibs.com). Table from ABC Carpet & Home (abc.com). Range hood by Thermador (thermador.com). In dining area, antique chair seats and fronts upholstered in linen, to the trade from Kravet (kravet.com). In studio, walls painted in Super White, #PM-1, by Benjamin Moore.

**PAGE 175:** In study, stool by George Smith.

**PAGE 176:** In master bedroom, antique sofa from Ruby Beets (rubybeets.com), upholstered in Grimaud fabric, in Indigo, #4852-02, by Manuel Canovas, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout. Curtains in linen, to the trade from Kravet. In master bath, chair cushion covered in Chic Velour fabric, in Raspberry, #26117-7, to the trade from Kravet. Cushion tassels, to the trade from Samuel & Sons (samuelandsons.com).

**PAGE 177:** On veranda, antique chairs from Ruby Beets. Wicker chairs by Restoration Hardware. Table by Barlow Tyrie (teak.com).

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