

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

JULY 2014

## GREAT AMERICAN COUNTRY HOUSES



SENSATIONAL SUMMER STYLE  
A LEGENDARY YACHT SETS SAIL  
THE PLEASURES OF PROVENCE



# ALL DECKED OUT

Designer Joanne de Guardiola unveils the sensational, suavely updated *Highlander*, the celebrated yacht formerly owned by Malcolm Forbes

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM WALDRON PRODUCED BY ANITA SARSIDI







Golf may be the sport of choice for many businessmen, but Manhattan investment banker Roberto de Guardiola prefers open seas to fairways. It's a passion that was kindled during his childhood in

1950s Cuba, where he frequently spent weekends at a Havana yacht club. "I remember being all of 11 years old when the commodore took a group of us boys on an overnight sailing trip," he recounts. "We all acted very brave—but none of us was really that brave."

Today the president of De Guardiola Advisors and his wife, interior designer Joanne de Guardiola, spend about ten weeks each year sailing to far-flung spots. And this spring marked the couple's maiden voyage captaining one of the past half-century's most celebrated yachts, magazine publisher Malcolm S. Forbes's *The Highlander*, which they purchased in 2012 from Forbes's heirs (the patriarch died in 1990). Technically the fifth *Highlander*—Forbes owned a series of boats with the same name—it was famously kitted out with padded-leather ceilings, Chippendale antiques, and paintings by Raoul Dufy and Thomas Gainsborough, prompting one newspaper to describe it as "a kind of monument to enlightened greed." On the boat, superstars—including Elizabeth Taylor, a close Forbes friend—preened and corporate titans and world leaders held court, munching on Ritz crackers topped with Beluga caviar after being welcomed aboard by a bagpiper. The top deck boasted a helipad, which occasionally came in handy for fetching guests, such as the time when Forbes dispatched his shiny gold helicopter to pick up a notable young couple who had missed the departure for a floating Fourth of July fiesta in New York Harbor.

Extravagances aside, *Highlander* is a true masterpiece of boat design. Completed in 1985, it was devised by the late Jon Bannenberg, a dashing Australian responsible for a fleet of sublimely sculpted, startlingly innovative vessels, ranging from Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi's *Nabila* to Oracle CEO Larry Ellison's *Rising Sun*. "Owning a Bannenberg is like

**Left:** Chaise longues by John Hutton for Sutherland line the top deck of *Highlander*, a yacht owned and renovated by decorator Joanne de Guardiola and her husband, Roberto; the cushions are clad in fabrics by Janus et Cie, Perennials, and Link Outdoor. Jon Bannenberg Limited designed the boat in 1985 for Malcolm Forbes. For details see Sources.



# Western Union

When Wall Street legend and philanthropist Sandy Weill and his wife, Joan, decided to buy a home in California wine country, they enlisted designer Mica Ertegun to give their Edenic hilltop villa a dash of New York urbanity

TEXT BY PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER DAVIES PRODUCED BY HOWARD CHRISTIAN



A terrace at the Sonoma, California, home of philanthropists Joan and Sanford I. Weill is appointed with furnishings by Janus et Cie. Decorated for the Weills by MAC II, the house was designed in the 1990s by Walker & Moody Architects. For details see Sources.











A stone staircase leads up through a dense forest of Lombardy poplars. The trees have characteristic white, vertically-ribbed bark and are arranged in a canopy that filters sunlight. At the top of the stairs is a covered archway, likely a passage between buildings. The scene is peaceful and well-maintained, with small black lamps along the sides of the steps.

Lombardy poplars border a stairway leading to a covered passage that links the main residence to the guesthouse. **Opposite, clockwise from top left:** A Fernand Léger mosaic panel greets visitors in the entrance gallery. The kitchen's pot rack was designed by decorator Suzanne Tucker for the previous homeowners; ceramic hens by artist Catherine Hunter are displayed above the Viking range. Poolside seating by Weatherend is sheltered by a Janus et Cie umbrella.





**From top:** The family room is appointed with a George Smith sofa and tufted stool; the lamp is by Huniford, the large antique horse statue is from Dienst + Dotter Antikviteter, and the pillows and carpet are by Madeline Weinrib. The pool area. **Opposite, from top:** The dining room features Berns Fry ceiling fixtures; the table is from Bloom, the chairs are by Janus et Cie, and the carpet is by Merida. A trio of pendant lights from Laurin Copen Antiques hangs in the kitchen, which is outfitted with a Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine cooler, a Viking range and hood, and a Madeline Weinrib rug.





occasional ikat) and the aforementioned pops of color—such as the rich violet upholstery on an 18th-century European chair in the living room. Cozy yet ample enough for two inviting sitting areas, the room showcases family photos by Annie Leibovitz and Pamela Emil, a painting by Beverly Pepper (an American artist famed for her monumental abstract sculptures), works by the late artist-critic René Ricard, and a zinc table from a yarn factory. Gutsy notes also grace the sun-filled dining room, where basket-like ceiling fixtures made of industrial scraps hang above a hefty Belgian oak table, and the master bedroom, where the walls feature sconces crafted from iron railroad spikes. “A house doesn’t have to be all collectible and signed,” Rebecca says. Comfort was her guiding ethos, as evidenced by an abundance of deep, beckoning sofas and armchairs, many of them slipcovered in pale stone-hued linen. Jon says he told his wife at the outset, “I want furniture to sit on—I don’t want perching furniture.”

The acre-and-a-half property has an expansive backyard, dominated by a majestic century-old sycamore maple that often hosts forts built by the Bond children. Not far from a guesthouse and a swimming pool, Rebecca and her daughters cultivate vegetables and herbs. “Whatever they plant they have to eat,” their mother says. Or sell: The enterprising youngsters periodically set up a farm stand for their produce, transitioning to hot chocolate in the fall. The girls also act professionally—Remy appeared in several episodes of *30 Rock* and the short film *A Dream of Flying*, directed by Marchesa fashion designer Georgina Chapman. They usually steal the show at their parents’ frequent parties, singing and performing for guests. “There’s a whole routine that people expect now when they come to dinner,” Jon says, noting that drama runs in the family. (His late father, Rudy Bond, was in the original Broadway production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* as well as the 1951 movie.) Adds Rebecca, “We’ve got the kids, people bring their dogs, and everyone’s in the kitchen singing. It’s what a dinner party should be.”

In warm weather, get-togethers are held on the roomy, old-fashioned screened porch, with stout Belgian seating that looks like chic recycled packing crates grouped beside an imposing redbrick fireplace. The space also serves as the Bonds’ de facto summer office, where Jon and Rebecca oversee Evolve’s creative PSAs, strategic partnerships, and social-media efforts. (Rebecca’s Twitter handle is @TheGunMaiden.) As Jon suggests, “This is a different kind of working farmhouse now.” Indeed, it has become a quiet place from which he and his wife hope to reframe a national conversation, while savoring precious moments with family and friends. □

