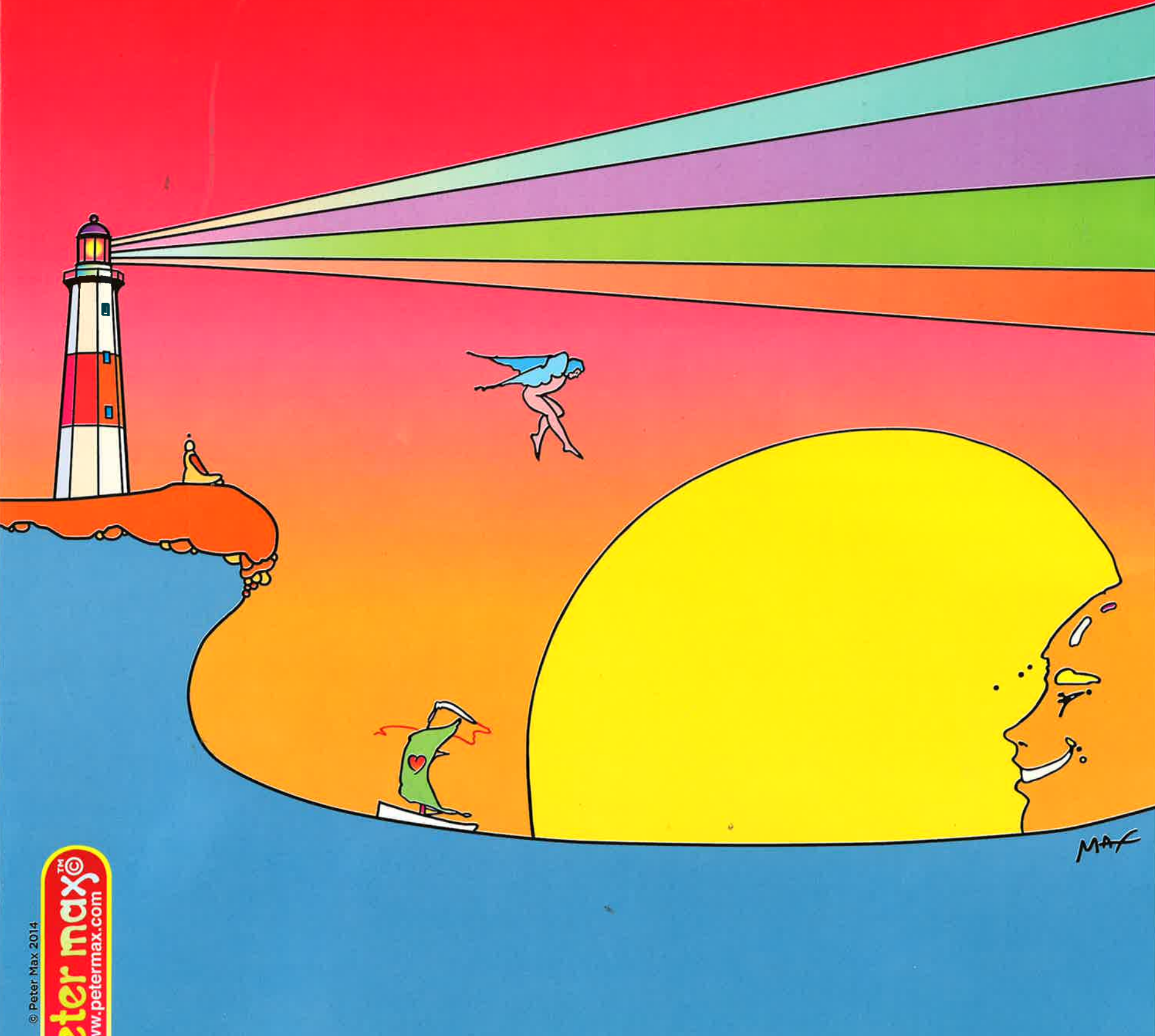


HAMPTONS





HISTORIC LIVING

with Benefits

PROVIDENCE, RI

309 Benefit Street

Prominently situated on Providence's mile of history, this exquisitely designed city-front estate known as Susan and William Huston House, boasts one-of-a-kind period architecture, historic relevance, while offering the latest in modern luxury, comfort and amenities.

Meticulously rebuilt by the renowned Modern Industries team in 2008, as an executive home, custom details abound. The home features four floors of gracious living with space totaling 8,700 square ft. This property includes a two-bedroom, pied-a-terre private apartment with

elevator access and separate Charlesfield St. entrance, four-car garage with additional off-street parking, state of the art gym, a cook's kitchen, butler pantry, a grand conservatory dining space opening up to a private outdoor terrace, luxurious bedrooms and six baths.

Steps from world-class Universities, the State House, Providence's inspiring Water Fire and the train station; dual zoning provides endless opportunities for this property as a private residence, private club, B&B, educational institution, work/live, or corporate headquarters.

This property is offered at \$2,395,000.

Set the stage for life's next great chapter at 309 Benefit St.



a turnkey house."

Casual yet refined, Le Manoir boasts luxurious touches and a pervasive sense of elegance. Showing off the living room, Muriel proclaims, "Welcome to Paris!" noting thoroughly French design elements like carved boiserie wall panels, a nod to the living room of her childhood, brushed-nickel torchiere lamps, and a Chanel-inspired camelia mosaic. "I feel Parisian in here," she says. The reconditioned mantel is the same one that graced the fireplace in the Svarres' former cottage. Entering the study, she announces, "*Alors, welcome to Africa!*" (*Regarde*: She tends to pepper her speech with French phrases.) "Here I wanted things to be more earthy, more textured," Muriel explains, noting material flourishes in faux horn and tortoiseshell, crocodile, and cow-skin rugs.

Lining the walls are works by famed photographer Peter Beard, whom Svarre met in Paris when he arrived there for a major retrospective at the Centre National de la Photographie in January 1997. Muriel appears prominently in several of them. A similarly dark palette of exotic materials appears in Peter's study and bathroom directly across the circular entry hall, including faux-crocodile-embossed leather and shagreen-patterned vinyl wallcoverings, leather-wrapped handles, and more metallic-glazed walls. "I am obsessed with metal," says Muriel. "Gilded, plated, brushed, or carved, and also metallic fabrics, hardware, glazes, you name it. Anything metal, I love."

Although theirs is an elegant home, the Svarres live a casual lifestyle. Entertaining revolves around family and close friends, with cozy dinner parties. Summer finds them hosting relatives from France, with the children off at camp nearby or taking MBX surf lessons at Ditch Plains and Peter manning the barbecue. For the Svarres, it's a given that every birthday and holiday is spent on the East End. "Halloween is always in Sag Harbor, Thanksgiving at Pierre's, ice skating at Buckskill Winter Club," says Muriel. "All the meaningful events in our lives happen here. Our kids have been in the car from New York every Friday since they were born. They look forward to coming out here every weekend." **H**

"I feel Parisian here," says Muriel Svarre of her East End home.



"I FOUND THE CONSTRUCTION FUN. NOT FULL OF ANGST. BUT I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY MOST PEOPLE WANT A TURNKEY HOUSE"

—MURIEL SVARRE



The home's outdoor shingles were custom made to perfectly match the Janus et Cie outdoor furniture.



More Peter Beard artwork graces the walls of the Svarres' family room. To the left of the doorway are *Giant Polaroid*, *Portrait of Muriel Amori*, 1997, and *Childhood Collage*, 1997. Self-portrait in mouth of crocodile, *Kubi Fara*, 1965, and *Karen Blixen Collage, Paris*, 1996, are on the righthand wall.