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## Culture in the Country

High Season Convivium | Gallin's Magic | Garden of Delight

A black and white photograph of a man, Sandy Gallin, smiling and holding a Boston Terrier dog. The man is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved button-down shirt. The dog is black and white with large, upright ears. The background is dark and out of focus.

# what a pro knows

PRODUCER TO THE STARS SANDY GALLIN REVEALS HOW HE TRANSFORMED A SAGAPONACK HOUSE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE — AND HOW HE'LL DO IT AGAIN

BY DONNA PAUL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL GRIMM






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**Puppy Love** | Sandy Gallin with his Boston terrier (PREVIOUS SPREAD, LEFT). **Kick Back** | A deck (PREVIOUS SPREAD, RIGHT) shaded by wisteria—a major selling point for Gallin. **West Coast Kitchen** | Parts of the kitchen (LEFT) were designed and built in L.A. and shipped to Sagaponack. **High Beams** | The living room (BELOW) shows traces of the Long Island barn-style architecture that inspired architect Scott Mitchell. The white slipcovers on the sofas are removed to reveal a Ralph Lauren tweed during cool months. **Water Bodies** | An innovative man-made pond (OPPOSITE) makes room for a swimming pool. See Resources.

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**"A PRODUCER CAN'T PRODUCE** in a vacuum," declares Sandy Gallin, sitting in the living room of his Sagaponack home. If there's anyone who can make that statement, it's him. Gallin knows what it takes to make great things happen. A film and television producer, he is also responsible for managing the careers of some of the most talented superstars (Dolly Parton, Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand, Nicole Kidman, Whoopi Goldberg) of our time. "I know talent and what to do with it," explains Gallin, adding, "I know how to make someone a star and sustain it." The same holds true for his other passion: finding houses and redesigning them.

It's late July and he informs me it is moving day in Malibu. What? Yes, he has just finished his most recent production, House number 31 or 32. "But who's counting?" he laughs. His first house redo, in Beverly Hills in 1970, kicked off his obsession with the makeover process. Since the first, they've all been winners, including this current 6,300-square-foot, 14-acre spread, one mile from the beach.

80 | He bought this house in 2001, describing it as "very ordinary." Essentially everything that existed was taken down. Everything, that is, except a hearty wisteria vine wrapped around a small trellis off the original living room. "I bought the house for that wisteria," says Gallin, who really bought it for the land and the location.

And, now that it is perfect—Gallin spends a lot of time and effort (call it post-production) ironing out the kinks,









...se to where it's perfect—he's looking to sell, as he usually  
 bivalent about selling this one. "There's something special  
 do love it here," he admits.  
 producer/mogul/entertainment executive redo so many  
 of nearly one per year? It's all about assembling a winning  
 n at the top, of course. For the last three houses, including  
 ed with Los Angeles architect Scott Mitchell, who designs  
 lin's vision. "Sandy is totally hands-on. He lays out the  
 arly," Mitchell says. Another key player is the builder.  
 ucer needs an alter ego, and Gallin has found his in  
 nez, an L.A. builder who has built every one of his houses.  
 w Richard Pryor is a comedy genius, and Barbara  
 al genius and Mike Nichols is a directing genius?" He  
 "Well, Albino Martinez is a genius at building. He's not  
 anyone else, he's 10 times faster." This house was completed  
 n the start of construction to move-in day.  
 Martinez supervise the project from L.A. (phoning local  
 n daily at 5:30am—west coast time) he also built compo-  
 ce. Working with Mitchell's drawings, the bar, kitchen  
 places, for example, were built elsewhere and shipped here.  
 smaller and simpler than most Gallin has done. It's also less  
 nted to create a farmhouse that looked and felt as if it was  
 "not one that had just been redone." The rooms are not  
 yet they are totally updated with modern amenities.  
 ors of his renovations, Gallin is involved with every deci-  
 ver details as a musician would the notes of a musical score.  
 eate the distinctive look of the house. Here, reclaimed floor-



A family room (OPPOSITE) offers dazzling wrap-around views of the pond.  
 A vintage towel rack (TOP LEFT) stands near a steam room/shower complete  
 utes. **Retreat in White** | An April Gornik painting hangs above the guest  
**Reading Library** | The landing's train station bench (RIGHT) is from Amy  
 C. See Resources.



boards and beams from an old New England look. Something else he tried for the finished white slipcovers. Come Labor Day they are tweed upholstery creates a warmer palette.

In the kitchen, marble countertops are deep beveled edge to contain spills. Another wood stacked in a huge pile in the kitchen, a custom iron rack made by a local metalworker stacked eight feet high, at times resembles a

There are no window treatments because they have total privacy, beautiful views and gorgeous views. "What do you need window treatments for?"

Gallin says he always wanted a pond. He never imagined one with a pool floating in it. "I had a romantic fantasy, and he had to work to convince Gallin, as he did the town of Southampton. "He fought me on it," recalls Gallin. "Finally I said, 'Look, if you want something unique, do this.'" Gallin recalls how he questioned the project. "I figured if it had never been done before, there would be problems with it." Once completed, the pond became the talk of the Hamptons cocktail party.

"We did a re-vegetation program around the pond with native plantings," explains landscape designer Jane Lapin. Now, wild grasses, bayberry and blackberry create a natural effect. White pine, native oaks and other trees were also planted, sometimes intentionally placed in strategic spots, again to make the landscape appear more natural.

Can Gallin kick back and relax here? "We may have to start another project out here," says Gallin. "I'm definitely going to start to go crazy in a few years. I have a house to work on." 🌻

**Marsh Haven** | Rattan furniture (ABOVE) is grouped around an outdoor stone fireplace for multiple-season entertaining. **Make Way For Ducklings** | Local vegetation (BELOW RIGHT) was planted around the pond by landscape designer Jane Lapin. Wildlife soon followed. **Placid Waters** | On the water, a canoe (OPPOSITE) is at the ready for a quick paddle. See Resources.



