A Montauk Home Where the Windows Are Always Open



Though Cardoso has been going to Montauk for almost two decades and has been there every summer since buying the Surf Lodge in 2008, she didn't have a place of her own there until this year. After buying a fixer-upper in June 2013 ("new-made houses are not really my style," she explains; "I'd rather buy the most beaten-up house in the best little neighborhood") she spent last summer on renovations. The first order of business: removing the house's old, small windows and replacing them with gigantic, airy ones that let in the Montauk light. The home is full of touches that pay homage to both Montauk and native Brazil : In the living room, a giant "Montauk Oysters" canister sits on the fireplace, under a painting by the Montauk artist and photographer Raphael Mazzucco, which Cardoso bought for its Brazilian vibes.





"I just wanted texture and colors and space that felt like a beach house, where you don't really feel like you have to take your shoes off to walk in," she says. With the help of the local architect Michael Foley and her friend and interior designer Daun Curry, she created a space that feels, in her words, "layered and rich, but super relaxed."

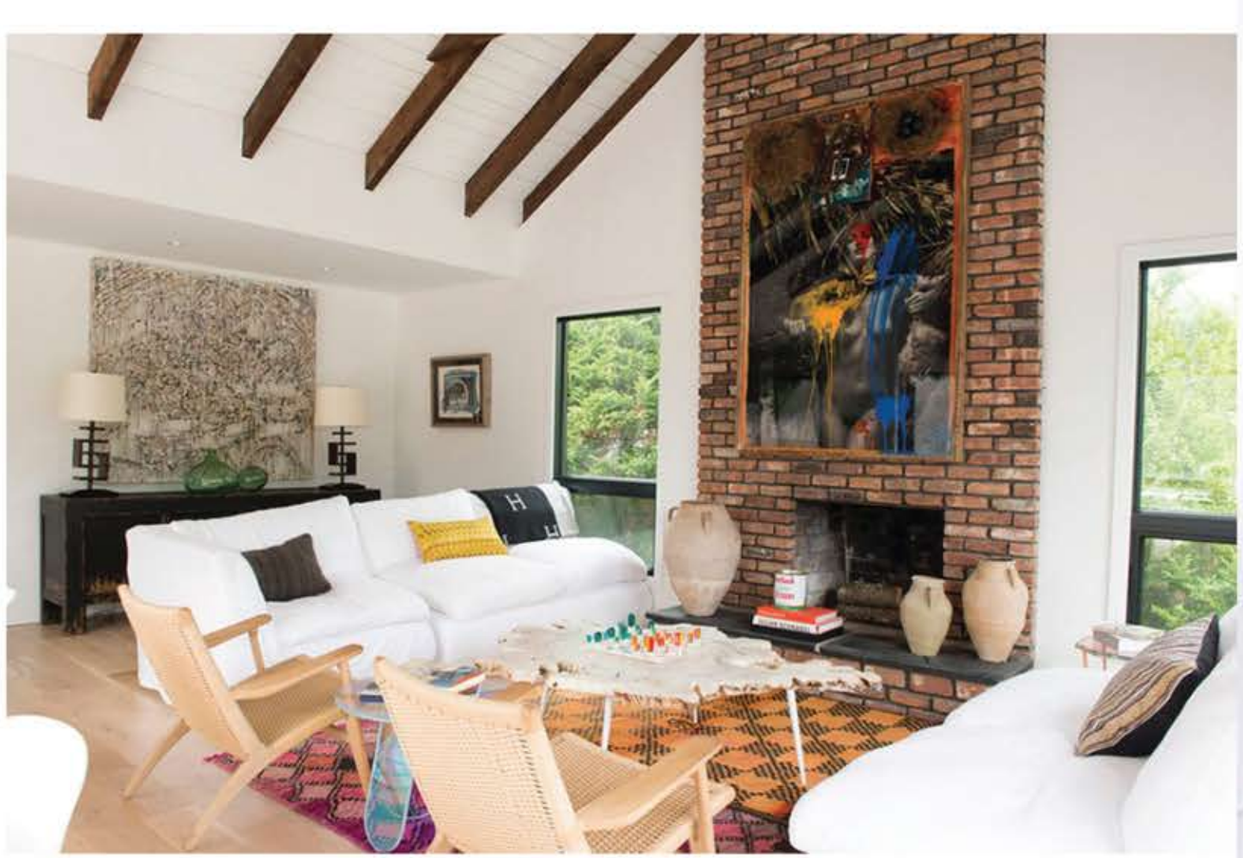




“Layered And Rich But Super Relaxed”

A piece by the artist Raphael Mazzucco hangs over Cardoso’s fireplace. “He did a show at Surf Lodge, and I was sort of picking the pieces for the show, and I said to him, ‘Rafael, that art is Brazil.’ For some reason — it’s the blue and the yellow and the red,” she says. “I said, ‘When my house is ready and I make more money, I’m going to come here and buy it!’ ”



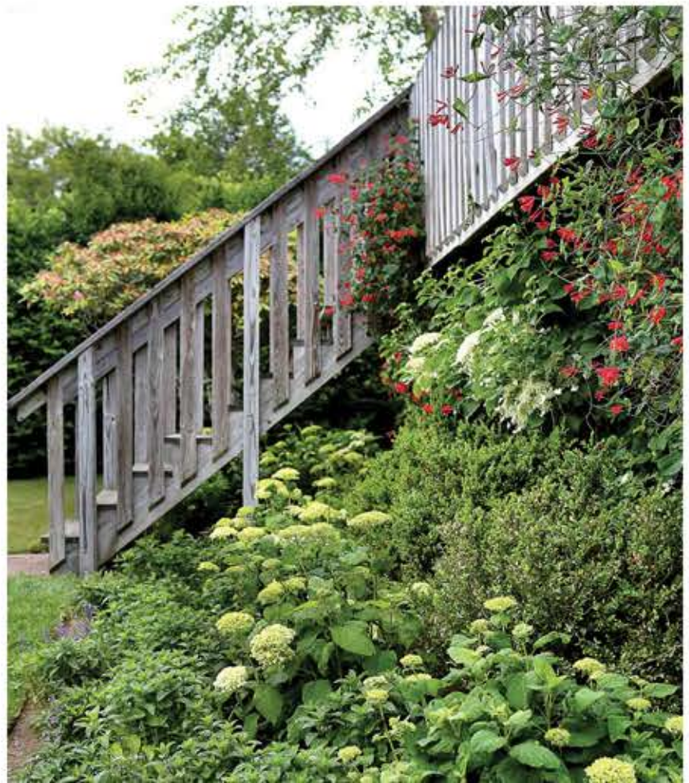




After Labor Day, Cardoso will return to the city full-time; but as the summer winds down, she’s more committed to Montauk than ever. “I still go once a week to sign checks in the city, and check in, because we have an office in the city — just for, like, a day,” she says. “But I’ve kind of, almost, 99 percent convinced my accountant that they can definitely put all the checks on the Jitney and I will sign them and get them to them the next day.



With its clean, minimal interiors, the house is a far cry from the bustle of the Surf Lodge during the summer season. Most days, Cardoso travels from one to the other by bike, a little red Lorenzo Martone number; the commute's about 15 minutes, though she admits her results vary. "Depends how tired my legs are on the little humps," she says with one of those laughs. "I tell people, 'I'm two minutes away, I'm two minutes away!' And they all laugh at me. They're like, 'No, Jayma, you're leaving your house now, because it's not noisy.'"





Cardoso's simple, soothing bedroom fits in with the philosophy of calm that drives the design of the entire house. "I hate clutter, because I just feel like my life and everything that I have to do in a day, it's chaotic," she says. "So basically, my idea of coming home is peaceful, not noisy, no music, barely watch TV."



Cardoso found these vintage miniature brass shoes on a trip to Morocco. "Every three or four months, I feel this urge to switch things: buy new things and change and recycle and go back to the basement and pick something else," she says. "So they used to be in New York. I used to have one as a little ashtray on the table, so they're multifunctional."