

That Time Sheila Bridges Brought *Cool* to the Country

An upstate retreat that defies all expectations.
By Young Huh

THE IDEA OF MOVING “upstate” from New York City sounded absolutely maverick. People went to the Hamptons, or to

Westport, Connecticut, but I didn’t know of anyone who bought 13 acres in the Hudson Valley and filled it with... animals. Then again, Sheila Bridges never was about trends.

By the time I met her, Sheila had sold this house, which overlooked the Hudson River, and was planning her next adventure. But as we grew closer, I heard many stories about the home and read avidly about it in her book *The Bald Mermaid*.

Even looking back on it today, the space exudes élan and elegance. In the living room, I see Sheila’s signature stripes: the blues, grays, and soft greens. There is a perfect mix of antiques and new pieces, showing her deft hand at curating that never feels forced. This is still true of her work today: When you visit a Sheila Bridges room, you are embraced. In comfort, respite, and delight.

You are also likely to be inspired: The stories about Sheila’s Hudson Valley home grew in my imagination until my husband and I eventually looked for and found one of our own.

“There’s no reason to have ‘important’ period furniture,” Bridges told HB editors. “I’m not a formal person and this is not a stage set.”
Appeared in March 2001.

To see more pictures of this incredible home, go to housebeautiful.com/sheila-bridges-2001

Every Modern Cottage Needs Tailored Stripes

A pattern so clean and classic, it's basically a neutral.



1. Classic sofa in Citrine Cabana Stripe, \$2,190. theinside.com 2. Cyrus Cotton Stripe in Chambray. scalamandre.com 3. Halo indoor/outdoor pillows in Chambray T-Stripe by Wendy Jane Performance Pillows, \$147 to \$214. gabbyhome.com 4. Otto Blue. tulutextiles.com 5. Herat. clarelouisefrost.com 6. Dobby Stripe in Dijon by Sanderson. zoffany.com 7. Hema in Cardinal by Manuel Canovas. cowtan.com 8. Laurel table lamp, \$590. hudsonvalleylighting.hvlgroup.com 9. French Stripe in blue, \$150 per yd. bassettmcnab.com 10. Kabul. clarelouisefrost.com 11. Loire bullion fringe in Wedgewood. samuelandsons.com