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## QUICK QUESTION

WE ASKED SIX LOCAL LANDSCAPERS, FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE HAMPTONS GREENERY.

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**Favorite indigenous plant:** Shadblow serviceberry, with its twisted branches and large canopy. Take a ride to Montauk in late April and you will see a forest of them from the highway. **Current trend:** Grass meadows have become a popular alternative to irrigated mowed lawns. They are more eco-friendly. **Where can we see the most beautiful landscapes in the Hamptons?** Take advantage of summer garden tours, such as the Parrish Art Museum's Landscape Pleasures symposium.

-CHRISTOPHER LAGUARDIA  
LAGUARDIA DESIGN  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

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**What type of flower is popular for Hamptons events?**

Dutch hydrangeas. These are the most perfect hydrangeas you have ever seen and come in so many colors. Combine them with garden roses, cut orchids, tweedia or dusty millers for an all-out "Southampton" look. **Which flowers do you prefer?**

Tweedia, as well as lilacs, lily of the valley and peonies; their seasons are short but intoxicating!

**Favorite type of event to design for:** A Southampton dinner party, which can range from informal to totally formal.

-ERIN MEANEY  
TOPIAIRE FLOWER SHOP

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**Trending Hamptons landscape style:**

Formal and open with outdoor patios. **What plants should be used more?** Boxwoods and Ilex crenatas mixed with lavender bushes. I love the rich green background created by the boxwoods and crenatas and its contrast with the lavender. **Favorite indigenous flowers:**

Russian sage, black-eyed Susans and coneflowers. **Which local nurseries do you prefer?**

Eastlands Nursery & Farms in Water Mill and Lynch's Garden Center in Southampton.

-RUBEN DARIO GRACIA  
DARIO'S LANDSCAPING

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**Which plants grow best in the Hamptons?**

Things have warmed over the past 20 years, and typical southern plants, such as crepe myrtles, are flourishing now. Our customers prefer summer flowering plants like hibiscus and hydrangeas. **Current gardening trends:** Families who want to grow their own organic veggies and herbs. **What should be kept in mind when planting in the Hamptons?** Plant deer-resistant vegetation. Also, observe what is growing well in your neighborhood and borrow those ideas.

-CHINI ALARCO  
C. WHITMORE GARDENS

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**Preferred indigenous plant:** Rhododendron viscosum, better known as swamp azalea. **What plants flourish best in the area?**

Everything flourishes in the Hamptons; hydrangeas, Lagerstroemia and shrub roses are summer seasonal favorites. **Best Hamptons landscapes:**

Our beaches are spectacular. Other places include LongHouse Reserve, Matteo Conservancy and Bridge Gardens. **Favorite local garden:**

The Southampton Rose Garden is a masterpiece.

-ELIZABETH LEAR  
LEAR & MAHONEY  
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATES

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**What's trending locally now?** The preservation of the environment is not just a responsibility, but also a growing trend.

Native trees, shrubs and flowers with a mixture of colors, heights and textures are both beautiful and ecologically respectful.

**Favorite plants:** Clethra and arrowwood viburnum are my favorite; their flowers are scented and attract wildlife. Also, Veronicastrum and Verbena hastata because of the delicate flowers and pale colors. **Describe the Hamptons in three words.** The ultimate paradise.

-FREDERICO AZEVEDO  
UNLIMITED EARTH CARE

## 11 FEMININE MYSTIQUE

AWARD-WINNING, BRIDGEHAMPTON-BASED ARTIST BASTIENNE SCHMIDT HAS JUST RELEASED HER LATEST BOOK, *TYPOLOGY OF WOMEN*, WHICH FINDS INSPIRATION IN THE FEMALE FORM.

**This is your sixth book. How did it come to be?** In my previous book, I used myself as the character in the role of the housewife. I separated silhouettes, and they became characters: a typology of women. I kept collecting these womanly figures, which stayed in my mind as silhouettes.

**What's the significance of the silhouettes?** It's a poignant way of seeing things, and I express them with layers. Orange cutouts are not just orange; there are layers of paint with intuitive messages in them. When

women see the work, there are often two or three characters they relate to. It's a part of them they see expressed. There's also an aspect of "Where else could we be in life?" The possibilities are endless.

**Tell us about the types of materials you worked with in this particular book.** It's collage: I mix my own types of pigment and hand-paint the paper, a technique of layering. I also fabricate my own little stencils, finding the fit in terms of patterns of paper and specific models. The size varies. Scale has an impact. It's inescapable if you see a nearly human-size cutout of a woman. It has a very powerful impact.

**In all your work, themes of womanhood, motherhood, solitude and interconnection are present. How does this book fit in or differ?** You have to step away and realize the individual self to fulfill your own destiny. It's not a contradiction to be a mother and still do these things. In a strange way, all my projects are interconnected. It is this continuous journey that transforms itself. My work has similar roots and keeps evolving. It's how I see the world and how I reflect on it. [bastienneschmidt.com](http://bastienneschmidt.com)