



# AVENUE ON THE BEACH

JUNE 2014

## RUN FOR SHELTER

Inside the Shelter Island home  
of Katherine and Marco Birch

## GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN

The Hon. Henry Broughton  
dishes on the classic  
Jaguar XKE

# UNDER THE PARASOL

with Fernanda Niven,  
*the ultimate East End insider*

BY WILLIAM NORWICH



# Defining the MODERNIST PARADISE

Frederico Azevedo and his visions  
for landscape design

interview by Andrew J. Roth



**MODERNIST PARADISE** Clockwise from top right:

1. Perennial meadow
2. Perennial border
3. Frederico Azevedo at home in his garden

Frederico Azevedo is an expert at turning a plot of land into a sustainable paradise. With clients such as Joan Hamburg, Ron Delsener, Lesley Gore and soccer star Pelé, Azevedo exhibits a natural command of beauty. Through the placement of pools, vegetable and rose gardens, play areas and perennial flora, Azevedo elevates any backyard from a collection of flowers to an oasis of serenity. There is a palpable sense of joy, too, in these creations—whether they be explosions of color or expansive vistas of open air, the work always feels modern. The catalyst for such inspiration originated in Azevedo's home city of Rio de Janeiro, where, he says, he was moved by the modernist architectural movement that took the city by storm in the 1960s.

## What is the origin story of Unlimited Earth Care?

I founded my company in 1993, and I began landscaping primarily in New York City, and then I came out east to the Hamptons to develop my first project in the U.S., more specifically Mecox Bay Front in Water Mill. Throughout the course of the first project, I got requests for other projects, and everything just started to roll. At that point I decided it was time to establish

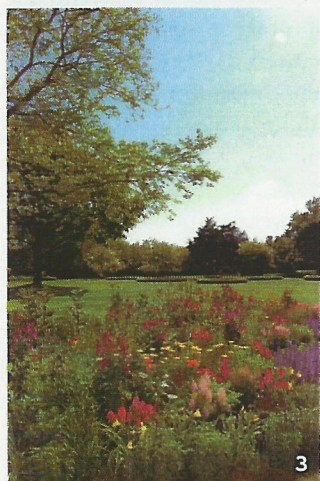
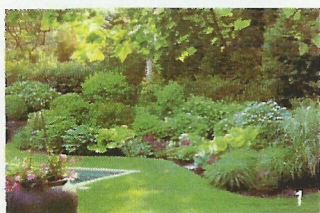
my own company, now located in Bridgehampton, NY.

**A recurring theme in your work is the repetition of color, texture and shape. Where did you develop this style and how did it arrive in your work?**

My work and career have been greatly inspired by Lota de Macedo Soares and Roberto Burle Marx. The concept of innovation, using sustainable plants, blending colors and mixing textures, has always fascinated me, and is translated into my work. Flamengo Park in Rio de Janeiro and Parque do Flamengo in Brasilia were both created in the 1960s but developed in the '70s when I was growing up. The enthusiasm for "modernism," using basic







shapes, repeating colors and varying textures became a part of my life and eventually part of my projects.

**What internationally, either a garden or museum, has inspired you most recently?**

Most recently, I visited the Musée du Quai Branly, Museum of the Primitive Arts, in Paris, France. The gardens were designed and planted by Gilles Clement and Patrick Blanc. These gardens are massive, with a huge variety of vibrantly colorful and healthy plants. They even used certain

raw materials like rebar to make the impressive sculptural fence around the museum. Natural landscapes have also enchanted me—like [the resort town] José Inacio, in Uruguay, where the natural vegetation is perfect enough.

**Hamptons residents are all too familiar with the havoc that deer can wreak on their property. How do you create perennial gardens that are deer proof?**

This has become just a normal part of my life, as I have been a resident of North Haven since 1997, when my daughter Livia was born. I basically started to



## “USING SUSTAINABLE PLANTS, BLENDING COLORS AND MIXING TEXTURES, HAS ALWAYS FASCINATED ME.”

experiment with different plants in my own backyard. I have clients who love both their deer and their flowers, like Ron Delsener. In the beginning, balancing the two was definitely a challenge. However, accomplishing this balancing act of creating beautiful landscapes full of color, with a variety of deer-resistant flowers, shrubs and trees, while remaining attractive to the wild birds and butterflies, is certainly satisfying, to say the least.

**What do you imagine to be the future for sustainable landscaping?**

Our biggest concern for the future is maintaining and improving the water and air quality. One major step forward is through sustainable landscaping, which requires the use of less water, fertilizer or pesticides. The use of native or well-adapted plants will help make the landscape more appropriate for the natural environment and resistant to predators, soil or weather conditions. This is not a new or revolutionary concept, but it should always be kept in mind because it's such a simple idea, and simple ideas are most often the best ideas. ♦

### MODERNIST PARADISE

Counterclockwise from above:

1. Residential landscape
2. Residential landscape
3. Residential landscape
4. Residential landscape
5. Full sun perennial garden
6. Garden surrounded by trees and shrubs

