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ISLE STYLE

Jonathan Adler and
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at Home on
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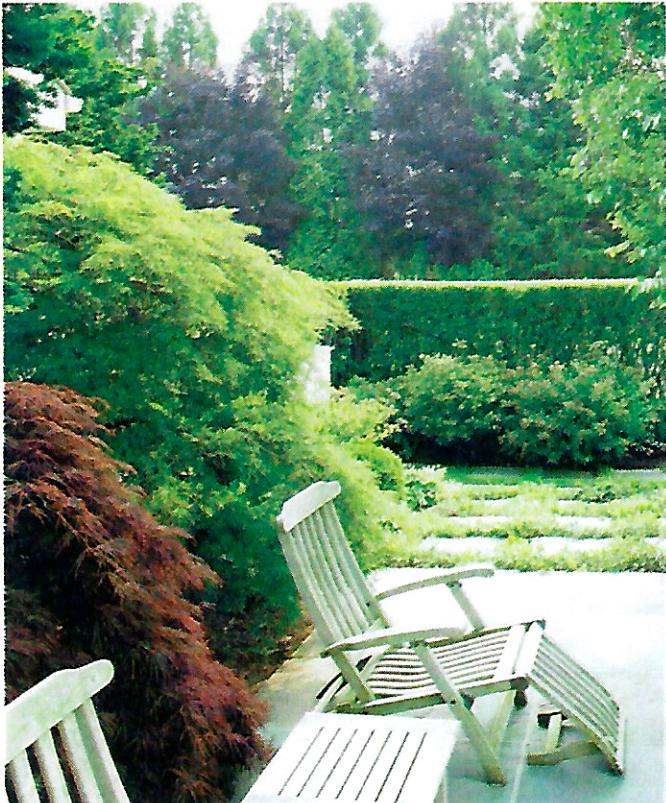
NATURAL INSPIRATION

Whether planting a vegetable garden at his parents' house or pruning plants to achieve a fresh look, award-winning landscape designer Frederico Azevedo has been inspired by nature as far back as he can remember. He studied landscape design in Brazil and at England's University of Oxford, then formed Bridgehampton-based **Unlimited Earth Care** (unlimitedearthcare.com) in 1993. Fast-forward to today, and he and his team create natural yet tailored residential and commercial landscape projects nationwide (such as 555 Fifth Ave. in New York), as well as in Italy, Spain and Brazil. Among his favorite designs? "I always think back to a project I did on Middle Lane in East Hampton in the 1990s," he says. "The '90s were all about white gardens, and Philippe Starck was big into using white everywhere, but I managed to convince my client to do a spectacular garden with over 2,000 flowers all in orange, yellow and red. People used to drive to Middle Lane just to look at the garden." An important focus of late for Azevedo—who's been recognized as one of the most influential landscape designers in the Hamptons by *Robb Report*—is infusing all of his creations with native plants, including flowers, trees and shrubs such as rudbeckia, monarda, digitalis, evening primrose, switchgrass, floral dogwood and inkberry. "The recent focus on using native plants should not be considered as just another trend, but really a responsibility to maintain balance within the environment," Azevedo says. "Native plants, along with the right design and soil preparation, address the full spectrum of sustainability issues as part of its mission, including being water-wise, not using herbicides, preserving natural areas and creating wildlife habitats."