

Elizabeth Lear

Hamptons Cottages & Gardens for Corcoran

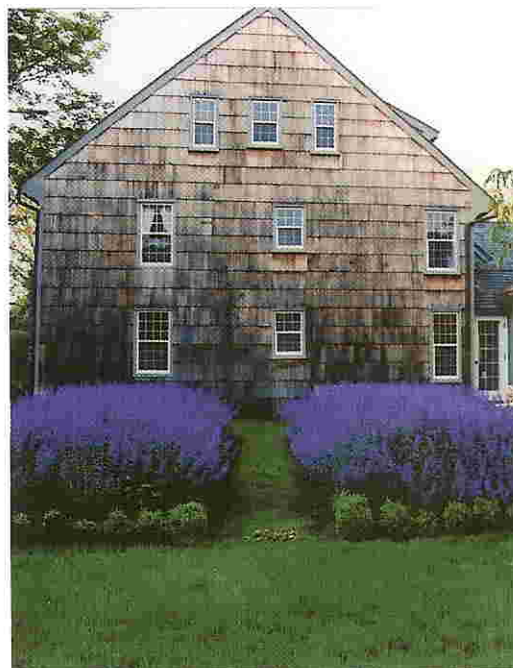
A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER STAYS TRUE TO HISTORICAL ROOTS



THE LANDSCAPE DESIGNER | *Elizabeth Lear (below left), of Southampton's Lear & Mahoney Landscape Associates, WISTERIA LANE | A wisteria arbor (left) filters light on the terrace of an Italian client's Southampton pool. SECOND LOOK | Despite an expansive property restoration this site (below right) appears as if the natural surroundings were magically untouched. HISTORY LESSON | For a historic farmhouse (bottom), Lear created a non-fussy pastoral landscape.*



How do you enable your clients to live who they are? By helping them define who they are through the conceptual design process. **What's unique about designing in the Hamptons?** **How do you design differently for different regions here?** The Hamptons and the people who live here have a heightened design consciousness. Also there are many untold resources and talents here to implement and embellish ideas. We design differently for different regions by interpreting what will be an appropriate and harmonious design solution for a specific site and, of course, sites vary greatly here. **How would you describe your design style?** Eclectic. There is never a single solution. We work with many architectural styles, different sites and client needs, all of which influence the final design solutions. **Where do you find inspiration?** Inspiration is everywhere. The natural landscape is inspirational. From a historical standpoint centuries of garden history and great ideas. Also in the twentieth century the work of colleagues and other designers. **Whose garden has made the biggest impression on you?** Recently the home of our latest project, which was in North Haven, made a big impression. The contemporary architecture and built landscape were designed to be site specific and sensitive to their surroundings. Traditionally I also enjoy restoration work, so any old house is a great project. **What does your home say about you?** My own home (circa 1770) says a lot about me. I have worked on restoring it since 1986. It probably says that I care about detail, beauty and aesthetics. **Who would be your dream client?** Dream clients are people who want to achieve perfection but tolerate imperfection. We have to remember we are dealing with nature and the dream is what motivates us to be patient. ●



Landscape photographs courtesy of Lear and Mahoney Landscape Associates, headshot by Paul Ickovic.