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AS THE FOUNDER OF CULT SPIN STUDIO SOULCYCLE, JULIE RICE IS ALL ABOUT THE BUZZ, but when she retreats from New York to her Montauk holiday home, she craves a more zen mood. She and her family (husband Spencer Rice and their two young daughters) have been

spending much of their time here over lockdown, so the serene interiors of the spectacular modernist house have been a great source of solace.

The family bought the light-filled, five-bedroom property after SoulCycle began opening studios in The Hamptons, drawn to it by a number of impressive features. Sitting on a promontory, it has sea views in all directions but remains wonderfully secluded, and is only a walk or bike ride away from the nearest town.

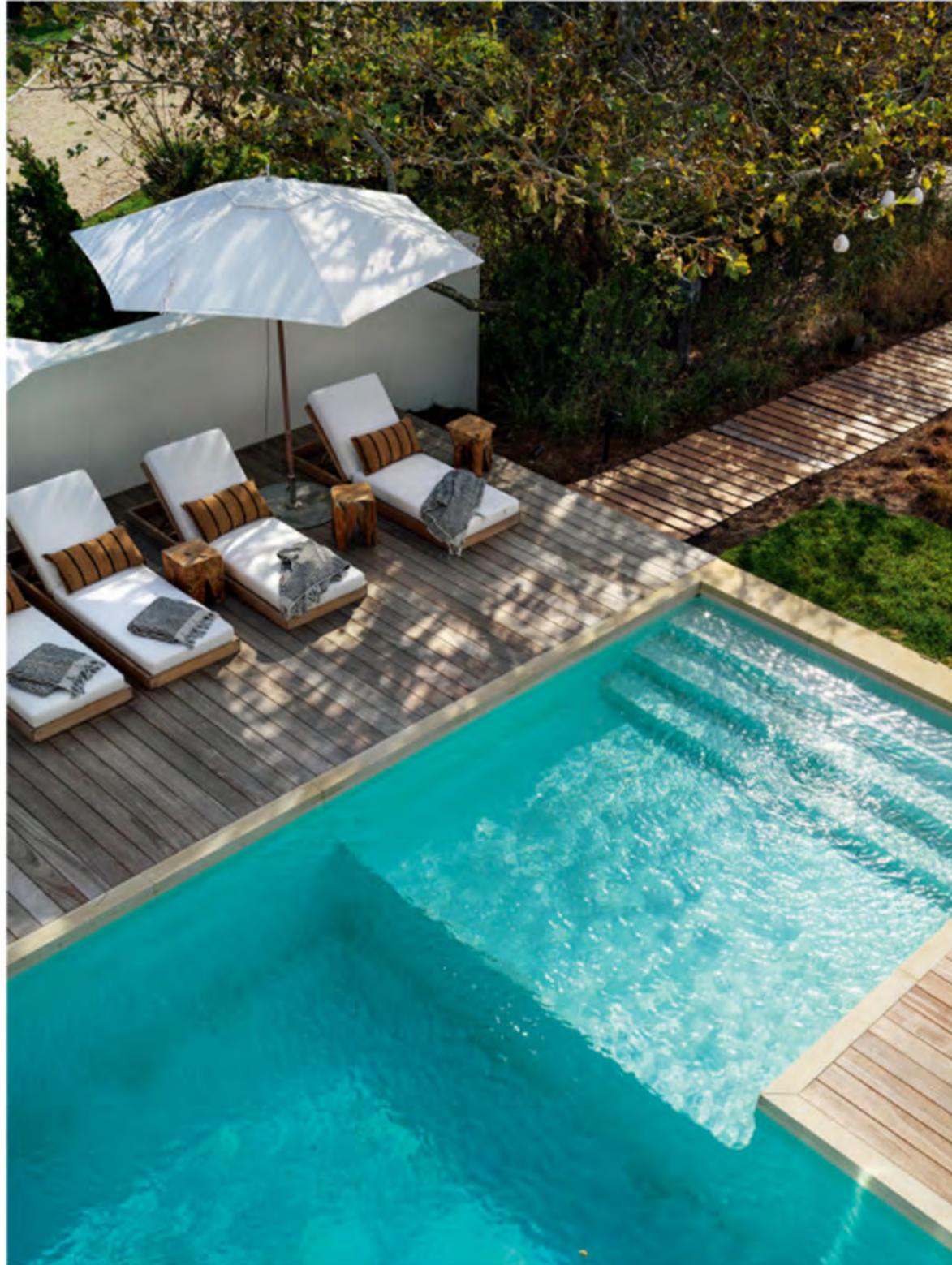
The house was originally designed by architect Steven Harris for a couple with no children, and required some remodelling to give it the big, open spaces the family needed. Rice enlisted her old friend Vanessa Alexander, founder of LA design firm Alexander Design, to rejuvenate the layout and furnishings. "Julie loves relaxed luxury and wanted to create a sense of layered comfort within this modern context, maintaining its architectural strength but adding softness to make it more liveable," explains Alexander. "We reworked the interior, exterior and landscaping, in collaboration with New York firm Resolution: 4 Architecture, to create a more open flow that connects the rooms in a fluid way."

Given that this is a home for vacations, Rice was also seduced by Alexander's holistic approach to design. "We seek to create environments that are luxurious but don't feel over-designed," says the latter. "It's about weaving



ABOVE FROM TOP: A palette of bleached neutrals runs through the entire house, including the living room, which is dominated by a vintage Cameleonda sofa by Mario Bellini for BSB Italia, from Morentz in the Netherlands. The coffee table is a custom piece by Belgian designer Axel Vervoordt and the textured rug is by Woven in New York; this outdoor nook with concrete firepit, overlooking the sea, is where the family spends much of its time in summer. The seating is from RH Modern's Maldives collection.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The house is positioned on a promontory with unobstructed views of the coastline in all directions.



The modernist home was originally designed by Tribeca architect Steven Harris, and recently remodelled by interior designer Vanessa Alexander to make it more family friendly. The master bedroom can be seen through the huge first-floor window, floating above the pool.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Loungers by James Perse add a laid-back vibe to the poolside lounge, teamed with Balinese teak stools. The cushions are made from vintage fabrics.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: The outdoor shower area on the pool deck; in the master bedroom, a vintage wooden chair is paired with a cream rug from LA rug specialist Mehraban.

a story that unfolds seamlessly, from the moment you get home to the moment you go to bed at night."

She began by opening up the dark lower levels to let in more light, banishing banks of wallpaper installed by the previous owners and improving access to the pool and terraces, blurring the boundaries between indoors and out. A new outdoor kitchen makes the living room feel double its size, while endless floor-to-ceiling glass walls give the sense of being at one with nature.

To accentuate this impression, the décor focuses on organic finishes, sun-bleached neutrals and layers of texture - a laid-back, bohemian look. "We started with a muted palette of materials, such as raw plaster, wood and stone, and added curated layers of vintage furniture, art and antiques for dimension and soul," explains Alexander. Modern-rustic textiles, such as linen throws and Moroccan rugs, are another keynote, as are the woven textures seen almost everywhere. Alexander left no

stone unturned when sourcing perfect pieces for the project, turning up a dramatic 1970s Mario Bellini leather sofa for the living room in the Netherlands, and raw clay and seagrass pendant lights for the master bedroom from an Australian craft maker, Harriet Goodall (these are now Rice's favourite possession). She also commissioned many bespoke items, including a monumental oak dining table and the coordinating bleached oak kitchen units alongside it, plus grey travertine sinks and minimalist mirrors for the bathrooms.

Now, in this seaside paradise that opens up on every side to the elements, lazy days are spent surfing, hosting pool parties and enjoying sunset dinners on the sand. "Doing this for a close friend was so special and rewarding," says Alexander. "The family feels relaxed and comfortable here without sacrificing luxury; they entertain endlessly and enjoy the water and the beach. It's an antidote to their lives in the city." @alexanderdb.com



Warm neutrals create a luxurious feel in the guest bedroom, where a Nest rattan bed by Miami-based CEU Studio makes a bold statement. The bleached timber Stump table is by Sawkille Co and the wall lights are by Stahl + Band.