

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

In Sands Point, designer Emily Del Bello brings her signature focus on livable, family-centered design to a deeply personal project.

By HAVEN HATHAWAY
Photographed by NICOLE FRANZEN



The outdoor living area features a RH Gemini double daybed in natural with Sunbrella Canvas in Granite, a Terzo dining table in charcoal paired with Mesa dining chairs in slate metal with Sunbrella Canvas, and Arhaus Cohen Shaker and Cohen Globe outdoor pendants overhead.



The breakfast table is centered around a Moooki Container Table Bodhi Oval in whitewash oak, paired with Colé Vienna dining chairs in natural wood and a vintage light sourced from the Paris flea markets.



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—EMILY DEL BELLO

EMILY DEL BELLO’S latest project in Sands Point, N.Y., was both a labor of love and a reflection of her intuitive approach to design, one that is rooted in understanding how her clients truly live. For Del Bello, who specializes in residences built around family life, the project also unfolded during a milestone period in her own life: She discovered she was pregnant, welcomed her baby and completed the installation—all within the same timeline. “Going through all of that at the same time really shifted my perspective,” she says. “It showed me that you can be a mom and still pursue something you’re deeply passionate about.”

A full-service designer whose portfolio spans upstate new builds, city penthouses and Hamptons beach houses, Del Bello was named to the 2025 Gold List by *LUXE Interiors + Design*. Yet her focus remains consistent: designing homes that support and evolve with family life. “We were very intentional about it from the start. There wasn’t a single space that felt like an afterthought,” she says. “We considered every surface, whether it was the walls or the ceilings, and

The kitchen features Artistic Frame counter stools reupholstered in Kravet’s Beholder-1 fabric, with Rose Uniacke Plaster Cone pendants suspended above the island.

how we could add depth and interest rather than leaving anything feeling flat.”

The Sands Point project began with a sense of familiarity. Having previously worked with the client’s sister, Del Bello already understood the aesthetic sensibility, which helped establish an easy rapport from the start. That foundation shaped a process centered on livability, particularly important for a young family designing what would become their forever home. “For me, it’s about using the right fibers, colors and materials that feel soft, welcoming and comfortable,” she says. “I never want my clients to feel like their homes are off-limits, especially with kids. Everything we bring into a home is meant to be used and enjoyed.”

Understanding the client went far beyond surface-level preferences. Del Bello approached the process almost like a character study, observing how the family naturally interacts and how they aspire to live. “Are they big entertainers, or do they prefer to keep things more private? Do they love hosting and setting a beautiful table, or are they a family



that spends most of their time outdoors?” she says. “It’s less about a formal process and more about understanding their lifestyle on a real level so the home truly reflects how they live day to day.”

Because the home was intended to last for decades, every decision was made with longevity in mind. The design accounts not only for the family’s current needs but also for how the space will function as their children grow and eventually return with families of their own. “When you’re designing a forever home, it’s important to keep the foundation timeless,” she says. “It’s really about creating a home that can carry them through the next 20 years and beyond.”

That philosophy extends to the technical aspects of planning, where functionality drives form. Layouts, circulation and subtle architectural details were all carefully considered to support daily life. “It’s about understanding how the home will actually function day to day,” she says, noting that even small decisions, like adding a pocket door near a high-traffic area, can have an outsize impact over time.

From an aesthetic standpoint, the home balances traditional and modern influences in a way that feels seamless rather than contrived. The front facade leans more classic, while the rear introduces a more contemporary sensibility, a contrast that carries into the interiors. Spaces shift in tone depending on their use: a more playful, modern bar for entertaining, and a structured, timeless family room for everyday living. “You don’t walk in and feel a jarring shift,” she says. “Everything flows together, so the mix of traditional and modern feels intentional and easy.”

Throughout, millwork plays a defining role in elevating the home’s character. “The details are what make a space feel finished, tailored and sophisticated,” she says. Every surface, from walls to ceilings, was considered, creating a layered, cohesive environment where nothing feels overlooked.

A strong sense of alignment between designer and client helped guide the project from concept to completion. “We would present options that were both beautiful and practical, so everything felt elevated but also made sense for how they live,” she says. That collaboration extended to the broader team as well, resulting in smooth execution despite inevitable timing challenges.

In the end, while the home is rich with standout features, from a glass passageway linking the garage to the mudroom to the intricate detailing in the ballroom, it’s the process itself that defines the project. “They were excited, engaged and fully on board,” Del Bello says. “When you have that level of trust and alignment, it really elevates everything.”

From top: In the powder room, vintage pieces sourced via 1stDibs are paired with a Lulu and Georgia Rook mirror by Sarah Sherman Samuel and a custom Zicana and Florim stone vanity; the primary bathroom features plumbing hardware and a tub from Ferguson, a light sourced from Etsy, a vintage side table from the Paris flea market and tile from Stadium NYC.

Opposite page: The primary bedroom features a custom bed upholstered in Holly Hunt fabric, flanked by Articolo Ovolo wall sconces. Holly Hunt Nightingale drapery in Golden Grey is paired with a STARK Cormack carpet in Pearl, custom nightstands by GS Woodworking and Phillip Jeffries Silk and Abaca wallcovering.



The living room features Avenue Road Rua Ipanema chairs, a custom coffee table in BAS Macchia Vecchia marble, Studio Van den Akker Armor pendants, a custom tufted round STARK area rug and Pollack drapery, anchored by a plaster fireplace by Floe Painting.



DESIGN DETAILS

Type

Single-family home

Location

Sands Point

Architecture

James Schettino Architects

schettinoarchitects.com

Builder

Mike McNulty

McNulty Development Corp.

mcnultydevelopment.com

Interior Design

Emily Del Bello Interiors

emilydelbellointeriors.com

Millwork

Master Trim Installations

& Millwork

mastertriminstallations.com

RESOURCES

1stDibs

Powder room vintage pieces

1stdibs.com

Arhaus

Outdoor pendants

arhaus.com

Artistic Frame

Kitchen counter stools

artisticframe.com

Avenue Road

Living room chairs

avenue-road.com

Ferguson

Primary bathroom plumbing

hardware and bathtub

fergusonhome.com

Florim

Powder room vanity surfaces

florim.com

GS WoodWorking

Primary bedroom nightstands

gswoodworking.com

Lulu and Georgia

Powder room mirror

luluandgeorgia.com

Mooodi

Kitchen table

mooodi.com

Phillip Jeffries

Wallpaper

phillipjeffries.com

RH

Outdoor furniture

rh.com

Rose Uniacke

Kitchen pendants

roseuniacke.com

STARK

Bedroom carpet and living

room rug

starkcarpet.com

Studio Van Den Akker

Living room lighting

studiovandenakker.com

Zicana

Stone and vanity stone

zicana.com