

HAMPTONS

the
design
issue

supermodel mom
LIYA KEBEDE

JUDITH GIULIANI'S HEART
BEST SUMMER CAMPS
STYLE ARBITER RITA SCHRAGER
MONTAUK YACHT CLUB'S 80TH
WILD THYME & AGAIN

ABRIDGED GUIDE TO
MONTAUK



FROM TOP: Bellhaus boutique owner Shawn Bell with Rita Schragger in her Hamptons home; a statue of Saint Rita



Dress Code

Rita Schragger's effortless style epitomizes beach chic. But Bellhaus boutique owner Shawn Bell discovers that this Cuban-born, former New York City Ballet dancer's Southampton home reflects more of her worldly, eclectic side.

SHAWN BELL: Where does your sense of fashion stem from?

RITA SCHRAGER: I loved magazines as a kid. I loved my *Vogue*. Growing up in Florida, that's what I'd always look at and dream about. I'd try to imitate what I saw on the pages, and that's how I'd get inspired. When I was a dancer, and without the money to get any of the good stuff, I'd go to thrift shops and put outfits together. It really wasn't until much later on, when I got together with Ian, that I became more involved in the fashion world and was able to get the things I really wanted.

SB: Did you have a style icon growing up?

RS: Audrey Hepburn. I loved her sense of style. She was so beautiful and always reminded me of a ballerina. In fact, she loved ballet. She made it as a movie star, of course, but she was really into dance.

SB: How does your sense of style reflect your personality?

RS: I don't really think I'm that stylish! But my style is very relaxed, easy-going and not uptight—that's kind of the way I am. Bohemian might be a good word for me.

SB: Which designers do you love to wear and why?

RS: I love Lanvin; the materials are amazing and his designs are so feminine. A lot of his dresses are very loose and sexy. I also like Roberto Cavalli and Versace, and my friend Narciso Rodriguez's cocktail dresses, which I have a lot of. I used to wear a lot of Dolce & Gabbana, because it was fun and crazy, but I don't wear them much anymore.



SB: Any must-have items for summer?

RS: There's this pair of Galliano shoes, they're pink and black lizard. They're just so stunning.

SB: What are some of your staple fashion pieces?

RS: Definitely jeans. And sunglasses are a special item for me. And then, of course, shoes.

SB: Describe the perfect outfit for a relaxing day in the Hamptons.

RS: I'm pretty casual, so I wear summer dresses, or jeans rolled up with flat shoes and a cute top. In July and August, I'll wear only my bathing suit and a sarong.

SB: This Fendi dress looks amazing on you. Where would you wear it?

RS: This dress is beautiful. I love the bottom and the looseness of it. It isn't tight on my body and feels comfy and relaxed. I'd wear it to a beach wedding in the Hamptons—and go barefoot!

SB: Moving away from fashion, I love all the different accessories, colors and themes in your house. Which room is your favorite?

RS: The living room and the library. I call the library my "Cuban room" because it's wallpapered with individual tobacco leaves. An artist came and applied it, leaf by leaf, sort of like a giant collage. I love the living room because it's white, beachy, fun and feminine.

SB: Tell me about the crucifixes.

RS: I collect crucifixes. One of them was a gift from my boyfriend's [chef Andrew Buffalino] mother. The others were bought at different flea markets and stores in different parts of the world while I was traveling. One is from a flea market in Paris; another is from a flea market on 26th Street in New York; and I believe another one is from Italy. They're all very old.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Schrage's collection of crucifixes; a safari-inspired room; a guest bedroom with a black-lacquer headboard painted by Julian Schnabel

SB: What made you start collecting them?

RS: I have a love of religious artifacts, it's not necessarily crucifixes. I have statues of saints and all sorts of different goodies. The statue in the black robe is Saint Rita. I was actually named after her; my father loved her very much.

SB: I also noticed a lot of animal skins.

RS: Yes! I have a zebra rug, a goat rug in the living room and a Mongolian lamb rug in the TV room. They're nice and fluffy and furry. They feel good and they look good. I have to admit that I always wanted a goat rug, but the zebra and lamb rug were brought in by my friend who helped me decorate the house. He loves skin, so I was a bit influenced by him. H