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# *Dani's Papers*

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AUGUST 25, 2006

ART BY KEN RICHARDS

# HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

## Skin deep with Samantha Altea

### A Kiss on the hand.....

When Brad Pitt designed his own wedding bands, every woman on the planet swooned.....

When J-Lo received a pink diamond ring it was the talk of tinsel town. The right hand ring has become so popular that women are doing the same for themselves and feel completely empowered to buy a diamond just because. After all,

they ARE a girl's best friend. But these days, even guys are jumping on the diamond encrusted wagon, because bling is in. However, buying a diamond can be a daunting prospect and investment that demands some serious cash.

If purchasing a car, a computer, or any kind of gadget, gents, in particular, read anything they can get their hands on. They do their research on any new high-tech toy. But diamonds.....they're something completely foreign to most men. Though they pick up the odd tidbit from girlfriends who are already sporting rocks, they're not, for the most part, diamond experts.

In the market for some bling myself, I found an expert to help. She's not only a gemologist, an MBA, a designer and fashionista, she's also my new best friend. Or at least when she sits you down and imparts "gems" of information you had no idea about, it feels like you've known her forever. Her specialty is taking clients through the whole process of buying a diamond, holding their hand as it were, from getting the best bang for their buck to custom designing something unique and perfect for the girl, or even guy, in question. Vivianne Ivanier gets to know her clients over cocktails or lunch, so that she can help create the diamond YOU deserve. If she's working with a gent on an engagement ring, she'll take him out for a beer and romance him into telling her all about the lucky lady. Then she'll find the perfect diamond (or gem) at the best price, will work with him on designing a custom made, unique item. With her last client, Gemma Kidd's fiancée, she did such a great job and Kidd loved her ring so much she invited Viv to the engagement party.

But if you want to go it alone, realize that most retail stores mark up their diamonds beyond belief. Or, if you think you have "A Guy," as many do, who will get you a good deal, there are still some things he might not educate you about. So, my new best friend has kindly imparted some insider's info to get you started.

### Begin with the 4 Cs

1. COLOR runs on a scale from D thru Z.....D being the best (least color).....fancy colors (like J-Lo's famous pink) are graded differently, from faint to fancy vivid

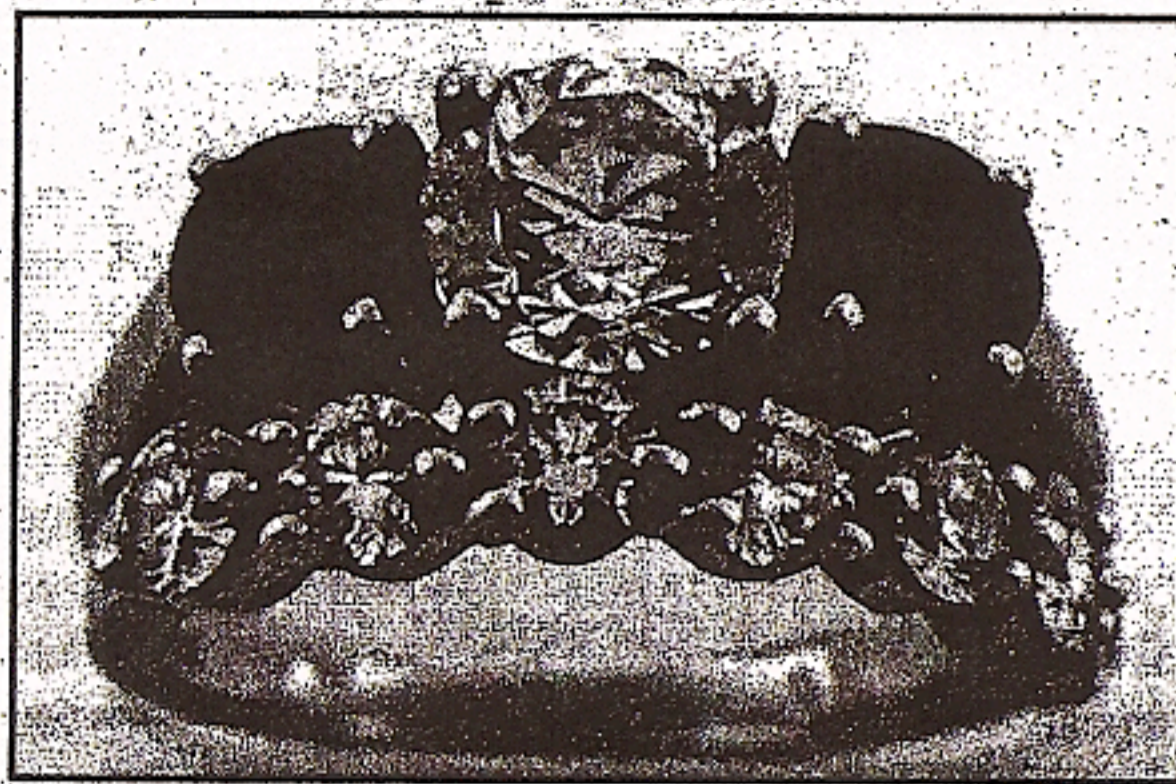
2. CLARITY runs on a scale as follows: IF (internally flawless); VVS1&2 (very, very slightly included); VS1&2 (very slightly included); SI1&2 (slightly included); I1&2&3 (included).

3. CUT establishes a stone's symmetry and polish and runs on a scale as follows: excellent, very good, good, poor, very poor.

4. CARAT is the weight measurement used for diamonds.

### Where some men go wrong:

Men get insecure about going out on a limb, so they choose a ring that looks like all the others they see out on the street for fear of going "wrong." Because clients often know so little about diamond jewelry before buying an engagement ring, they decide to go with what they know.....which is little to nothing. They ignore



Design by Vivianne Ivanier

the billions of combinations and permutations available to them in terms of creative options! That's why it's good to do your research, or get someone like Viv to help you.

### Diamond Tips:

It's important to balance your budget to get the most for your needs.....divvy up stone vs. setting costs properly. (Would you put a Picasso in a cheap frame?)

Different shapes of diamonds demand more or less attention depending on the different diamond quality measures unless price is no object (sigh.....IF ONLY!!). So, for example, concentrate on color when dealing with round stones (and other brilliant cut stones), and concentrate on clarity when dealing with emerald cut stones (and other step-cut stones).

### Colorless vs. Fancy-Colored Diamonds:

Little known fact - Diamonds come in every color of the rainbow.

Strong color is caused by a prevailing amount of one impurity that has invaded the stone, i.e., nitrogen

(continued on page 138)

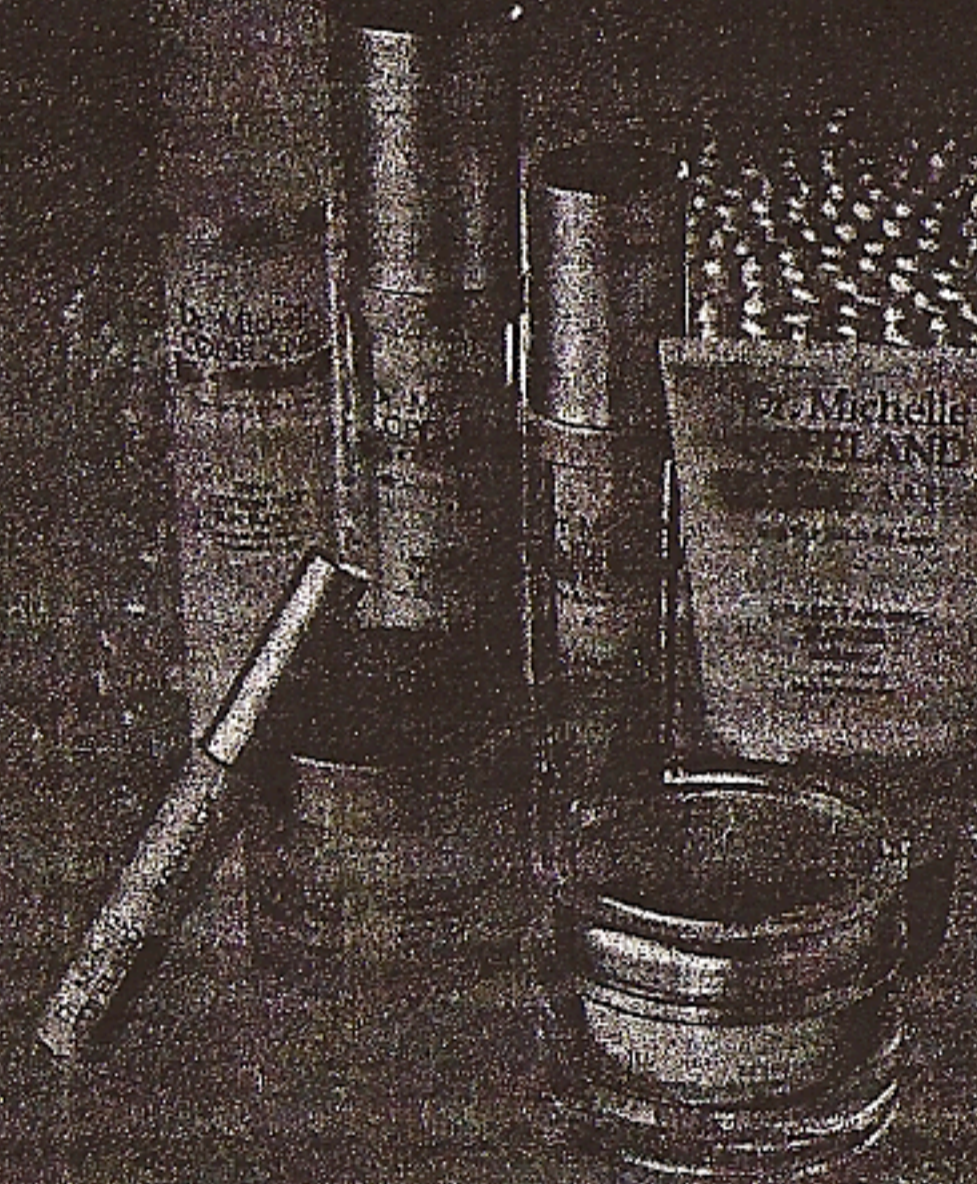
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# Real Estates by Diane Strecker

Each season for the past six years, an array of top interior designers, well known architects, builders, crafts-people and landscapers have come together with *House & Garden Magazine* to present the annual Designer Showhouse here on the East End. The event runs from mid-summer through the end of August and is kick started each season with an opening Gala Preview Party. Each year, a home is either redesigned, renovated or built from top to bottom, showcasing the talents of some of the finest craftsman and artists in the country to benefit a good cause. Proceeds from the Gala Event and Showhouse tours go to benefit Southampton Hospital.

These homes are really something to see and draw huge crowds and lots of money each year since they have begun, making them a huge success for the contributors and the benefactors. Last year's Showhouse was the first on the North Fork, and recreated the grandeur of an old captain's Victorian home, the Jedediah Hawkins House in Jamesport. The home was entirely rebuilt and renovated, saving the historic mansion from ruin.

This summer's Designer Showhouse is an 18,000 square foot Arts & Crafts style home located on 4 acres of open fields in the Bridgehampton countryside. Architect Peter Cook designed the spacious country home to blend into rolling farmland. It was donated by Michael Burns of Burns Development. This is Burns Development's second dona-

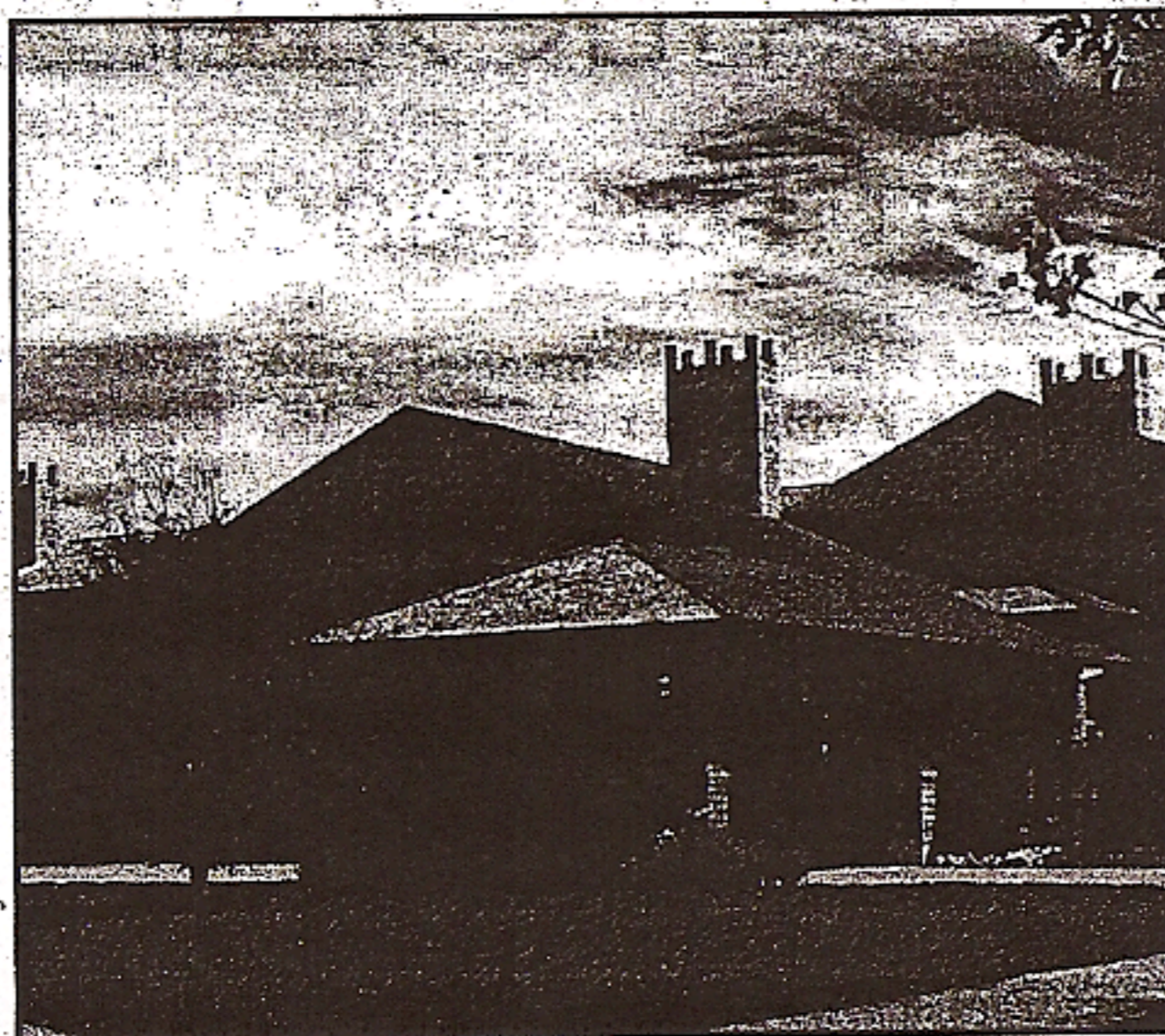


Photo by Diane Strecker

The Designer Showhouse

tion to the cause. They also built the 2004 Showhouse in Wainscott. Thirty-two renowned artists and designers have put this year's work of art together, using a vast collection of the most exquisite and finest quality fabrics, wood and stone. Each room is individually crafted and designed to its motif.

There are 24 rooms, all adorned in lavish designs, with thoughtful details. Some offer distant vistas of the Atlantic and all open up to farmland views. The two story shingle structure has some very distinctive features. An impressive arts & crafts style cedar staircase (one of two) is located off a spacious entry foyer in


what is labeled the staircase hall, a room in itself, where towering ceilings and grand floor-to-ceiling windows create a dramatic effect.

One of the most impressive features to the home is its 4000 bottle wine cellar and adjoining recreation space that includes a classic billiard room. The home's eleven full bathrooms are all intricately designed and tiled. The mosaics are simply works of art. The blue tile work in the downstairs guest bath is truly exceptional. The artist has used all hues of both deep and bright ocean blues, which were swirled beautifully into the floor design. The media room is located at the east end of the house and has a circular sun room with long flowing drapery that overlooks a pool and spa area, which appear to be built into the hill. The four-room master suite is also quite impressive with a master bedroom, two sitting rooms and a master bath. The upstairs halls are spacious and the guest bedroom has its own sitting area and sunroom. This area is also quite unique and is designed in a beach and surfing theme, using art and rich natural materials to give it relaxed and beachy feel. One feels like they have gone on vacation by simply stepping into the sitting room. A rear bedroom is airy, floral and feminine. The living room has a grand fireplace and is set between the library and formal dining room, giving off the warmth of rich woods and lush furnishings.

What is special about this Showhouse is that if visitors observe long enough, they will notice more and more detail; the richness of fabric, the high polish of marble or the grain and texture to the various woods.

The showhouse also overlooks a private tennis court and pavilion, a pond, and has a three-car garage with double barn style doors. There is a flower room, mudroom and wet bar that must be experienced to be fully appreciated. There is also an art gallery, The McNeil Art Group, that may be viewed as part of the tour, located at the House & Garden Information Center. The Showhouse is located at 141 Highland Terrace in Bridgehampton and is easily reached via Ocean Road where signs then point the way. Tickets to the tour are \$30, and can be bought only at the door between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. through August 27th. It is a must see for Hampton house lovers.

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## Skin (continued from page 131)

causes yellow, boron causes blue. Colored diamonds are more rare so more expensive but also a lovely way to be creative in designing an original ring.

### Round vs. Fancy-Shaped Diamonds:

Round is most popular but even with this traditional shape, there are so many different setting choices. Fancy cuts were developed at first to maximize the amount of a rough diamond that could be salvaged when polishing a stone (most lose over 50% during cutting), but now fancy cuts are also very popular and appealing.

Rounds are what is known as "brilliant" cuts as they scintillate (sparkle) when you look down into them. Princess cuts, cushion and pear shapes are other examples of brilliant cuts

Emerald cuts are what is known as "step cut" as they look like clear stairs when you look down into them. Radiants and asschers are examples of them.

Lastly, cherish any diamond you give, receive, or wear and know that you're worth it.

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