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On Long Island's North Fork, a Midcentury Motel Opens Two Beach Houses

Left: the kitchen of Casa de Buddy, one of Silver Sands' new beach houses, with a custom banquette upholstered with fabrics by Schumacher and Jane Churchill for Cowtan & Tout. Right: the double-height living room of the house. Courtesy of Silver Sands

By Kate Guadagnino

Silver Sands, a midcentury motel on Long Island's North Fork, had seen better days by the time Alexander Perros happened upon it on a weekend drive in 2014 and experienced what he describes as "this combination of melancholy and nostalgia." He had no grand plans, and yet Perros, who has worked on the business side of design companies, including Lindsey Adelman Studio, ended up acquiring the property with his friend the restaurateur Ryan Hardy. Open since last June, Perros's reimagined version of it nods to the past while somehow still feeling current. Maybe it's that the 20-room main building, which wraps around a courtyard with views of Peconic Bay, was painted with fresh coats

of coral and teal, or a host of smaller touches, like the fact that the room numbers appear on vibrant ceramic shells by the artist Lucie de Moyencourt. Visitors could already opt for free-standing cottages or bungalows. Now, with the completion of two beach houses, the microresort, as Perros calls it, can accommodate larger parties who want their own space (they each have three bedrooms). For Plato's Beach House, Perros and his wife, Anna Perros, who took the lead on the pre-existing structures' interiors, were inspired "by the sea and sky — there are lots of blues, yellows and pinks," he says. The second place, Casa de Buddy, had "deep, groovy '70s vibes," which they preserved with vintage pieces such as a snakelike De Sede DS 600 Modular Sofa and a playful palm tree lamp by the artist Mario Lopez Torres. Both houses have private gardens and full kitchens, though their occupants will likely still want to venture out for bocce or bird-watching, or to try the on-site diner, Nookies. There's also an outdoor restaurant with an oyster bar whose offerings travel all of 200 feet from the water to the table. *Rooms from $470 per night during peak season; beach house pricing on request, silversandsmotel.com.*