



Immortalize Your House

You have lavished so much attention on your home, it deserves to be framed.

THIS MONTH: ILLUSTRATOR BARBARA SIEBEL THOMAS

“ART WAS THE FAMILY BUSINESS,” says Barbara Siebel Thomas. “Everyone dabbled in art as a hobby or pursued it professionally.” True to family form, Thomas was working as the art director of an ad agency when she had a show of her own work in the early 1980s, and Wall Street honchos began asking her to document their country estates. Word of mouth soon brought commissions from up and down the East Coast, but Thomas soon found that most of her work came from Long Island. “On Long Island, properties are extremely important to people,” she says.

Landscapes are her first love, but she has a strong affinity for the houses she paints. “I consider myself a secret

architect,” she says. “I’ve always been very interested in architecture.” Some clients want a view from their house; others, like Lee Radziwill, select an interior. Thomas works in both watercolor and oil—“I can’t say I prefer one to the other”—and produces everything from miniatures to canvases 10 feet long. Whatever her subject, Thomas believes in showing it at its best: “The most beautiful landscape, the most beautiful house, the most beautiful light, the most beautiful season.” Her dream commission? “Versailles. I would love to stay there for a year and paint.” ☐

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Peconic, named after the bay in the background, is one of the many Long Island estates that have been painted by Barbara Siebel Thomas.