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The Hedges Inn, the striking white house on the corner of Woods Lane and Main Street in East Hampton, has gotten a new coat of paint both figuratively and literally.

Now in its second summer owned by Sarah Wetenhall and her husband, David Wetenhall, the Hedges Inn has undergone a transformation of sorts, with new energy coursing through its indelible walls.

“We would have loved to have done it last season, but by the time we got closed and purchased the inn, the season was upon us,” said Sarah Wetenhall during a recent interview. “Last season we launched right into the summer of 2025, and we wanted to give back to the community. So we were so excited to get it open last season. So as soon as that season was past, we put pen to paper, and we’re so excited the internal version of Hedges got the love it deserved.”

To transform the interior space of the inn, Wetenhall enlisted the help of designer David Netto, who set out to reimagine the Hedges Inn in a unique, whimsical way. Color bursts from the walls, with each room a tapestry for Netto’s creativity. The redesign includes all 12 guest rooms, as well as Swifty’s Restaurant.

“It’s a tapestry woven between Sarah’s and my imagination of what it should always have been,” said Netto, who grew up in East Hampton. “She knew I had experience looking out there my whole life at the great houses and interiors, and also that I had the imagination to concoct a story with her where it would become a house that was sort of the living room for the town … color makes people happy, and you have to make people happy. To have people in your inn, they have to feel at home. It doesn’t matter how chic it is.”

Swifty’s Restaurant has been given a makeover, too, inspired by both Netto’s memories eating there as a child and the French restaurants that legendary restaurateur Henri Soulé owned in the 1950s and 1960s.

“I remember perfectly nice dinners, but East Hampton was not a gourmet town [at the time],” Netto said. “I remember the feeling of security and lovely coziness that that building always had, and even had last summer, when it was sort of white boxing its way through the pop-up temporary summer. Everybody loved it.”

Swifty’s was such a success last summer that the restaurant’s presence has been expanded this summer.

“It’s a great community gathering point, which is one of the keystones to our business, being community facing and community serving,” she said. “It’s fun, it’s family friendly.”

Swifty’s is now home to trivia nights, as well as a weekly conversation series that invites the community into the inn for a lecture and small bites.

“To me, Sarah is a great businesswoman,” Netto said. “For all of the storytelling and aesthetics that we got into together, she knew the programming that East Hampton needed to happen in that spot, which is her trivia, Conversations at the Hedges and frankly, opening the inn up to do pop-ups and get to know the East Hampton community.”

Wetenhall, who also owns The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, said “in both locations we want to ‘lower the hedges.’ That’s what we’re all about. We’re about making places open and accessible and friendly.”

Check out more of the newly inn at thehedgeseasthampton.com.

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The Hedges Inn has gotten a complete redesign inside its walls.

Glen Allsop