

APRIL/MAY 2010

Hang Ten – Sharply



A new reality show is out to prove that Jersey Shore vacations can be classy and chic. The eight-week docu-series “9 by Design” (Bravo, Tues. 10 p.m.), which debuted April 13, showcases the talents of husband-and-wife design team Bob and Cortney Novogratz. Known for their artsy aesthetic and funky flair, the Manhattan design duo (who parent seven children when not transforming spaces as Sixx Design) are put under the clock to create sumptuous spaces from wrecks and empty lots and then decorate the spaces with unique collectibles.

Their Jersey Shore challenge (featured as one of several design tests in the show): Create an innovative design for the new Bungalow Hotel in Long Branch (bungalowhotel.net). This 24-room boutique hotel opened to rave reviews last summer and is the latest addition to the Long Branch renaissance. The result is a surfer-chic décor punctuated with second-glance-worthy

pieces in the hotel space as well as in the rooms — all of which are uniquely designed and with rip-curling names such as Aloha, Hang Loose, and Lil’ Pipeline.

Antiques and design aficionados will be enchanted from the moment they check in. The lobby sets the stage with elements of whimsy and history. Order a drink at the bar — created by craftsman John Houshmand — and take in the atmosphere: The white-plumed feather chandelier above a 1920s pool table and the 6-foot-high mural of a stamp depicting Queen Elizabeth II by British artist Ann Carrington (look closely — it’s made entirely out of pearl buttons), and a vintage foosball table.

Guest perks include access to the members-only Le Club beach club and per diem access to Golds Gym (both for a fee). And bring your pet — the hotel has blocked out several pet-friendly rooms.

Located in Pier Village just steps away from the beach, Bungalow is in the heart of the town’s premier shopping, spas, restaurants, and nightlife.