

Photos! Kips Bay show house in W. Palm Beach is a design extravaganza

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REAL-ESTATE

Photo tour! Idea-packed designer rooms fill the Kips Bay show house in W. Palm Beach

Designers have created luxurious and creative rooms at the 2023 Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach. Here's an insider's look at the annual fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs.

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Special to the Palm Beach Daily News



A Mediterranean-inspired house on the Intracoastal Waterway sets the stage for tropical romance and visual drama at the just-opened — and sixth annual — Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach.

With interiors and outdoor spaces created by more than 20 design professionals, the house on North Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach is open for tours through March 19. As many as 15,000 guests are expected to visit, organizers say.

The project benefits the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in New York City, where the first show house opened in 1973. Since then the project has raised more than \$28 million for after-school and enrichment programs for children, according to the clubs.

Owned by Randall Realty Group, the house itself is a confection of architectural details — soaring ceilings, stately columns and stone embellishments. These add to the allure of the interiors, from the impressively scaled grand salon to welcoming sitting areas, from entertaining outdoor oases to intimate bedroom suites — all designed to send visitors' imaginations soaring with possibilities. (Anyone who has ever wondered if a tropical-theme wallpaper might be right for their own home will find plenty of colorful examples at the show house.)

The show house is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday through March 19 at 3240 N. Flagler Drive. General admission is \$40, and tickets are available at KipsBayDecoratorShowHouse.org.

Here's a room-by-room, designer-by-designer photo tour, starting on the ground floor and then heading upstairs.

THE GREAT ROOM, by Amanda Lindroth

As the basis of Palm Beach designer Amanda Lindroth's grand salon, she alludes to rooms she's visited in villas in Italy as well as another Italian favorite — the Mon Repos Palace, which was featured in the British television series "The Durrells in Corfu" as the mansion of the fictitious Countess Mavrodaki, played by Leslie Caron. Lindroth's great room would perfectly suit "the Countess Mavrodaki spending the winter in Palm Beach," Lindroth says.

Cedric DuPont Antiques in West Palm Beach provided antiques to anchor the room, while the pattern on the stenciled walls draws from ancient Indian motifs. The hand-painted sisal rug, meanwhile, "gives the room a sporting feel," says the designer, who also has an office in the Bahamas. For a layered look, she adds, "we used our characteristic comfortable cotton and linen upholstery fabrics" to echo the water view. And to bring an overly ornate mantel in line, "we had the idea to paint it like a faux tortoise shell," she says.

POOL PATIO AND LOGGIA, by Billy Ceglia Designs

Lake Worth designer Billy Ceglia alludes to “The Great Gatsby” while standing in his loggia, named “Le Palmier Blanc,” as he overlooks the pool patio and, across the Intracoastal Waterway, Palm Beach. Comfortable chaises, sofas and armchairs are grouped together with a bar and dining table shaded by umbrellas and potted palms.

The loggia was designed for entertaining, lounging or just gazing, as F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Jay Gatsby was wont to do, the designer explains, noting the Long Island setting of the novel: “This is Jay’s East Egg house looking across the water to Daisy’s house in West Egg,” Ceglia says, adding that the novel provided him an inspirational focal point. “I made everything white on white, which highlights the spectacular view we have here — everything matches the sailboats going by.”

Another ode to the past — with a sort of pointed inspiration — are the custom-made tole agave plants, in a whitish hue, anchored in pots at the pool’s corners. “The old Escada (storefront) in Palm Beach had them on the roof,” Ceglia says.

FOYER, by Studio Thomas James

At the front of the house, designer Philip Thomas Vanderford has named his foyer “White Lotus” after the popular HBO drama, which showcases Sicilian architecture as its backdrop. “We felt similarities and played into that aesthetic,” Vanderford says. “Italians have a knack for exuberant opulence in everyday life.”

Referring to benches by an Italian designer, the Murano glass chandelier and a *Pietre Dure*-style panel, “we mixed pieces with history to give the room a story feel,” says Vanderford, a principal with Dallas-based Studio Thomas James.

He also layered luxe fabrics and saturated ruby hues — warm and regal burgundy, pink, brown and ivory — to interact with the “jewelry of light and play nicely with the Mediterranean architectural base of the original limestone walls,” he says.

FAMILY ROOM, by Scott Sanders LLC

“The Palm Beach Story,” a 1942 comedy starring Claudette Colbert and Joel McCrea, plays on the television in Scott Sanders’ family room, which he has titled “Palm Beach Modern.”

“We used vintage pieces to fill the space. I was inspired by the movie and celebrated iconic Palm Beach finishes like rattan, Lucite, wicker and chrome,” says Sanders, a Palm Beach resident who also has an office in New York City. Blue, one of his favorite colors, plays well

with the Intracoastal Waterway in the background and seemed appropriate to anchor the color palette. “I wanted the colors to feel like waves of the ocean,” Sanders says.

His starting point was the bold Pierre Frey geometric fabric that covers a pair of armchairs and the vintage dining chairs.

KITCHEN, by Christopher Peacock

Christopher Peacock created a kitchen that is tailored, sophisticated and dramatic in a modern-day Palm Beach way. The color palette, a tone-on-tone navy with slate gray, is given a pop of avocado on the ceiling. “There wasn’t a lot of usable wall space, Peacock points out, “so I used a strong wallcovering with horizontal lines to bring the ceiling down, and I wanted to have a long center-island eat-in area.”

The cabinetry is bleached oak stained a slate gray, and he says, “there’s nothing shiny in here.” Of note, the shelving is edged in brushed-steel banding, broken up by steel plates that incorporate dome screws. “When you look at a room, you see layers, and the closer you get, I don’t want to disappoint,” explains Peacock. “I try to elevate the moment.”

In addition to designing kitchen cabinetry, Peacock enjoys cooking. So what might be stewing in the heavy Dutch oven on the stovetop? “It would be a Boeuf Bourguignon. I love hearty food. I’m a Brit,” says the designer, who is based in Greenwich, Connecticut, but plans to open a Palm Beach showroom this spring.

Tour last year's show house: Bold color, decorative ceilings are visual treats at 2022 Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach

From the 2021 archives: Take a tour! Restful retreats mark this year’s Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach

FIRST-FLOOR STUDY, by Lucy Doswell Interiors

Whether one were hosting a cocktail party or curling up with a book, the study could serve either purpose, says project manager Lulu Farish of Lucy Doswell Interiors, which has offices in New York and Charlotte, North Carolina. With a jewel-tone color palette and splashes of aubergine, the room features a layered English style with a Florida flair.

A family heirloom was the starting point — a Laverne bronze coffee table that belongs to Doswell’s grandmother. It’s combined with an Avery & Dash desk, two antique chairs, Newel pedestal tables and a contemporary-style side table. “The desk chair is also from Lucy’s family,” Farish says.

THE COCOA LOUNGE, by Danielle Rollins Interiors

The Cocoa Lounge pays homage to the late designer Angelo Donghia, says Palm Beach resident Danielle Rollins. “He’s the epitome of ’80s classicism,” notes the designer, whose studio is in West Palm Beach. Donghia’s Block Island mahogany-and-wicker armoire, which she dubs “a barmoire,” anchors the room, and a Block Island Donghia armchair is just adjacent.

Originally the home’s dining room, Rollins repurposed the space as a place to sit and read the mail or have cocktails before dinner. “The theme for me was understated elegance, and sort of a study of tropical minimalism,” says Rollins. Known for her exuberant color palette, the room’s neutral color palette represents a different direction for her, she adds.

A closer look: Danielle Rollins’ Cocoa Lounge among rooms at new Kips Bay show house in West Palm Beach

FAMILY ENTRY, LAUNDRY AND BATHROOM, by David Frazier

Designer David Frazier of New York City has titled his area the “Acanthus Enfilade,” referencing an architectural term “for a trio of spaces,” he explains.

“Our initial choices were the serene blue color palette and the acanthus-(patterned) fabric in the laundry room. In the hallway, we wanted to go dark and moody for contrast. We had to get really creative with awkward spaces — and the (door to the) garage is not an ideal first thing to see — so we used drapery and a vignette to set the tone,” Frazier says.

Also, the bathroom had an awkward corner, so he framed the shower in drapery to soften it, giving the space a less-utilitarian look so that it might resemble a powder room.

POWDER ROOM, by Lindley Arthur Interiors

For her powder room, named “Pristine Providence,” Dallas-based Lindley Arthur took inspiration from the Lyford Cay Club on New Providence Island in the Bahamas. “We wanted to create a bathroom that was timeless and sophisticated, while staying true to our aesthetic of mixing old and new,” Arthur says.

The wallpaper, a classic pattern from the venerable Gracie firm, was the jumping-off point. “It’s our take on one of the main common areas of the club. A custom peach ground, it’s one of our signature colors and also a nod to Palm Beach. I like the softness of the bamboo and the tiny glimmer of gold.”

Her tip for mixing old and new? “Good design needs a juxtaposition.” As an example, she points to the room’s abstract painting by Cate West Zahl and a collection of antique English tortoise-shell boxes. They work together, she says, because “one of the boxes has a beautiful, faceted shape that reads contemporary.”

MAIN STAIRCASE AND LANDING, by Delia Kenza Interiors

Designer Delia Kenza’s “Perspectives” staircase and landing recall a song, she notes: “It’s called ‘Come Together’ by The Internet.” Kenza, whose firm is in New York City, envisioned a family who might live in the house and created a staircase space to represent their different perspectives and concepts of beauty, she explains.

“My imaginary family loves to travel and collect beautiful things,” she says, pointing out the African masks. The Gucci wallpaper, which recalls marble blocks on a Renaissance building, sets off the modern art and sculpture. “I wanted this space to be a gallery, functional and comfortable with eco-friendly fabrics, but a place (for) showing collections.”

A striking upholstered bench shaped like a pipe offers a place to contemplate the art. One surprising element is the black room divider against the wall; it’s made of corrugated paper so that it can stretch and bend.

PRIMARY SUITE BEDROOM, by Katie Ridder Inc.

The wallpaper in designer Katie Ridder’s self-named “garden bedroom” reflects her design starting point — literally. “I knew I would have great light in this room — southern and eastern — and I wanted something reflective on the walls, so I used a de Gournay silver-leaf wallpaper and asked if (the manufacturer) would add the bluebirds.”

The overall color palette is “blue, green and every color in between” in the bedroom, which she describes as “updated traditional.” Artisan-made crafts attract Ridder, so note the bed’s headboard: It’s embroidered. The New York City-based designer also likes to garden — and because this is a garden room, she trimmed the lime-green velvet sofa in a plush caterpillar trim of peacock blue.

PRIMARY SUITE BATHROOM, by Paladino Rudd Interior Design & Collection

The luxurious primary bathroom has a spa-like attitude with sensory features and plenty of attention-getting details— from fine art to a Kohler bathtub with a waterfall edge, to over-the-top techie features. The room “is a reminder to put your phone on silent mode, relax and

take ‘me’ time,” says designer Allison Paladino, one of the principals at the Palm Beach Gardens-based firm.

“The bathtub, ‘Soak,’ sounds like rain and comes with controls that include effervescent bubbles,” she says. Kohler’s programmable Anthem Controls, she adds, can digitally turn the shower’s water stream on and off and moderate head-and-body sprays along with water pressure and temperature. And there’s even a “chromo-therapy” lighting system.

PRIMARY SUITE MORNING BAR AND DRESSING ROOM, by Katherine Shenaman Interiors

A special drawer in the morning bar holds a selection of teas, but there also are accouterments for coffee or a nightcap, should one prefer something stronger. With drink in hand, the room’s occupant might head into the adjoining dressing room to decide what to wear.

Designer Katherine Shenaman took visual inspiration for the dressing room from an antique mirror she saw in a Paris dressing room. It inspired her to create a space that was not just a closet, but also a room with a sense of luxury and comfort. For color in the morning bar, the deep-blue, oversized waves on the Asian-inspired Gracie wallpaper provided the jumping-off point.

The dressing room, meanwhile, is painted a peachy hue. Wallpaper on the ceiling helps visually connect the two rooms.

SECOND-FLOOR LOGGIA, by Honey Collins Interiors

Overlooking the pool area and Intracoastal Waterway, the second-floor loggia is the quintessential “Room with a View,” although it was not always an outdoor room, per se. It was an open-to-the-sky terrace until Boston-based designer Honey Collins added a metal framework “ceiling” and covered it with an awning. The view of water and sky provided inspiration for her color palette — aqua blue with white paired with a taupey gray.

Her design tip and takeaway? “All my work is pretty traditional, and I love to add modern pieces to make the space feel ‘curated.’ I also use antiques in every project I do. But to not get stale, I will add something (unexpected), like covering the slipper chair in a hand-painted abstract.”

Observant visitors will find a mysterious guest waiting at her bar — or rather a mascot, so to speak. He’s a crab, in the form of an antique Venetian shell-encrusted grotto chair; Collins has named him “Luigi.” Lift his shell, take a seat and sip a drink while taking in the view.

SECOND-FLOOR STUDY, by Stephen Mooney Interiors

A Gracie paper of a Pompeiian fresco was the starting point for Palm Beach designer Stephen Mooney's second-floor room, which he has named "Birdie's Study."

"Birdie is a take on the first client we (got) from a show house," Mooney says. "The wallpaper has a feminine touch — a peach ground and an Asian feel." Sophisticated and worldly, Birdie likes beautiful things and luxurious fabrics, and she collected items on her trips abroad, Mooney explains. "She wanted a room that was welcoming and relaxing, a place to be with close friends. From her desk, she has a view of the Intracoastal — she wanted the feeling of being outdoors."

The study also is a study in how portraits can enhance a space. A portrait wall depicts a melange of unrelated — and often unidentified — people, while above the sofa is a painting titled "Flora and Fauna."

"They are sisters," Mooney says, "and the painting brings in character and warmth."

GUEST BEDROOM, by Mabley Handler Interior Design

In a secondary bedroom, designers Jennifer Mabley and Austin Handler, her husband, offer guests a "Welcome to the Jungle" theme. They had a Gracie paneled-mural wallpaper customized with a melon background sprinkled with palms and plants of soft gray, sage green and cream. "Color creates the foundation of the room, and to bring in a little Old Florida, the room is a classic design mixed with modern silhouettes of furniture and lighting," Mabley says.

For this room, she imagined her client was a woman who visited Florida as a girl to celebrate the holidays at her grandmother's house and has now relocated to the Sunshine State herself. "In this room, there's a touch of the grandmother's style, but it's modernized. My imaginary client is a person with modern taste," Mabley says.

"People are so influenced by Instagram and the 'right look.' We are trying to do something from the heart that is truly an expression of Palm Beach." She and her husband, who are based in New York City with a studio in the Hamptons, are planning to open a new location in West Palm Beach.

GUEST BEDROOM, by Megan Grehl

While one might recall the movie "Dune" when viewing New York City architect Megan Grehl's sand-and-cream-hued bedroom suite, she has instead dubbed it "The Silent Coast," having taken the seaside as her inspiration. "But there's a certain timelessness to both

visions," she says, adding that she loves science fiction.

"We were inspired by the ocean, but we wanted something less literal, a little more abstract. So there's a lot of reference to sand and rough textures, and the nightstands are reminiscent of coral. We also wanted to reference peaceful undulating curtains of waves." Those curtains hang from dropped ceilings that appear to float in space.

The centerpiece of the room is a 2,000-pound marble bedframe, which is lighted from within to emit a soft glow. "This project is a great example of modernism that doesn't have to be cold. We love minimal details," says Grehl.

GUEST 'WELCOME BAR' AND STAIRCASE, by Errez Design

Miami designers Ruben and Katie Gutierrez have developed a multisensory experience — dubbed the Biographical Design Method — to drive their design process. "Our intention is to create spaces that reflect each client's self-expression," Ruben says. Adds Katie: "Through our process, we discover key points along a person's biography that reflect that person, and that becomes the vehicle."

As part of that process, they develop a musical playlist with their clients to evoke the mood of the space. For their two spaces at the show house, they envisioned a modern-day expression of Palm Beach founding father Henry M. Flagler as their imaginary client. Taking cues from Flagler's life as an industrialist and hotelier, they created an eclectic and cozy space — in rich mauve, burgundy and gold — for him to enjoy the collections from his travels, they explain. The DJ who helped develop a playlist for the room supplied 1959's "Quiet Village" by Martin Denny.

GUEST BEDROOM, by Amy Studebaker Design

St. Louis designer Amy Studebaker's sitting room and bedroom, named "Primrose Park," is enveloped by Sloane Britain's Lisieux Rose fabric pattern with delicate florals. "I was inspired by the textile. It's based on an 18th-century quilt," Studebaker says. "I love bringing old and new together, and the paper had historical significance." An idea to borrow from her: "Don't be afraid of mixing materials if you find something you love."

In her room, the floral pattern works with a rattan console, a brass coffee table and velvet and cotton fabrics.

There's something else Studebaker loves about the items in this room: a porcelain "studio dog," named "Kip, the Whippet." He sits next to the canopied bed. "He's perfect and adds charm," she says. "I don't care about his provenance. I'm going to love him just the way he is."

GUEST BEDROOM, by Eneia White Interiors

The centerpiece of New York City designer's Eneia White's bedroom suite is a custom cabana-style bed, half-hidden behind louvered shutters and inspired by Palm Beach's coastal environment. "We are known for charm and whimsy in our designs. We are hopeless romantics," White says. "So we made our room's theme 'Modern Romance.' Our rooms generally feel like a hug."

The cabana bed makes guests feel cared for, she explains. Her imaginary clients are a young couple visiting for a weekend. "Generally they are thrown into a room in the back, but here, they have their own space," White says. They also might smile at the accompanying bathroom — a rhapsody in pink.

FRONT LANDSCAPE, by Lang Design Group

To enhance the house's Mediterranean-style architecture, Lang Design Group of Lake Worth focused on verticality and incorporated native plants in the landscape at the front of the house. Plant choices include green and silver buttonwood hedges to invite the eye in but also afford privacy.

The centerpiece of the entry garden is "Sacred Legacy," a metal sculpture by Alexander Krivosheiw.

And two antique porcelain Great Danes greet visitors at the front door. Offering a touch of vibrant color, royal blue orchids are espaliered on palms.

And if you have ever wondered who handles the mounds of construction paperwork needed to get the show house up and running, Sciamé Homes of Palm Beach offered assistance with that task.