

SQUAD

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THE CREME DE LA CREME OF TOP DESIGNERS TURN A WATERFRONT ESTATE IN WEST PALM BEACH INTO A FANTASIA OF HIGH DESIGN AT THE KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH—ALL IN THE NAME OF CHARITY.

By Jean Nayar & Kara Franker // Photography by Nickolas Sargent

For the living room, Cindy Rinfret chose wallcoverings by Nicolette Mayer from Scalamandre. Opposite page: Seating by Duralee Fine Furniture provides a welcoming space to entertain guests.

For more than four decades, well-heeled design aficionados have flocked from all over the country to the annual Kips Bay Decorator Show House (kipsbaydecoratorshowhouse.org), one of the most talked-about events in New York City. Each year, a group of celebrated designers reimagine a magnificent mansion in Manhattan. Their aim is to raise money for the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club (kipsbay.org), a flagship of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America that provides funding for much-needed after-school and enrichment programs serving 11,000 children in the Bronx. Famous alumni include superstars Jennifer Lopez and Kerry Washington. Last year, in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County (bgcpbc.org), the show house expanded to an additional location in Palm Beach. The second edition of the

star-studded affair, held this past winter at a Mediterranean mansion overlooking the Lake Worth lagoon in West Palm Beach, continued what promises to be an equally welcome tradition in South Florida—and an excellent excuse to escape those blistering winters up north.

In just under four months, the group of talented designers from all over the country completely transformed each room of the 10,000-square-foot Fountain House. Prime examples of the bright ideas on show appeared in the grand double-height living room just beyond the entrance, which Greenwich- and Palm Beach-based designer Cindy Rinfret transformed into an Anatolian-tinged comfort zone wrapped in classic shades of blue and white and enriched with exotic antiques, such as a set of carved wooden arches, a pair of carved palm tree chairs and hanging linen



Billy Ceglia showcased photography by Nicholas Mele and artwork from Wendover Art Group, alongside a walnut etagere and sofa, both by Billy Baldwin Studio.



shades that set off contemporary upholstered pieces with spirited flavor. “We were looking for an updated Moroccan feel, and the custom-embroidered drapery we designed with Holland & Sherry and construction by The Shade Store were important to balance the rather small windows for this large, grand space,” says Rinfret. “The drapery helps give the room a better proportion and character for our design.”

In the dining room around the corner, New York designer David Scott looked to the home’s stunning water views and the sunlight that fills the room during the day as inspiration for his multifaceted approach to the space. “I wanted to create an elegant and soft dialogue between the room and the luscious lawn and

the beautiful Intracoastal view that guests can see through the sheers on the tall windows,” says Scott. The sky-blue plaster ceiling, the extraordinary cloudlike blown-glass chandelier by Jeff Zimmerman and a custom-woven moss-green leather rug by Doris Leslie Blau pay homage to the natural setting, while an exuberant Larry Poons painting—entitled “Nymphs & Satyrs”—commands attention as a focal point so powerful that the designer opted to forgo the use of any other color or pattern in the room. Character-rich antiques and artisan-made furnishings, including a 1945 Italian inlaid sideboard by Giovanni Garibaldi, an ultra-contemporary brass Melting dining table by Chinese artist Zhipeng Tan and exquisite chalk-painted Directoire antique chairs



In the den, Leanne Yarn topped a set of Kravet nesting tables with accessories from Callidus Palm Beach. Opposite page: Art courtesy of Sponder Gallery hangs above furnishings and a bar unit provided by Century Furniture.



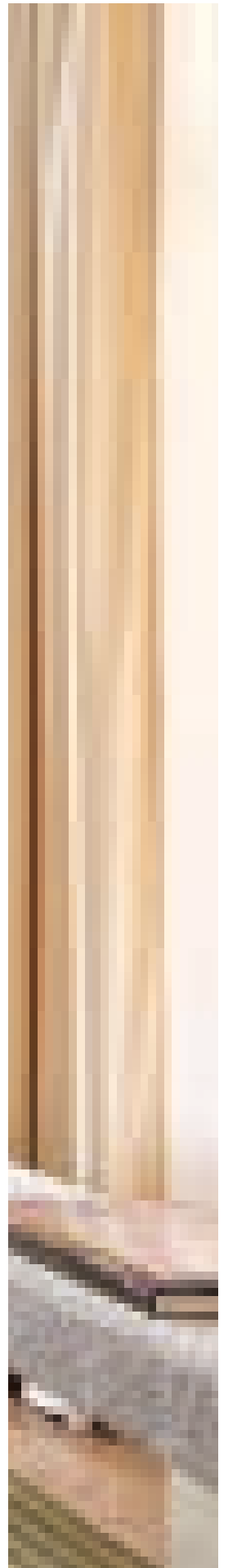
David Scott included a brass Melting dining table by Chinese artist Zhipeng Tan and a variety of sculptures courtesy of Hostler Burrows.

from Gerald Bland add substance, while ceramics by artisans Peter Lane and Kristina Riska finish off the space with edgy texture.

Views of nature also inspired Boca Raton-based Leanne Yarn's design of the den in a corner of the house on the main floor. She tapped the tranquil, soothing colors of the water in custom casework with an integrated window seat and two flanking bookends housing storage. "The element serves as the room's centerpiece, bringing height, depth and light to my space," she says. Personalizing the multifaceted feature like a work of art, she applied real coconut shells, which she cut and painted into three-dimensional tilelike pieces, to the fronts of its door panels like mosaics.

Up the back staircase and along the second-floor hall, Connecticut-based Billy Ceglia brought these often overlooked spaces to life. "My inspiration was the photographer Nick Mele and his family, who are young, stylish and a bit irreverent," he says of his approach to the decor. "They also have an Instagram account called @a.social.life that shows their daily life in a slightly off, sometimes comical, sometimes sophisticated, but always cheeky way." Peppering the walls with his photographs and keeping the spirit of Mele's attitude in mind, the designer created family-friendly spaces rooted in the "Palm Beach look," but with a more youthful spin. Among the notes of fun he injected into the formerly characterless spaces was an "honor bar," which he made more dramatic by painting the grasscloth-covered walls with a lush palm-green lacquer. He also added whimsy by outfitting the built-in bar with candy and soda in custom-fitted drawers. "Our design vocabulary is crisp and tailored, and our color scheme reflects that—bright white with accents of black tile and saddle leather and those amazing palm frond-green walls and fabrics!" he says. "It says "Palm Beach" without being too clichéd."

Past the hall, designers Meg Braff and Danielle Rollins offer their own fresh takes on coastal-chic style in two separate dreamy bedrooms. Long Island-based Braff's vibrant guest room brims with an updated mix of vibrant patterns of her own design on the walls, curtains and four-poster bed—all were custom-colored in Palm Beach-inspired shades of coral, lemon and apricot—and the bed is topped with custom linens hand-embroidered in America by Jane Scott Hodges' Leontine Linens in New Orleans. Atlanta-based Rollins' design of another bedroom, with its wrought-iron faux bamboo canopy bed topped with an upholstered pagoda and curtained in luxe coral-hued matelassé and cotton sateen, nods to old-school Palm Beach glamour complete with a fringed sofa, retro pineapple lamps, layered rugs and a 1960s bar



danielle rollins



Danielle Rollins' Sunset Suite featured custom drapes by The Shade Store and wallcoverings by Fabricut.

cart. Never content with just designing a room, in the closet Rollins showcased her stylish and whimsical capsule clothing collection inspired by her world travels.

Rounding out the upper-level rooms with modern panache are Palm Beach-based Mitch Brown's modern and restrained master bedroom, layered with creamy stone-washed linens, de Gournay silk wallpaper and cashmere throws, and energized with accents like an églomisé faux bois mirrored cocktail table and a custom-designed flower petal pouf in sun-kissed shades

of citrine, rose quartz and charcoal, and Krista Watterworth Alterman's "Le Bubble Lounj," a glamorous master bathing and dressing area with a sexy lounge vibe. Its standout feature: book-matched slabs of black- and gold-veined white marble framing an infinity soaking tub, which glistens amid bubble-inspired sconces that are as joy-inducing as a glass of Champagne.

If the inventive designs on display here this year were any indication, the southern coastal setting is sure to spark the imaginations of some of the country's most creative designers in exhilarating new ways. ■

meg braff



Meg Braff incorporated wallpaper she designed herself and sourced the vanity table and ottoman from her own company, Meg Braff Antiques & Decoration.

Show House Designers

AMY MEIER, Amy Meier Design, amymeier.com

ANDRES PARADELO, Paradelo Burgess Design Studio, paradeloburgess.com

JOBE LOPEZ, Lopez Group, lopezgroupofpalmbeach.com

BILLY CEGLIA, Billy Ceglia Designs, billyceglia.com

CINDY RINFRET, Rinfret, Ltd., Interior Design and Decoration, rinfretltd.com

DANIELLE ROLLINS, Danielle Rollins Interiors, danielledrollins.com

DAVID PHOENIX, David Phoenix Interior Design, davidphoenix.com

DAVID SCOTT, David Scott Interiors, davidscottinteriors.com

JASON ARNOLD, Jason Arnold Interiors, jasonarnoldinteriors.com

JENNIFER GARRIGUES, Jennifer Garrigues Interior Design, jennifergarrigues.com

JESSICA SCHUSTER, Jessica Schuster Design, jessicaschuster.com

KRISTA WATTERWORTH ALTERMAN, Krista + Home, kristahome.com

LEANNE YARN, Yarn Design Associates, yarndesignassociates.com

LEE ANN THORNTON, Lee Ann Thornton Interiors, leeannthornton.com

LEE W. ROBINSON & KYLE ROBINSON, The Lee W. Robinson Company, leewrobinson.com

LOUISE CRONAN, Louise W. Cronan Interior Decoration, louisewcronan.com

MARK WILLIAMS & NIKI PAPADOPOULOS, Mark Williams Design Associates, markwilliams-design.com

MEG BRAFF, Meg Braff Designs, megbraffdesigns.com

MITCH BROWN, David Mitchell Brown, dmitchbrown.com

PETER DUNHAM, Peter Dunham Design, peterdunham.com

TINA ANASTASIA, Mark P. Finlay Interiors, markfinlayinteriors.com

VASI YPSILANTIS, Vasi Ypsilantis Design Associates, vyda-design.com