

SHOW HOUSE STYLE

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGIE SECKINGER



In a town that tends to take itself too seriously—during a contentious election season, no less—the 2016 DC Design House was a breath of fresh air. Twenty-one local design teams transformed a stately Wesley Heights home for the event last October.

Though the residence designed by GTM Architects leans toward the classic, the designers let off creative steam without getting one bit stuffy. Ceilings were tricked out with wallpaper and faux treatments. Colors were strong and bold. Hidden bars proliferated and there was nary a swag in sight.

Proceeds of the show house, in its ninth year, benefited Children's National Health System. In case you missed the fun, we present a full recap here.

1. LIVING ROOM

Pamela Harvey didn't let the living room's traditional bones dictate a conservative style. Instead, she infused the space with modern elements including a 1950s Swedish rug from Doris Leslie Blau and white-lacquered, 1940s-era benches upholstered in a cut-velvet geometric by Schumacher. The result was anything but fussy. Design: Pamela Harvey, Pamela Harvey Interiors, LLC



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2. DINING ROOM

Schumacher wallpaper depicting a map of Paris circa 1739 inspired Jonathan Senner's *très soigné* dining room, which paid tribute to the City of Light throughout the eras. Vintage benches in an animal print played off an Art Deco-inspired, faux-malachite credenza and a Kelly Wearstler chandelier with a distinctly mid-century vibe. Design: Jonathan Senner, CID, Atelier Jonathan Senner

3. FRONT GARDEN/PORCH

From its flagstone walkway to its lush green plantings, the front garden set an elegant tone. Manicured shrubs enveloped the steps leading to the portico, where the designers installed a built-in bench. Custom planters containing spiraling topiaries ushered visitors into the home with style. Design: D. Blake Dunlevy and Gina Palmer, D & A Dunlevy Landscapers, Inc.

4. CHINA PANTRY

Visitors might expect to find Grandma's butter cookies cooling in this space utterly steeped in nostalgia. The designers struck a homey note with aqua-tinted Wood-Mode cabinetry and Farrow & Ball Ranelagh wallpaper on the ceiling. Clever drawers and storage units housed china, stemware and other treasures provided by Goldsborough Glynn. Design: Nadia Subaran and Megan Padilla, Aidan Design

5. POWDER ROOM

Russian Sconces by Niermann Weeks illuminated the powder room where Russian-born designer Lena Kroupnik paid homage to St. Petersburg, blending classic motifs with modern elements. Crystals on the sconces and faucets and a gold-leaf mirror reflected Farrow & Ball's Ocelot animal-print wall covering. Design: Lena Kroupnik, NCIDQ, Lena Kroupnik Interiors, LLC

6. BREAKFAST ROOM

Working with the original cabinetry, Betsy Barmat Stires infused the kitchen/breakfast room with accents evoking nature. The hand-made furniture was by Thos. Moser, and the decorative wall treatment by Dieter Pluntke Decorating. Farrow & Ball wallpaper on the ceiling mimicked clouds, while a chandelier by David latesta resembled a tree branch. Design: Betsy Barmat Stires, ASID, Frog Hill Designs, LLC



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7. LIBRARY

In their library/whiskey bar, the designers expertly layered contemporary and classic elements, from a 1760 French tapestry to modern photographs. The celadon ceiling treatment by Studio Artistica tempered the cedar-toned jute wall covering. Chic seating options included an English-style Brunswick & Fils sofa covered in green velvet. Design: Josh Hildreth, Josh Hildreth Interiors; Victor Sanz, DMG Interiors

8. FAMILY ROOM

A bold palette enlivened Kelley Proxmire's "pretty and practical" family room. She offset walls in a custom coral hue with window treatments in a blue-and-white stripe by Clarence House. Pillows in a Schumacher Chinoiserie picked up the room's vibrant colors; ceilings covered in Schumacher's graphic Abstract Leaf wallpaper added a unique touch. Design: Kelley Proxmire, Kelley Interior Design

9. BACK STAIRS

"I went for drama," says color expert Eve Fay of the four-story back staircase, which she emboldened with Farrow & Ball's Enigma wallpaper in deep blues. A Circa Lighting chandelier echoed the paper's geometric motifs. Fay is the DC manager of Farrow & Ball, official paint and wallpaper sponsor of the DC Design House; she also designed the front hall. Design: Eve Fay, Farrow & Ball

10. SITTING ROOM

Camille Saum injected the sitting room with whimsy, commissioning celebrity caricatures to be painted on one wall (not pictured). She also paired a swirly Doris Leslie Blau rug with burlap draperies embellished in fringe. The fireplace was covered in pearlescent tile from Best Tile—the perfect backdrop for an abstract painting from Merritt Gallery. Design: Camille Saum, ASID, Camille Saum Interior Design

11. TERRACE

An outdoor oasis, the terrace featured custom-made Country Casual teak furniture, including an armless sectional and lounge chairs. Greenery billowed from tall teak planters. Outdoor fabrics in blue and coral complemented the color scheme in the adjacent family room; striped curtains, also in outdoor fabric, added a touch of privacy. Design: Kimberly Asner, Country Casual Teak



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12. CABANA/ROOF DECK

Channeling her “inner Dorothy Draper,” Quintece Hill-Mattauszek went vintage glam in her indoor-outdoor space. An indoor bar area, with walls covered in paper by Spoonflower, led to the deck. There, guests could sip libations on an outdoor sofa in the shade of a swanky cabana sheathed in Tommy Bahama and Terrasol outdoor fabrics. Design: Quintece Hill-Mattauszek, Studio Q Designs

13. MASTER SUITE

Victoria Sanchez combined serenity and luxury in the bedroom, where a blue-and-cream palette calmed the senses. Fabricut textiles covered the walls and formed a canopy over the bed—the latter embroidered in a pattern of Sanchez’s design. An antique chaise and lounge chairs from the designer’s Old Town shop encouraged repose. Design: Victoria Sanchez, ASID, IFDA, Victoria at Home

14. BEDROOM #2

In this guestroom, Charles Almonte captured the drama of sunrise and sunset with striated burnt-orange wallpaper from Farrow & Ball. Other unexpected touches: a Bamboo Green JANUS et Cie Amari Lounge Chair, which he likened to origami, and drapes in an exuberant Schumacher Chinoiserie. Design: Charles Almonte, AIA, ASID, Charles Almonte Architecture | Interior Design

15. LOFT

Farrow & Ball’s Stiffkey Blue enveloped the loft in a sense of calm. The designers complemented the deep indigo shade with stylish blue and white furnishings, from a Stark Tibetan rug to a custom ottoman in Kravet upholstery. A large-scale modern canvas by Jorge Caceres above the sofa made a bold statement. Design: Melanie Hansen, Steve Corbeille and Pooja Mittra, Yardstick Interiors

16. LOWER GARDEN

The designers tied the woody backyard to the architecture of the home with a garden featuring a Country Casual Teak bench, planted beds and topiaries for extra pop. The space not only welcomed guests into the landscape, but also created an inviting view from the neighboring terrace and the interior rooms. Design: Stephen Włodarczyk and Joshua Dean, Wheat’s Lawn & Custom Landscape



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17. LADY LAIR

The Lady Lair was Rachel Dougan's answer to the ubiquitous man cave. The long, narrow room reminded her of a Pullman car, so she based its décor on a first-class compartment on the Orient Express. A stylish sophisticate would feel right at home amid the eclectic assemblage, from the vintage coffee table to the sofa covered in oxblood Brentano velvet. Design: Rachel Dougan, Vivi Interiors

18. CHIC RETREAT

Pale green walls handpainted by Cunningham Studios in a subtle Chinoiserie motif created a soothing backdrop for Barbara Brown's hide-away with custom furnishings designed for reading and relaxing. A comfortable chaise from AmericanEye beckoned, while a window seat created an inviting perch for reclining against custom pillows. Design: Barbara Brown, Barbara Brown Interiors

19. DRESSING ROOM

Barbara Brown extended her Chic Retreat into the adjacent Dressing Room where large-print Farrow & Ball Peony wallpaper in silver made the small space "feel functional and important," she says. The designer combined a modern white console from AmericanEye with a playful Niermann Weeks mirror and blue-and-gold lamps by Circa Lighting. Design: Barbara Brown, Barbara Brown Interiors

20. LAUNDRY ROOM

With its cheerful Mosaic Tile backsplash and crisp, white cabinetry, this light and airy space was created to take the drudgery out of laundry day. However, designer Allie Mann appointed the room to tackle other tasks: The sink was a perfect spot for flower arranging while the Caesarstone countertop made a handy surface for arts and crafts projects. Design: Allie Mann, Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

21. GIRL'S ROOM

Dubbed the "Mademoiselle Chambre" by designer Andrea Houck, this hip Parisian-style boudoir was pretty in pinks. Chic furnishings such as the Oly armoire with flower panels and a vintage chair from Miss Pixie's in DC befitted a worldly ingénue. A cherry blossom painting by Susie Pryor made a delicate finishing touch. Design: Andrea Houck, Associate ASID, IFDA, A. Houck Designs, Inc. ❖



Photographer Angie Seckinger splits her time between Potomac, Maryland, and Spain.

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