

SHOW HOUSES

Tour the Second Annual Kips Bay Palm Beach Show House



22 Slides

David Phoenix, Meg Braff, and more bring style to the shore

By Hadley Keller

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Each spring for the last 47 years, some of the design world's brightest stars have outfitted a Manhattan townhouse to benefit the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in the Bronx. Last year, the organization followed the snowbirds and took the concept south for a winter iteration in Palm Beach. Now, the show house is back for its second year, taking over a sprawling Mediterranean-style villa on the island with creative interiors by 21 designers. With views overlooking the ocean, the show house offers an opportunity for designers to veer a bit more casual, coastal—we spotted no fewer than three uses of Élitis's shell wallcovering—and just plain fun. Click through to see what they all dreamt up.



Photo: Tyler Sargent

1/22

Paradelo Burgess Design Studio and Jobe Lopez, Exterior

"Everyone had their own challenges with the show house," Paradelo Burgess principal designer Andres Paradelo tells AD PRO. "Ours were large trees." Indeed, as part of their landscape plan, Paradelo's team uprooted several palms from the back yard and relocated them to the back of the yard (more on that later) and to the front of the lot to better frame the house.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

2/22

Cindy Rinfret, Entry

At first glance, Rinfret's raw space was, in a word, overwhelming. The massive, double-height entry featured vaulted ceilings, archways—and a bulky, unseemly bar. "I said if you let me rip the bar out I'll do it," recalls the designer, who jokes, "Me being the farthest away, of course I got the biggest room" (Rinfret is based in Greenwich, Connecticut). To better define the large space, she covered the walls with patterned paper and panels that she custom-designed with her friend Nicolette Mayer. "I wanted an update on these Mediterranean houses, to feel fresh and cool," Rinfret explains. "People aren't born in Palm Beach; they end up here. They're sophisticated and well traveled. So this is all about that influence." To bring in that traveled feel, Rinfret added a pair of Moorish arches found at the Stamford Antiques Center ("I had been eyeing them for a year and thought I had to find the perfect place for them," she recalls), a 1970s Jansen palm tree chandelier, and inlay furniture, then hung three sculptural Currey & Co. chandeliers in the center of it all.



Photo: Brantley Photography

3/22

Peter Dunham, Front Room

When I step into Peter Dunham's space, the designer is playing cards with his team at the game table. "We wanted a hangout place where people would want to come and play a game or do a puzzle," he explains. The Los Angeles-based designer partnered with gallerist Sarah Gavlak (who has spaces in Palm Beach and Los Angeles) to select a slew of contemporary art for his room—including the Marilyn Minter shown here. "It's always the art and objects in a room that, to me, are almost more important than the interiors," explains Dunham. That's not to say he didn't take those into consideration as well: Walls swathed in the designer's own pattern surround a table, chairs, and sideboard of his own design—and a small patio off the room features his [outdoor furniture](#). "A lot of our stuff translates very well to Florida," Dunham says. "This felt like a good way to create atmosphere that was rich and complex but still coastal."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

4/22

Lee W. Robinson and Kyle Johnson, Stair

"This is our homage to classic design," says Robinson, gesturing to the room around—and, thanks to a grand spiral staircase, above—him. As the designer speaks, his voice is drowned out by the chirping of colorful birds from inside the custom-made 12-foot cage he installed to house parakeets he's named Elsie (de Wolfe), Dorothy (Draper), Albert (Hadley), Sister (Parish), and Mario (Buatta). "It's the whole family," says Johnson with a laugh. Antiques and art from Robinson's own collection line the space (which extends through two upper hallways), while a live wall made by local company Green Wallscapes adds texture and a custom Rug Company (a show house sponsor) carpet draws the eye up the stairs. "It's our chinoiserie garden pavilion," says a smiling Robinson.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

5/22

Vasi Ypsilantis, Kitchen

Before Ypsilantis stepped in, the home's kitchen was all dark wood cabinets and heavy beams. "We completely gutted it," says the designer. Using sponsor Benjamin Moore's Winter Wheat paint as a color

starting point, the designer created a "baker's kitchen" that marries function and style. "We started by cleaning up the architecture referencing the height of the foyer," she says, noting that "it's a small kitchen for this size house." A half-oval-shaped island (in black and marble Cambria stone) perfectly fits the space and leaves room for both eating and cooking. Ypsilantis herself designed all the cabinets—which are set to make their U.S. debut soon—and chose sleek appliances from sponsor Dacor.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

6/22

David Phoenix, Sitting Room

Amid the frenzy of the final day before opening, designer David Phoenix is sitting serenely on his sofa (his own design for Hickory Chair) in an apt demonstration of the room's atmosphere. "It was about lots of layers in muted tones for a really calm space," he explains. The designer's starting point was his new line of fabrics for Kravet. "I chose my fabric from that and the rest fell into place," he explains. A fire blazing

behind a mantel from sponsor Chesneys casts a warm glow on the space while the Severen lantern by Circa Lighting connects the room to the patio outside.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

7/22

Jessica Schuster, Office

"This is an ode to the modern woman," says Schuster as she ushers me into her space, a onetime breakfast nook off the kitchen that the home's family said they seldom used. Schuster reclaimed the nook, extending its doorway (which, like the room's floor and windows, she framed in black) and outfitting it with references to famous representations of women. The theme begins with a 3D plaster wall that Schuster sketched in the style of Picasso, then converted to CAD and had printed and shipped to Palm Beach, where her plaster artist covered it with a textural hand. An Achille Salvagni light is cheekily placed as the wall woman's earring, while a custom rug made by Crosby Street Studios and a blue Fernando Mastrangelo work add bold pops of color. "It's the year of the woman," Schuster says. "I'm a modern woman and so are the girls who work for me, so we wanted to create a space connected to the heart of the home where they could be authentic and creative."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

8/22

Mark Williams and Niki Papadopoulos, Bath

"We wanted it to have a very evening feel," Williams says of this bath off the main entry, which he and Papadopoulos outfitted with rich, moody hues. The duo selected Ann Sacks mirrored tile because, Papadopoulos explains, "it gives that extra depth," and used sponsor Kohler's dark-colored plumbing, which is warmly lit from a Christopher Boots ceiling fixture and sconces by Apparatus. Instead of ripping out intricate ceiling molding, they painted it in Benjamin Moore's metallic, which makes it look cast out of bronze. An Alexander McQueen rug, which The Rug Company tracked down in its London showroom (where it was in a glass display), carries that dark beauty to the floor.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

9/22

David Scott, Dining Room

Not content to just outfit his room, Scott recalls, "we changed all of the architecture." A large-scale Larry Poons painting stands out against the softer hues of the Doris Leslie Blau carpet and The Shade Store curtains (the company did all window treatments throughout the house). "I thought this would be a beautiful neutral background of textures," the designer explains of his choices. Also of note in the room are the 1790 directoire chairs and a Jeff Zimmerman chandelier, which casts a speckled glow over the space. "I wanted you to come and just go, 'Ahh,'" Scott says.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

10/22

Billy Ceglia, Hall

Inspired by the photography of Nick Mele, which hangs throughout Ceglia's multiple hallways, staircase, and closet, the designer opted for a funky, irreverent take on Palm Beach prep. "I wanted to do something that felt young and quirky but still Palm Beach," he explains. A Slim Aarons photograph the designer received as a 30th birthday present ties the space back to those roots, while whimsical touches—like a bar filled with candy—keep the space funky. "There's no Lilly here," he says. "It's dark Lilly."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

11/22

Lee Ann Thornton, Sitting Room

"The second I knew I was doing Palm Beach, I thought, 'I have to use that Lisa Fine print,'" recalls Thornton. And use it she did, swathing walls, ceiling, and sofas in the cheerful pattern. The designer punctuated the space with bold turquoise, pressed flower art by Marian McEvoy (not shown) sourced from KRB, and white accessories. "Doing the turquoise just made it feel right, but we had to decorate with white clean objects—I didn't want anything too precious," Thornton says.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

12/22

Leanne Yarn, Living Room

"I wanted to take the color from the water," Florida-based Yarn explains of her blue-hued room. In another subtle nod to the tropical locale, the designer inlaid her built-in shelves with coconut shell wallcovering from Élitis in black and white. Striped blinds from The Shade Store draw the eye out to the ocean views from nearly any of the many seating options. "To me this is a kind of hideaway space, so I created a lot of seating arrangements," Yarn explains.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

13/22

Danielle Rollins, Bedroom

"I wanted a self-contained suite that was more than just a bedroom," says Rollins of her decadent space. Indeed, it's easy to imagine holing up in the rosy room all day—a notion further underscored by the cheeky addition of a breakfast tray, set with Rollins's own china. "Pink is a color that's universally flattering and goes with everything," the designer explains of her choice. She should know—Rollins is fresh off a veritable master class in color: the creation of a line of art for Wendover that features panes from vintage color references and will debut at High Point. In a closet off the bedroom, Rollins enlisted Mary Meade Evans to paint the floors in a geometric pattern and then worked with California Closets on "a backdrop for the clothing"—also her own designs.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

14/22

Jennifer Garrigues, Bedroom

"I love fun bedrooms," exclaims Garrigues. "As you can see, I love everything from Moroccan to English to Indian influence." The connecting thread? "Deep, saturated colors," which the designer uses with abandon in her room, a space that features inlay furniture from India, velvet slipper chairs, cowhides, and lots, lots of art. "I got these color schemes from a painting I have that I bought from India," she explains. "I love a well-traveled house."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

15/22

Jason Arnold, Lounge

For a room on the second floor that gets little light, Arnold turned to art and antiques to create a layered space. "It was inherently a dark room so I ran with it, turned it into a place for cocktails," he explains. The designer used curtains and blinds from The Shade Store to distract from the small windows on one wall (and to hide a TV), while a vintage French *recamier* brings in a favorite Palm Beach material (wicker) in a new way. Arnold custom-designed the central marble table and created the sectional with Lee Industries; lamps were sourced from Circa Lighting. A portrait by the artist Bastiaan Woudt from a project in Uganda holds pride of place on the far wall. "He looks so kind," Arnold says. "And we need more of that in the world."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

16/22

David Mitchell Brown, Master Bedroom

For Brown's large bedroom, light play was key: "I designed it for the white and bright when the sun comes in, but since this is eastern-facing, we get less light as the day goes on." Over the course of the day, the subtle shimmer in the room's de Gournay wallpaper gives it a different look each hour. "I tried to keep it real luxe and custom but do things that increase the light volume throughout the day," Brown explains. For the headboard, he used a modern approach, creating a Lucite box that houses a large agate slab. "I wanted to give my bed some real importance," he says. "I thought, let's rethink the valance."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

17/22

Krista Watterworth Alterman, Master Bath

"It's about getting ready to go out and celebrate," says Alterman of the space she's dubbed "Le Bubble Lounj," inspired by her own practice of having a drink in her master bath with her husband before a date night. For the space's design, Alterman looked to its undisputed centerpiece: "The entire inspiration for the color palette was from this insane marble slab," she says, gesturing to the stone swathing the bath. "I wanted everything to beam off that." The designer selected a complimentary deep blue-green for the walls, and covered the counters in Cambria. High-tech additions like a Kohler shower and custom closet make the case for hanging out in the space. "My brand is something we call 'The New Palm Beach,'" she says. "It's not your grandmother's Palm Beach."



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

18/22

Louise Cronan, Loggia

Cronan's jumping-off point was a textile that gained renown thanks to one first lady: Tillet Textiles' daisy pattern. "They were a phenom in the '60s and '70s and did the White House for Jackie," says the designer. "This is their most iconic fabric." She selected a version in bright blue, giving a cheery, inviting vibe to the outdoor space. "I just wanted it to be a space that would really be used and appropriate for what it is," says the designer.



Photo: Nicholas Mele

19/22

Meg Braff, Bedroom

"We wanted a very warm color palette and we wanted it to feel a little old-school Florida," Braff says of her room, which she swathed in a custom colorway of one of her own fabrics, covering everything from walls to Highland House Lucite chairs down to towel trim in the bath and even an eye mask in the peppy print. The bed is covered in custom linens from Leontine, and an adjacent closet was styled by the owner of Cabana Vintage with appropriately old-school frocks. "A lot of my favorite things are in this room," says the designer.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

20/22

Tina Anastasia, Cabana

"The room was an interesting shape so we wanted to do something interesting with it," explains Anastasia. So she tented the ceiling and then built a round cabana with multiple changing rooms in the center. "I didn't want it to just be an open space," she says.



Photo: Nickolas Sargent

21/22

Amy Meier, Outdoor Space

"Welcome to Nouvelle Nouveau," says Meier. "It's our interpretation of art nouveau in Palm Beach." Following that theme, the designer looked to the work of Adolf Loos to inform her space, where she stuccoed over red brick for a more neutral tone and enlisted master blacksmith David DeSantis to create artful metalwork (besides the fireplace piece shown, DeSantis also made a crane-covered daybed). Sutherland furniture covered in Perennials fabric brings the look into the modern day with clean, contemporary lines. "We like our work to have a sense of place, but through our own lens," says Meier.



Photo: Tyler Sargent

22/22

Paradelo Burgess Design Studio and Jobe Lopez, Patio

"This was just a bunch of overgrown plantings and a lot of brick," says Paradelo of the home's pool area. He added a brick terrace with inlaid marble for a more polished look.