

home

Richard Livingston will use elements of his nature-inspired dining room at the Hampton Designer Showhouse in his new collection for Period.

WELCOME TO OUR SHOW HOUSE

In the Hamptons, many designers do up rooms with their own furniture and fabric lines



RONA LANDMAN



COMERFORD HENNESSY

NEWSDAY PHOTOS / BILL DAVIS

Designer Rona Landman, top, used her own bookshelves and this bar in her study at the Hampton Designer Showhouse in Bridgehampton. Comerford Hennessy's office design, above, includes a bookcase the design team will incorporate in its furniture collection.

BY CAROL POLSKY
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Everyone from top designers to top models has found success with namesake furniture lines (even Donald Trump lent his name to a new collection). Now, increasing numbers of designers want to get into the action, using show houses to showcase their work.

At the Hampton Designer Showhouse, which opens for tours Sunday, and the 2007 Hamptons Cottages & Gardens Idea House, which opened last week, the designers sprinkled their rooms with pieces from, or intended for, their own product lines.

At the Idea House in Amagansett, Nancy Corzine's Hollywood-chic media room was

awash in neutral fabrics and furniture from the designer's own collection. "It's hard to do a room in the basement. You want it to be light and comfortable," says Corzine, who has showrooms in Manhattan and Los Angeles. So the designer upholstered the walls in her signature line of Ultrasuede fabric and selected a cozy-looking linen velvet couch.

Southampton designer Brian Brady designed an eco-friendly living room filled with natural fabric furniture, bamboo and concrete accessories. "It's a typical Hamptons living room — sophisticated and casual," he says. Much of the decor — including white linen-and-cotton sofas and chairs topped with denim-blue and orange pillows, as well as oversize concrete dice used as bookends — is either



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PHOTO BY SHAWNA VANNES



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DARING DETAILS



PHOTO BY SHAWNA VANNESS

DESIGNERS WALK THE LINE THAT MANY FEAR TO TREAD

BY SHAWNA VANNESS

Special to Newsday

Turn the decorating of a brand-new 9,200-square-foot home over to 20 interior designers and there's bound to be more than a few eye-catching details. Indeed, show house devotees know the fun of the experience is wandering from room to room, judging who took a risk and who played it tastefully safe.

Here's a roundup of memorable touches spotted at this year's Hamptons Cottages & Gardens Idea House in Amagansett, which is already open for tours, and the Hampton Designer Showhouse in Bridgehampton, which kicks off Sunday.

1. Spa retreat

Manhattan designer Brooke Ackerman Bick transformed a windowless lower-level room at the Idea House into a chic Turkish spa retreat, complete with a double-pedicure station, a manicure area and a massage table. The designer passed on oh-so-predictable white terrycloth linens in favor of a refreshing turquoise and navy Indonesian print that was used to upholster the walls and pedicure sitting area. "It's like being in a Moroccan tent," says Bick, an East Hampton native. Over-the-top? Absolutely, says Bick, but it's fun and sure to make show house attendees wonder, "Do people have this? Should I have this? Do I need this?"

2. Setting the table

Richard Livingston for Period, an interior design firm in Manhattan, took on the dining room at the Hampton Designer Showhouse. He set the table with a centerpiece of potter Gregory Kuharic's gourd-inspired containers, charger, bowl and flatware from Takashimaya, plates from Pearl River, stemware from Calvin Klein. The runners are custom, while the linen napkins? They're made from 1930s Belgium linen bedsheets the designer found at an antiques show in Bridgehampton.

3. Peachy beachy

Peter Lentz, formerly with the eminent designer Albert Hadley, took is in the double-height living room

visible to the Hampton show house visitor just beyond the front vestibule. His white and airy design with a touch of glitz says "Hamptons beach house," not casual, kick-off-your-flip-flops beach house. Beachball-shaped pillows are decorated with white petaled cloth flowers on a pale blue background, the floor lamps are covered in dark blue leather with dark blue shades, and the little benches sparkle with metallic silver fabric. The oversized mirror over the fireplace is encrusted with metallic silver painted flowers for extra drama.

4. Woods in the round

Livingston's dining room also features a unique wallcovering: a 360-degree panoramic photo taken by photographer Martin Crook in a wooded area of East Hampton, which was then printed on linen-weave vinyl in a bluish-gray Pantone color. The wallcover extends to the tray ceiling, with photo images of the tree canopy and sky.

5. Decorating with bugs

Hundreds of giant petrified bugs are neatly pinned to the walls of the Idea House's rear entry mudroom and stairway up to the second floor, designed by Brad Ford, who is based in Manhattan. The insects of choice range from cool green Walking Sticks to 6-inch

winged cicadas arranged in a circular pattern that complements the wallpaper's motif. Sharp-eyed visitors will see the designer's wit played out on the labels of three built-in drawers designed to hold shoes and accessories. The last's label reads simply, Raid.

6. Fun with a puzzle maze

Connecticut-based designers Patricia Healing and Dan Barsanti's entry hall at the Idea House is a crisp navy blue, black and white salute to the beachy, laid-back nautical style of the East End. "It's about creating drama but keeping it Hamptons-friendly," says Barsanti. There's an eye-pleasing blue-and-white silk-blend rug in a maze-like pattern and an ironwork hanging lantern. Perhaps most interesting — 30 giant paint chips in various shades of blue framed as artwork and hung high on both sides of the foyer. Also spotted: square-shaped iron curtain rods with matching rings.

TWO HAMPTONS SHOW HOUSES



NEWSDAY PHOTO / BILL DAVIS

WHAT: Hampton Designer Showhouse

WHERE: 536 Ocean Rd. in Bridgehampton

WHEN: Open for tours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from Sunday through Sept. 2

HOW MUCH: Admission is \$30, which includes a journal, with proceeds benefiting Southampton Hospital

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

631-537-3711 or hamptondesignershowhouse.com

WHAT: 2007 Hamptons Cottages & Gardens Idea House

WHERE: 12 Southwood Court in Amagansett

WHEN: Open for tours from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays to Sundays through Aug. 12

HOW MUCH: \$20 cash only at the door, with proceeds benefiting local charities (Parrish Art Museum, July 19-22; The Retreat, July 26-29; LongHouse Reserve, Aug. 2-5; Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, Aug. 9-12)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

631-907-2977 or hcandg.com/ideahouse



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Newsday staff writer Carol Polsky contributed to this story.