

Objects of Desire

A PREVIEW OF THIS MONTH'S PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN

BY BRENDA REES

THE 2012 PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN TAKES OVER THE ROBBINS HOUSE, A SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL MANSE DESIGNED BY JOHN WINFORD BYERS AND BUILT IN LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE IN 1927. DESIGNERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 48TH SHOWCASE HOUSE, BENEFITING THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC AND ARTS EDUCATION, BORROWED INSPIRATION FROM CENTURIES PAST AND FUTURE, AND AS FAR AFIELD AS CENTRAL ASIA. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN:



LA CORNUE CHATEAU 150 STOVE/RANGE
THE KITCHEN
PARKER WEST INTERIORS, SOUTH PASADENA

"La Cornues are the Bentleys of appliances," says designer Gregory Parker of Parker West Interiors. "It's not only a chef's dream, it's visually spectacular." Clad in brilliant blue with stainless-steel trim, the 5-foot-long stove/range reigns in its own kitchen niche, a throne alcove that can be seen from any point in the kitchen. Handcrafted with enough extras to satisfy celebrity chefs, the Chateau 150 boasts two standard vaulted ovens (one gas, one electric), griddle space, burners and pot filler — plus plenty of luxurious charm. Parker enlisted Hollywood Iron Works to craft a brushed-steel hood for the range.

La Cornue Chateau 150 Stove/Range, \$36,000, Snyder Diamond, snyderdiamond.com



WALL OF FRAMED ART
SLEEPING PORCH
INTERIOR DEVINE, PASADENA

Riffing on a "thrill of the high seas" theme, this guest room juxtaposes mythical and fantastic images with Old World maps, black-and-white ship prints, nautical views and maritime paintings in a grand 3-D explosion. "This eclectic collection will be displayed on a layered wall and hung with ship ropes, tied with different shipping knots," says designer Matthew Betcher about the splashy framed art wall. Inspired by the three ships originally painted on the room's wood-paneled Murphy beds, the giant artwork — 14 feet wide and 7 feet tall — will be layered "like a lady's charm bracelet of images," says Betcher.

Framed Art Wall, \$800–\$2,000 (depending on quantity and quality of prints used), Interior Devine, interiordevine.com



HAND-PAINTED BORDER
VESTIBULE/BALCONY
KELLY SUTHERLIN MCLEOD ARCHITECTURE,
PASADENA

This 30-foot-long seating area leading to the upstairs master bedroom features antique Moroccan rugs, 1920s Spanish light fixtures and contemporary oil paintings — all thematically bound together by an 11-inch hand-painted border. Inspired by decorative Spanish tile patterns and positioned at chair-rail height, this border "decides the temperature of the rest of the room," says designer Kristin Pipal of Kelly Sutherlin McLeod Architecture. "There was a lot of hand-painting in the homes of the 1920s. It's rare to find original hand-paintings in period homes anymore because of plaster repairs [and] people painting over them. The technique works well in unique shapes and spaces — which is exactly what we have here."

Hand-Painted Border, \$3,200, Kelly Sutherlin McLeod Architecture, ksmar-chitecture.com



RALPH LAUREN PRESTON CHANDELIER
THE CARD ROOM
DAVID REAUME CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN,
PASADENA

Strong and sturdy, this massive testosterone-infused light fixture is perfect for the stately man-cave setting. Presiding over four orange velvet and embroidered wing chairs, a 300-cigar humidor and a handcrafted multi-wood table, the antique brass chandelier manufactured by Visual Comfort features sharp arrow-like motifs topped with 12 black silk shades. "The room is very traditional, but the light fixture has a current feel to it," says Rachel Duarte, a designer at David Reaume Construction and Design.

Ralph Lauren Preston Chandelier, \$1,890, Modern Lighting, modernlightingtemplecity.com



ANTIQUE SUZANI
GUEST BEDROOM
COPPER GYER DESIGN, SANTA MONICA

During a recent trip to Istanbul, designer Copper Gyer found this colorful piece of cultural needlework, a traditional embroidered *suzani*, and discovered she couldn't leave Turkey without it. "The grid pattern is broken up with different designs of sun, moon, disks, vines and leaves... but it's so abstract that it's almost paisley," says Gyer. Also made throughout Central Asia, *suzanis* are typically created by female family and friends for a young girl's dowry and the décor of her marital home. Here the *suzani* is used as a daybed throw — adding a bit of history to the space. "It's an unexpected surprise," says Gyer.

Antique Suzani, \$3,000, Copper Gyer Design, coppergyerdesign.com

PHOTO: Justin Officer (suzani)

TELEVISION EASEL
THE CASITA
DESIGN MARK CUTLER, L.A.

In today's transient and ever-changing society, why would anyone want to bolt a television to the wall when you can place it in a stylish holder that can be wheeled anywhere anytime you need it? Inspired by the art studio aspect of the casita, designer Mark Cutler is using a repurposed artist's easel as a flat-screen television stand. A 45-inch set fits snugly in the stained-wood structure and "is the first thing you see when you walk into the room," says Cutler. "It's an elegant solution to the problem of how to furnish a very small space."

Television Easel, \$1,045, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com



ELECTRONIC "INSPIRATION WALL"
WRITER'S RETREAT
CYNTHIA BENNETT & ASSOCIATES, SOUTH PASADENA

While most of Showcase House delves into the past, an "inspiration wall" in the upstairs writer's office is reminiscent of the futuristic big screens Tom Cruise operated with the flip of his hand in *Minority Report*. "This is a demonstration of the computer of the future," says Cynthia Bennett of the 55-inch touch-screen computer that will be loaded with 50 colorful images. Constructed by Bennett's new Home Performance Division, this tricked-out Visio screen will be positioned at the end of the room, right near the writer's desk. When the user is faced with annoying writer's block, s/he can reach up and tap an image that will expand to fill the entire screen and offer inspiration.

Inspiration Wall, \$3,700, Cynthia Bennett & Associates Home Performance Division, cynthiabennett.com

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts runs from April 15 to May 13. Tickets cost \$30–\$40. Call (626) 578-8500 or visit pasadenashowcase.org.