

Looking like an expert



SOMETHING FROM EVERYONE: The American Red Cross Designers' Show House in West Palm Beach features work by 16 designers. Photo/Michael Francis McElroy

Don't overlook the little details

While you're walking through the American Red Cross Designers' Show House in West Palm Beach, there are plenty of details you may miss. Here is some background on some other cool items:

In the living room: Look carefully at the drapery rod behind the desk. Designers William R. Eubanks and David Mitchell Brown covered the rod with fabric to match the drapes. To do it, start with a wooden rod. Cut the fabric slightly larger than the diameter of the rod, turn the edges under and use a staple gun to attach the fabric. Also, if you want some detail on drapes without being too formal, check out the 5-inch flange on the edges the designers used instead of a fringe.

Loggia: You may not be able to afford the fancy paint job flecked with silver, but you can borrow Jennifer Garrigues'

stencil idea. Use a larger-scale stencil near the ceiling as a horizontal design and a smaller scale of the same pattern as a vertical design. Another great idea: Garrigues picked up some antiqued brass chandeliers from India and raised the glam quotient with silver paint. She says the pinholes in the metal reflect some fascinating patterns on the wall at night.

Powder room: Last February we told you about the introduction of the Kohler "Purist Hatbox" — a sleek design with no visible handles. Now you can see the hot seat in person. The "tank" is a quiet 0.2 horsepower electric pump enclosed within the toilet. The nearly invisible flusher is a little silver button, and its Quiet Close technology means you'll never hear the lid slam. And there's good news for Baby Boomers. It's designed to be chair height — 17 inches — making it easier to get up and down and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities

Act. Ah, such high style with an equally haute suggested retail — \$2,890.

Dining room: You'll miss a great chuckle if you don't check out the famous names written on the place cards. Lee Bierly and Christopher Drake jazzed up the serious place settings with names of famous guests such as Dr. Seuss and Clara Barton. The tablecloth is a patchwork made from scraps of leftover fabric — one of the duo's signature looks.

Master bedroom: Check out the lanterns hanging from the ceiling in this Greek-inspired bedroom. Designer Lisa Kanning took contemporary lamps from Designs Within Reach (\$300 each from www.dwr.com) and gave them a distinctive but old world look. The Nelson Ball Pendant Lamp, an iconic 1952 design often called the "bubble" lamp, was "aged" by adding a ceiling medallion and ruching to cover the cord.

— CHARLYNE V. SCHAUB
HOME & GARDEN EDITOR

THE LOGGIA

Designer: Jennifer Garrigues,
Palm Beach

Exotic retreat: Walls stenciled in a Moorish pattern form the background of a room that looks like a well-seasoned traveler's study. An inlaid Syrian chaise is covered in antique sari fabric and paired with antiques such as a 19th-century Italian side table. A glamorous Venetian mirror and rough-textured sisal rug work opposite ends of the style spectrum.

Trade secrets:

- Display your travel souvenirs, especially those from exotic countries. Don't worry if they don't seem to match your other furniture. The unexpected mix is what makes a room uniquely yours.

And when shopping locally, keep an eye out for unusual accessories from places such as South-



The mirror is Venetian glass; the Syrian chaise (at right) is covered in sari fabric.

walls with subtle stenciling that looks slightly old and sun-faded rather than crisp/dramatic.

- Add some character to plain



Stenciled walls and a 'Wrightsman' armchair (named for longtime Palm Beach residents Jayne and Charles Wrightsman) decorated with contrasting ruched trim elevate the room beyond the ordinary. Since the painting is meant to be seen from the sofa, it's hung at eye level for a seated, not standing, viewer. Above right: A heavily carved Burmese rosewood table and tiger print-stenciled cowhide occupy one corner of the loggia.

- Soften unusually shaped windows inexpensively with sheer fabric, draped casually over drapery

- hold-backs, which are screwed to the wall on the outside of the window frame.