





Known for her exotic, eclectic look, British-born designer Jennifer Garrigues focused on all things cool and serene at the Red Cross Designers' Show House, bathing the loggia in a palette of blues and beiges. The new look immediately resonated with a visitor from Connecticut, who wanted the design team to translate it into her Greenwich home. Photography courtesy of Gerald Connell.

Designer Charles Pavarini III draped his Renaissance Bedchamber with some 200 yards of contemporary fabrics from Bergamo, including the velvet drapery panels that cascaded from ceiling mouldings and the damask-upholstered headboard. Photography courtesy of Dan Eifert.

"In the long run, you do it for the charities," says Carmen Quartararo, who designed the outside living and dining areas in the Pasadena courtyard. It was her fifth showhouse venture, with each investment two years after a showhouse room she'd estimated at \$30,000-\$50,000. But it's time and money well-spent, Quartararo says. Participation is by invitation only. Several hundred designers apply, but only a dozen are chosen. The payback is enormous, in terms of major media coverage and personal exposure; thousands of people come to look, and many return as clients.

However, clients may not surface attracted to his high-tech "renaissance immediately. Babs Yonkovig, a publicist in the New York office for Jennifer Garrigues of Palm Beach, remembers a phone call designed for the firm: "The woman loved the room. She said, 'I saved all the information until I was ready. And now, I'm ready!"

For Charles Pavarini III at Kips Bay, the new clients came from a new and unexpected direction-boutique hotels and the hospitality industries. They were

bedchamber," with its computer-controlled LED ambient lighting that transitioned through a timed cycle of subtle color changes.

It was Pavarini's second Kips Bay venture. "It took 10 years to get in the first time," he says. The application process is rigorous, to say the least. Any designer can apply, fee-free, to participate in the Kips Bay Show House, held every spring in Manhattan. The famously tough review committee then





Suite Sanctuary at the National Symphony Orchestra Show House is all about harmony, according to designer by Karen Luria. Meant as a refuge from the hectic outside world, it included an entry, an office, and a private bath, rendered in soothing earth tones and natural elements such as macro flowers on the wall. Photography courtesy of Lydia Cutter.

In her design for the sweeping family room Carolyn E. Oliver paid homage to Thomas Oliver Larkin, who brought Colonial-style architecture to California from his native Boston in the early 19th century. Yankee influences included fabrics with the look of home-spun textiles from Lee Jofa on Oliver-designed chairs and sofas. Photography courtesy of Peter Christian Valli.

what it calls "design icons and emerging tal-

Maria Videla-Juniel of MV Design & Construction Group partnered with her husband, Marcus Juniel, to turn the Pasadena was a major construction project that took

goes over each portfolio and taps a mix of be more creative," says Videla-Juniel. "You don't have a client to please, no favorite colors or special requests, so you can show your own style, show off what you can do."

"Or show off what you would like to do," says Michael Leondas Kirkland of Halleon, poolhouse into a sleek, private spa. The spa who teamed with John Hall Nelson to design "A Gentleman's Reading Room" at the six "very intense" months and used up the 2006 Red Cross Designers' Show House at firm's entire marketing budget for that year, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in Palm you have a real client." she says. But there's another reason to justify Beach. Entitled "Moiré and Molière"—one the effort: "Showhouses challenge you to wall was inscribed with quotes from Molière

praising charitable deeds-the room featured gauffraged, moulded, and handpainted fabrics and leathers, remarkable antiques, and furniture from the collection of designer Ann Getty, who came from San Francisco to take part in the Celebrity Lecture series. "I'm an artist, not a decorator," says Kirkland. "Our room might be considered a bit over-the-top, but you can get away with a lot more in a showhouse medium than when