

THE CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE, INC.

presents the

2017

DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE

Setting the stage for the 40th year of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League's (CSOL) Designer Showhouse, **the Henry Street House** at **36 Society Street** stands a mere skip from the Charleston Harbor and jump from the orchestra's Gaillard Center venue. Positioned in the heart of the Ansonborough neighborhood, **the circa-1840 Greek Revival manse** boasts dramatic double piazzas, fine decorative plaster ceilings, elegant mouldings, and original fireplaces. And this spring, **22 creative designers** gave their time and talents to turn the spotlight on its gracious rooms during a month of tours that raised funds for the **Charleston Symphony Orchestra**, as well as CSO educational and outreach programs. Here, we offer a behind-the-scenes peek from the designers' perspectives; turn the page to raise the curtain on these stunning indoor and outdoor spaces

written by lauren johnson

For lists of the designers' resources—fabrics, furnishings, accessories, and more—visit charlestonmag.com.

Learn more about the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League at csolinc.org.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK BRICKMAN

1.

FIRST-FLOOR PIAZZA

kim rayburn

Outdoor furniture from Ro Sham Beaux's "Sullivan Collection" offers maximum durability without skimping on beauty.



The Designer: Working from her office within lighting and furnishings hub Ro Sham Beaux on King Street, Kim Rayburn is passionate about art and design. She draws on her global travels to create dynamic spaces for commercial and residential clients using unique elements sourced both locally and internationally.



The Room: As the first "room" visitors encounter, this airy piazza sets the home's tone with a fresh and relaxed feel awash in texture. An array of seating—from durable wrought-iron chairs and a sofa to the Original Charleston Bedswing—invites casual lounging. Driftwood, shell, and pale wood accents echo the property's coastal environs while a large collection of pillows and fabrics cozy up the outdoor space.

Bright Idea: In much the same way layered lighting can add ambiance to an interior room, lamps and lanterns lend inviting warmth to an exterior porch.

Charleston Luxury Interiors:
(843) 834-7180, charlestonluxuryinteriors.com

2.

LIVING ROOM

michael mitchell & tyler hill



The Designers: Whether for commercial or residential projects, classic or modern spaces, Michael Mitchell (pictured at right) and Tyler Hill take pride in assembling a fresh, unique style. The duo's work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Traditional Home*, and their custom furniture pieces have made cameos on the Fox hit series *Empire*.

The Room: Crossing the threshold to the living room, contemporary paintings, sculptural pieces, and a bespoke mirror mingle in refined comfort. In an interesting mash-up of periods, classic upholstery combined with clean lines evokes the styles of the '40s and '70s. Flowing feminine draperies and a beautiful Oushak rug introduce light to the dark backdrop.

In the Dark: Don't shy away from dark wall paint, in this case Benjamin Moore's "Nightfall (1596)," which adds moody sophistication to a room. Just be sure to complement your deep hue with light accents for eye-catching contrast.

Mitchell Hill: (843) 974-4762, mitchell-hill.com



Contemporary artworks pop against charcoal-colored walls, the mood balanced with the light Oushak rug and sofa.

3.

DINING ROOM

holly hollingsworth phillips



Lavender and coral brighten the interior room; the leopard carpet from Stark camouflages this busy family's floors.



The Designer: Charlotte-based Holly Hollingsworth Phillips has earned kudos from *Elle Décor* and *House Beautiful* for her unique blending of past and modern styles. Her blog has attracted a dedicated audience of design-hungry followers who appreciate her penchant for contemporary art and eclectic, colorful interiors.

The Room: The designer employed her signature pattern-on-pattern aesthetic for this glam space. Inspired by items traded and imported in our historic port city, she gathered natural and exotic elements such as oversize floral print wallpaper, a marble table and rattan chairs, and the over-the-top crystal chandelier that gives a nod to Murano, Italy. Adding to the conversation is a portrait of fashion icon Iris Apfel crafted completely of bottle caps by local artist Molly B. Right.

Seek & Hide: Find creative ways to camouflage utilities. Here, the designer used a removable wallpaper ("Wallflower" in "lilac" by Julianne Taylor Style for Mitchell Black) to conceal the electrical fuse box.

The English Room: (704) 377-3625, theenglishroom.biz

4.

KITCHEN

jay & melanie walk



The Designers: With more than 1,000 custom cabinetry projects under his belt, Jay Valk offers flexibility in his kitchen and bath design styles, from traditional to modern. His wife, Melanie, boasts 20-plus years of interior design experience, having styled newly constructed and remodeled homes as well as refreshed and refined existing living spaces.

The Room: Inspired by the home's original 1840 neoclassical crown moulding, the Valks created an elegant French look united by clean white cabinets and Carrara marble countertops. Subtle accents of blues and grays can be found in the ceiling paint and window valances. A graceful crystal chandelier quietly crowns the crisp space.

Field Guide: Accessorize with plants for a fresh and welcoming finish. Forsythia, fresh herbs, and a sizable orchid bring the French inspiration to fruition.

Classic Kitchens of Charleston: (843) 991-4207, classickitchensofcharleston.com & Coastal Home Interiors: (843) 813-3849



For a vintage touch in keeping with the rustic island, a diamond-patterned backsplash was created from white Thassos marble and mirrored glass.

5.

MUSIC ROOM & BATH

bobbi jo engelby



The Designer: Founded by Bobbi Jo Engelby in 2013, Domain Interiors & Design serves as both an interior design firm and a luxury retailer offering home furnishings and accessories with contemporary flair. Aimed at outfitting living spaces to reflect their inhabitants, the Mount Pleasant showroom features products that embody chic and elegant design.

The Rooms: Engelby enlisted local artist Aubrey Brackett to orchestrate the high note of this room: a wall-sized chinoiserie garden scene crafted with Venetian plaster (pictured below). Keeping this three-dimensional installation in the spotlight, the remaining walls were finished in an unobtrusive golden paper by Mitchell Black that complements the fireplace surround. At the room's heart, snug seating welcomes quiet conversation, and riveted stools stand in place of a traditional coffee table to create flexibility for entertaining. Guests seeking a front-row seat to the magnificent Steinway & Sons SPIRIO player piano can gather round a nearby skirted table.

In the Mix: Harmonize multiple patterns and textures by balancing large- and small-scale prints with plenty of texture. In this room, the hand-blocked window sheers by Peter Fasano were banded in cut velvet and edged with ombre tassels.

Domain Interiors & Design, LLC:
(843) 388-0328, domainmtp.com

(Right) Similar colors were carried into the adjoining bathroom: the soft, spring green on the vanity and the pearlescent crocodile wallpaper by Thibaut, which repeats the sheen and texture of the mother-of-pearl tile in the shower. A custom arched lambrequin on the single window softens the straight lines in this small, chic space.



6.

UPSTAIRS HALL

mary frances bishop & carol williams



Among the collection of featured works are John Duckworth's *Kiawah River* and *Stone River* (left) and Gary Bodner's *A Long Evening*.



The Designers: A distinctive fine-art consulting service created by respected custom framer Carol Williams (at left) and artist/designer Mary Frances Bishop, Charleston Art Brokers presents, promotes, and sells original works by established and emerging fine-art painters, sculptors, and photographers from throughout the South.

The Room: With its stately mouldings and high ceilings, the long upstairs hallway provided a grand backdrop for a bold and whimsical collection of paintings and photographs. "We chose art that continued the dialogue of old architectural features and bright, contemporary spaces," explain the designers, who diversified frame finishes and materials to attain an eclectic aesthetic.

Reframe Your Approach: When hanging artwork in an asymmetrical space, first place one or two large-scale works and then group smaller pieces on an adjacent wall.

Charleston Art Brokers: (843) 284-3080, charlestonartbrokers.com

7.

HALL BATHROOM

heidi huddleston, ckd

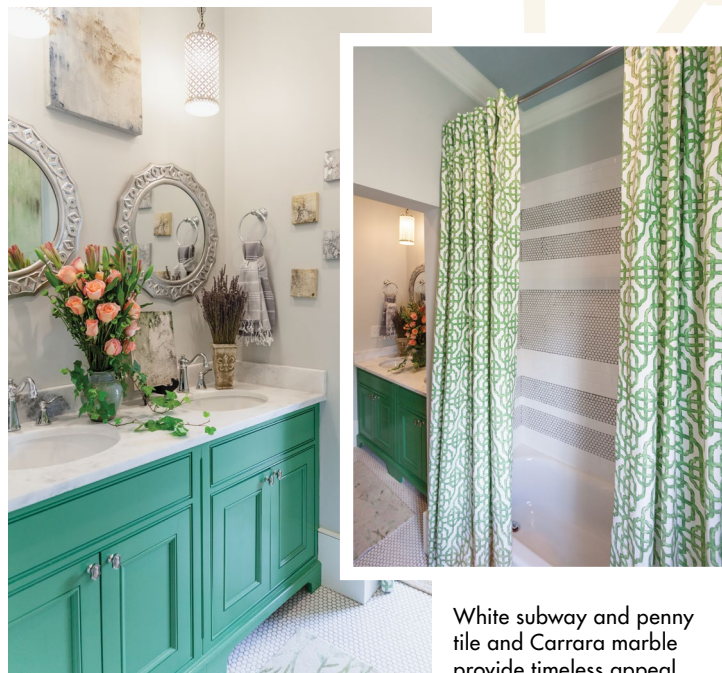


The Designer: For more than 25 years, Heidi Huddleston has dreamed up award-winning solutions for kitchens, baths, and offices from Kennebunkport to Kiawah. The Certified Kitchen Designer focuses on cost-effective solutions and innovation to create savvy, functional spaces.

The Room: Rooted in a garden theme, the hall bathroom's fresh design uses bold color, playful pattern, and classic finishes to evoke a spirit of spring. The vanity, inspired by the Pantone color of the year, "Greenery," grounds the long and narrow space; the hue carries over into the trellis-printed Roman shade and shower curtain.

Big Impact: Don't shy away from large-scale art in a small space. In this case, plaster artist Emily Harris's oversize mixed-media installation, reminiscent of the ancient stucco dressing many South of Broad homes, works to boost the alfresco motif.

Delicious Kitchens & Interiors, LLC: (843) 901-1270, deliciouskitchens.com



White subway and penny tile and Carrara marble provide timeless appeal.

8.

LAUNDRY ROOM

joann kandrac & kelly kole



The designers chose the Schumacher wallpaper as a fresh, updated take on the iconic gates of Charleston.

The Designers: Popular bloggers Joann Kandrac and Kelly Kole are known for their dynamic personalities, use of bold color, and one-of-a-kind designs. The Georgia-based duo has earned a spot among Atlanta's Top 20 Residential Interior Designers, and their work has been featured on HGTV as well as in *Better Homes & Gardens* and Houzz.com.



The Room: The expansion of a forgotten closet made way for a fun yet pragmatic laundry room that's visible from the crest of the stairs. Updated black-and-white wallpaper creates a graphic backdrop that calls to mind Charleston's iconic iron gates, and the palette repeats in the cabinetry, rug, and wrought-iron chandelier. Splashes of "haint" blue in the tile backsplash and two original artworks awash in vibrant color visually break up the small space.

Investment Potential: For a worthwhile return, invest in function. With two small children, the homeowners saw significant value in an expanded laundry room.

Kandrac & Kole Interior Designs:
(770) 514-9699, Kandrac-Kole.com

9.

UPSTAIRS TEEN HANGOUT

meg caswell



The Designer: Winner of HGTV's *Design Star* season six and host of *Meg's Great Rooms*, Meg Caswell regularly appears on national television to share her high-energy personality and signature design style, a preppy mix of modern and traditional looks executed in vibrant colors.

The Room: Crafted as a cheerful escape for older kids, this room layers multiple patterns and colors for an energetic aesthetic. Caswell utilized peel-and-stick wallpaper on the ceiling for a fresh but easily changed element. Funky furniture lends youthful style, while a smattering of vintage pieces links the room to its historic environs. For a fun touch, the designer played with black lacquered lamps, an electric pink side table, and whimsical contemporary artwork.

Big to Small: Rather than dedicating one large room to a single use, divide the space with multiple seating arrangements and activities such as a game table and DJ station.

Meg Caswell Style:
(847) 910-0466, megcaswell.com



The ceiling paper pattern repeats in the Roman shades; 3-D art pieces lend a youthful vibe.

10.

GUEST BEDROOM & BATH

sandra ericksen & gretchen loos



A whimsical bird lamp gives a nod to nature, while charming French antiques offer timeworn sophistication.



The Designers: Sandra Ericksen (left) specializes in timeless, family-friendly interiors, and clients appreciate her relaxed yet refined style. Gretchen Loos works to transform projects large and small into aesthetically pleasing, comfortable, and functional spaces. She recently outfitted the spec house at The Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia.

The Rooms: To highlight this room's well-worn yet elegant bones, the designers turned to rustic finishes, such as the distressed wood headboard, hand-blocked linen fabrics, and a sea-glass chandelier. For a textural contrast, the team selected rich velvet bedding. The bathroom heralds a return to the 21st century with modern lighting, a mirrored vanity, and cool blue tile.

Old Meets New: Allow antiques and contemporary art to mingle. New works add a fresh perspective to older furniture pieces and can bring a room's composition together.

Sandra Ericksen Design: (843) 324-5914, sandraericksen.com

Loos Interiors: (304) 667-3105, loosinteriors.com

11.

SECOND-FLOOR PIAZZA

lathem gordon & cate dunning



The Designers: Though Lathem Gordon (pictured left) and Cate Dunning harbor an affinity for classic style injected with color, the Atlanta-based duo takes care to put each client's personal story at the forefront of every design. The Atlanta Decorative Arts Center has dubbed their boutique company as one of the Southeast's firms to watch.

The Room: "The piazza is an intentional blend of French sophistication and Southern 'y'all come on in and stay awhile,'" explain the designers, who mingled colors and textures from Provence's lavender fields with the luscious greens of the Lowcountry on this gracious upper porch. Comfortable furnishings and special details, such as the dramatic tassel chandelier, invite a casual elegance.

Point of Reference: Build a room around one great item. In this case, the designers allowed the floral fabric used on the table skirt to dictate the colors and formality of the space.

GordonDunning: (404) 913-5297, gordondunning.com



Screens at each end, dressed with Federalist convex mirrors, provide focal points and privacy.

12.

MASTER BEDROOM

lauren messina, asid, ncidq



Benjamin Moore "Simply White [OC-117]" walls highlight architectural details, and the "Beacon Gray (2128-60)" ceiling plays off the blues in the room.

The Designer: From space planning to new builds, Lauren Messina has offered her talents to high-end projects throughout the South as well as in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Her proven sense of style recently earned the tastemaker a spot on the design team for the Gifting Lounge of Nashville's Country Music Awards.



The Room: In this light-filled master bedroom, antiques, an oriental rug, and a recreated 1800s fabric print juxtapose with contemporary art and new furniture pieces. The fusion represents the style of a young couple while paying homage to the historical Southern home. Crisp white walls highlight the impressive crown moulding and architecture, and a blue-hued ceiling echoes the room's palette.

Curtain Call: Bold drapery acts as a sort of large-scale artwork and, with the right balance of white finishes, still imparts a serene setting.

Lauren Messina Interior Design:
(843) 214-4157, laurenmessinadesign.com

13.

MASTER BATH & DOWNSTAIRS POWDER ROOM

terri baldwin



The Designer: A gatherer of inspiration from art, architecture, music, and literature, Terri Baldwin infuses small and large projects with style nuances from international travels as well as coastal traditions of South Carolina. The designer takes pride in her enduring relationships with exceptional builders, upholsterers, and décor vendors.

The Rooms: To balance the long, high-ceilinged master bath, the designer played with proportion in accessories, lighting, and finishes. Large-scale vintage mirrors anchor the vanities while a grand chandelier highlights the tub. The classic balloon-shade window treatment is updated with a modern motif, while the shimmering oversize damask wallpaper creates subtle glamour.

Notes on Neutrals: Rely on rugs, lighting, fabric, and accessories for subtle elegance and interest within a monochromatic or tone-on-tone space.

TCB Design Interiors:
(843) 817-0432, tcbdesign.net



(Above) Oversize print wallpaper and metallic accents lend elegance to the first-floor powder room.

14.

GARDEN VERANDA

cathy austin, asid



A hanging chair adds a whimsical yet sculptural element.

The Designer: Having begun her creative career at Sotheby's, Cathy Austin specializes in high-end residential design for collectors who wish to develop interiors around their works of art. The Charlotte-based designer was named a 2016 finalist for ADAC's Southeast Designer of the Year. Read about her inspirations and adventures on the blog *Bespoke Banter*.



The Room: Faced with a narrow porch and limited wall space, Austin relied on the floor and ceiling as canvases for art and color, commissioning local artisan Suzanne Allen to complete the painted "rug." Her design recalls grand, vintage Bahamian houses with the palette encompassing the soft pinks and emerald greens of Harbor Island. A long daybed piled with palm-print pillows offers the homeowners a relaxed perch from which to watch their children playing on the back lawn.

By the Yard: When selecting fabric for outdoor spaces, be sure to choose sturdy materials that can endure our coastal climate.

Catherine M. Austin Interior Design:
(704) 517-8622, catherinemaustin.com

15.

GARDEN

linda greenberg



The Designer: For more than 20 years, Linda Greenberg has worked closely with clients throughout the Carolinas and has been voted one of the top five landscape designers in the area by Houzz.com.

The Room: Faced with a circa-1840 historic garden in decline, the designer set out to add European influence to the existing Southern charm. After unearthing a brick pathway and water fountain and removing an overgrown pyracantha, she added visual interest with a weeping redbud and braided tea olive topiaries. The planting beds overflow with evergreen ornamentals such as azaleas, camellias, gardenias, hydrangeas, and lorapetulum.

Green Links: To add stability to a landscape design, the repetitive use of anchor plants creates cohesion among adjoining garden spaces. In this garden, dwarf mondo grass, boxwoods, and a variety of blooming ornamentals are utilized.

Linda Greenberg Landscape & Design:
(704) 995-7173, houzz.com/pro/landscapes/linda-greenberg-landscape-and-design



Azaleas in bloom; a 3-D printed violin sculpture offers a focal point and a tip of the hat to the showhouse's host.

16. & 17.

CARRIAGE HOUSE STUDIES

alexandre fleuren, ids



The Designer: With nearly 25 years of experience, Alexandre Fleuren has worked in almost every aspect of the design field, from historic Lowcountry properties to new urban spaces in Atlanta and custom homes throughout South Carolina.

GENTLEMAN'S STUDY

The Room: Preferring to focus on a client rather than a motif, the designer envisioned this retreat's inhabitant as a man with a keen interest in Lowcountry nature, photography, architecture, and history. To balance the textural brick wall, the designer commissioned Suzanne Allen to create a luster stone finish on the remaining walls. Wildlife photography by Chris Smith, hung in a grid, and a large-scale painting of the Upstate foothills by Lynn Boggess, provide depth in the small space.

Man Up: Rely on strong contrast to evoke a masculine look. Here, a graphic cowhide rug enhances the patina of the homeowner's desk.

LADY'S STUDY

The Room: Fashioned to be a space where the lady of the house can escape the noise and busyness of a home filled with children and guests, this study is a nod to sophistication and grace. To begin, Fleuren replaced old paneling with a stunning damask wall covering. An antique French planting table and desk add functionality to the beautiful suite. The Barbara Flowers painting, *Venice*, and original art by Jeff Erickson define the client: "traveled, elegant, and soft."

Trick the Eye: Create vertical lines to visually raise the height of a room. In this tight space, the designer painted the narrow closet doors in a stronger color than the wall and devised drapery panels the full height of the room with a contrasting trim.

Alexandre Fleuren Interiors:
(843) 437-1396, designafi.com

(Top) An extra-deep wing chair provides a clear view of the back piazza. (Left) Vintage pineapple chairs finished in quilted velvet are a subtle reminder of the city's refined hospitality.

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Web EXTRAS Source Book: Get lists of all of the designers' resources at charlestonmag.com.