Modern Polish in Atlanta

FRANDA JANUARY-FEBRUARY

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Kips Bay Show House



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The Lost Art of Letter Writing

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS was a master at the art of reception, both ceremonial and among friends, a skill no doubt balanced by the time she found to pen missives to her husband "Jack" and dear confidantes. This famed equilibrium inspired designer Jan Showers's ladies study just inside the entrance: Her gold Napoleon III–style sofa and a 1960s bronze-andopaline Maison Jansen coffee table suggest a most welcoming parlor, while a Karl Springer goatskin desk and glass-encased library turn the elegant space into one that functions as well for private moments.

Kips Bay Show House

Making a (Beautiful) Mess in the Kitchen

THINK OF IT AS A CHEF'S HIDEAWAY. Tucked behind Chad Dorsey's lustrous open kitchen, with its oak, yacht-inspired millwork, chinoiserie-painted mirror (by James Mobley), and hammered brass peninsula, is a cozy prep space reminiscent of an English country larder. Pietra Viva slab marble grounds it in undulating and organic neutral shades, ceiling-height storage houses everything from serving pottery to gadgetry, and in a domed alcove, a Jiun Ho table serves as a private workfrom-home space—or place to sneak to for a pre-clean-up cocktail (chef's choice).







LIVING ROOM ↑ Tailored pleat drapery (The Shade Store) with custom tiebacks and trim (Samuel & Sons) dresses the tall French doors. Upholstery, Chaddock. Wallcovering, Iksel Decorative Arts

Channeling the Classics

 ∞

"La Fiorentina

is one of my

favorite homes

of all time."

-MARK D. SIKES

LA FIORENTINA IN TEXAS? For Mark D. Sikes, the romantic expanse of a series of soaring French doors in the living room

called to mind the famed 1917 estate in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France, and the remarkable designers who graced its halls (from Rory Cameron and David Hicks to Hubert de Givenchy and Bunny

Mellon). But it was Billy Baldwin and his 1970s remake of the living room that Sikes salutes here with a space as cloaked in blue and white as its Côte d'Azur muse. Iznik-patterned wallpaper and a geometric dhurrie mimic painted tilework

> and lend a distinctly transportive, almost modern air, while a blend of Italian and Portuguese antiques root the space in a traditionalism that transcends time. And on the glass doors,

woven cotton and linen draperies feel like a breezy threshold to the Mediterranean.

Retreating for a Spell of Gossip

TRACI ZELLER'S POWDER ROOM vestibule is more than an invitation to slip away from the party with a glass of Champagne and a good friend. Its centerpiece robin's-egg blue banquette—with button tufting, a scalloped seat-back design, and navy bullion fringe—beckons the kinds of afternoon phone chats that came wrapped in a phone cord (read: no multitasking).

VESTIBULE ↓ The chinoiserie wallcovering and sink skirt is by Bassett McNab. Glossy trim paint, Green Wave by Benjamin Moore







WRITER'S LAIR & CLOSET ↑ In collaboration with The Container Store Custom Closets, Nussbaumer designed the cabinetry with a glass case for accessories and collections. Fabric, Clarence House. Mirrors, David Sutherland. Custom window treatments, The Shade Store

Stealing Away for Creative Pursuits

THROUGH THE AGES, ARTISTS have harnessed the power of travel to tap into new ideas, and Michelle Nussbaumer knows this as well as anyone. Her writer's lair and closet are designed as vehicles for refueling creative stores through exotic wanderings of the mind. The bedroom's wallpaper (created with Paul Montgomery) originated from travel photos of tile palaces throughout Morocco and the Middle East. In the closet, sundry mementos mingle with sartorial treasures in a custom case reminiscent of cabinets of curiosities during the Age of Exploration-an artful reminder that the world at large is a most powerful artistic engine.

Napping Before Guests Arrive

A QUICK REFRESHER doze before the doorbell is as key to proper hosting as a well-shaken martini, and so is loosening the seating arrangement over coffee and cordials. Cathy Kincaid's skirted window banquette invites both, creating greater intimacy in a room

of significant scale. Towering plaster palms, sanguine yellow walls, and a sweep of uninterrupted sunlight further temper the room's formality, offering a distinct sense of dining (or snoozing) in a warm, well-appointed solarium.

DINING ROOM → The banquette upholstery, draperies, and slipcovers are crafted of Soane fabrics. Wall stenciling, Barry Martin





Embracing Your Inner Gallerist

From an audiophile's paradise to a custom curation of mixed-media, four spaces that became cool collectors' havens ELECTRIC OIL-ON-CANVAS ABSTRACTS from the 1950s and '60s flood a former theater with the kind of color and artistic energy designer Mark Cravotta yearned for in the windowless room. And yet if the reverberating grain patterns of the vinyl wallcovering are any indication, his sexy audio lounge is as much an exhibition of hi-fi electronics as high art. Here, bespoke speakers by a maker in the Catskills, New York, feel like gallery companions to *Mojave #1* by American artist John Ferren and a smaller abstract, McKie Massenburg Trotter's *Earthscape #8*. In their midst, a suspended daybed is a playful reminder of Cravotta's muse for the tucked-away room: a Parisian Golden Age gentleman's club. Here, three more artful collectors' havens.



MORNING LOUNGE ↑ The striking 1970s oil painting is by Dorothy Hood, who was "a leading Texas surrealist of the 20th century, a time when most modernists were men," says the room's designer, Marcus Mohon.



GALLERY 🕇

Lining Margaret Naeve's hall are Paul Lee's tambourine acrylic paintings (left), a series of ink drawings by Jason Karolak (right), and a sculptural painting by Amanda Martinez (far wall).



PRIMARY BEDROOM ↑ A postmodern expressionist painting by the late Dallas artist Ronald Moody is among the vivid works in this expansive bedroom by the local design duo of Kirsten Kelli.

Kips Bay Show House

The Art of a "Dressing Drink"

SLOWING DOWN ROUTINES has never been quite so tempting. Doniphan Moore's lacquered veneer bar—outfitted with brass shelving, an espresso machine, and cocktail accoutrements—signals an unfolding of rooms and ritual in the expansive primary bath and his-and-her dressing closets. Harmonizing the four distinct spaces are moments of Art Deco glamour and a series of metallic wallpapers, including woodland scenes inspired by the work of Japanese masters—yet another nudge to find beauty in simple acts, like plucking the right jewels or settling on a dashing pair of cuff links.



PRIMARY BATHROOM ← Sink fixtures, Kohler. Flooring, Materials Marketing. Custom Window Treatments, The Shade Store





HIS-AND-HER DRESSING CLOSETS The designer worked with experts from The Container Store Custom Closets to design the cabinetry. Rug, The Rug Company

← COFFEE BAR Sink fixtures, Kohler. Cabinetry, Palmer Industries. Wallpaper throughout suite, de Gournay



COVERED PORCH → Coffee table and Perennials upholstery and pillow fabric, David Sutherland. Bust, Vicente Wolf



← POOL DECK Woven chairs are outfitted with a Perennials fabric akin to linen (chairs and fabric, including pillows, through David Sutherland). Lanterns, Bevolo

The Beauty of Our Own Backyards

LIKE LEONARDO DA VINCI, Kevin Spearman believes simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. On the arched veranda, he deftly illustrates the power of the philosophy with elemental showstoppers like French wicker from the 1940s, Belgian bluestone, and teak. An antique bust keeps watch over the outdoors, including Melissa Gerstle's channeling of the Italian gardens of Villa Farnese, with canopied daybeds, slender woven loungers, and a cool limestone-wrapped pool for all-day escape. \blacklozenge

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