

HOME TOURS / FEBRUARY 26, 2016

## MELINDA MANDELL DESIGNS A PLACE OF HEALING FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STANFORD



START SLIDESHOW

Written by **Kelli Lamb**

Interior Design by  
**Melinda Mandell**

Photography by  
**Michelle Drewes**

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THUMBNAIL VIEW

When the San Francisco Design Center asked **Melinda Mandell** to partner with The Ronald McDonald House Stanford, she couldn't wait to get started. Located in Palo Alto, CA, the RMHS houses families as their critically-ill children receive treatment at neighboring Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. With a waiting list of 40-50 families each night, expansion was crucial, and with the new building comes a need for fresh design.

Over the past year, Melinda and her team have designed and furnished three peaceful rooms in the new building, completely pro-bono! Her rooms offer a place of healing and hope for the families in a turbulent time. We wanted to learn more, AND take a tour of the special space:

### Hi Melinda! This project is so special. What can you tell us about it?

The **Ronald McDonald House Stanford**, in Palo Alto, CA, plays a vital role, housing families as their critically-ill children receive treatment at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Currently, **RMHS** has a waitlist of 40-50 families each night. With their brand new building opening this spring, they will more than double their current capacity, and meet the need of every family on their waitlist!

48 Interior Designers were recruited by the **San Francisco Design Center** to partner with The Ronald McDonald House Stanford in creating their new building.

Over the past year, **Melinda Mandell Interior Design** has designed and furnished three peaceful rooms in the new building, completely pro-bono. From the outset, the goal set by MMID is that these rooms give families – going through stressful and physically taxing treatments – a sense of home, of safety, and of hope.

### That is so wonderful — you've truly given them a place of healing! Tell us about the rooms you've designed.

My rooms are carefully assembled, but not too serious. The spaces incorporate organic textures, and friendly colors like soothing blues, bright greens, and russet reds. In the sitting room, lots of light spills in through the playful, pierced sheer drapery, illuminating soft natural textures like the raffia console, the soft wool rug, and the cerused wood desk. Allusions to nature are seen in all three rooms – animals, water, wood, and the sun – subtle and universal themes. The patterns I have chosen are meant to bring a smile. Overall, my goal was to create relaxed, uplifting spaces that remain approachable to all guests – both children and adults, traveling here from all over the country. The end result is one that lifts moods and sparks imagination!

### Can our Bay Area readers see the space in person?

Readers are invited to tour the new **Ronald McDonald House Stanford**, and see Melinda Mandell Interior Design's rooms in person through Sunday, February 28th:

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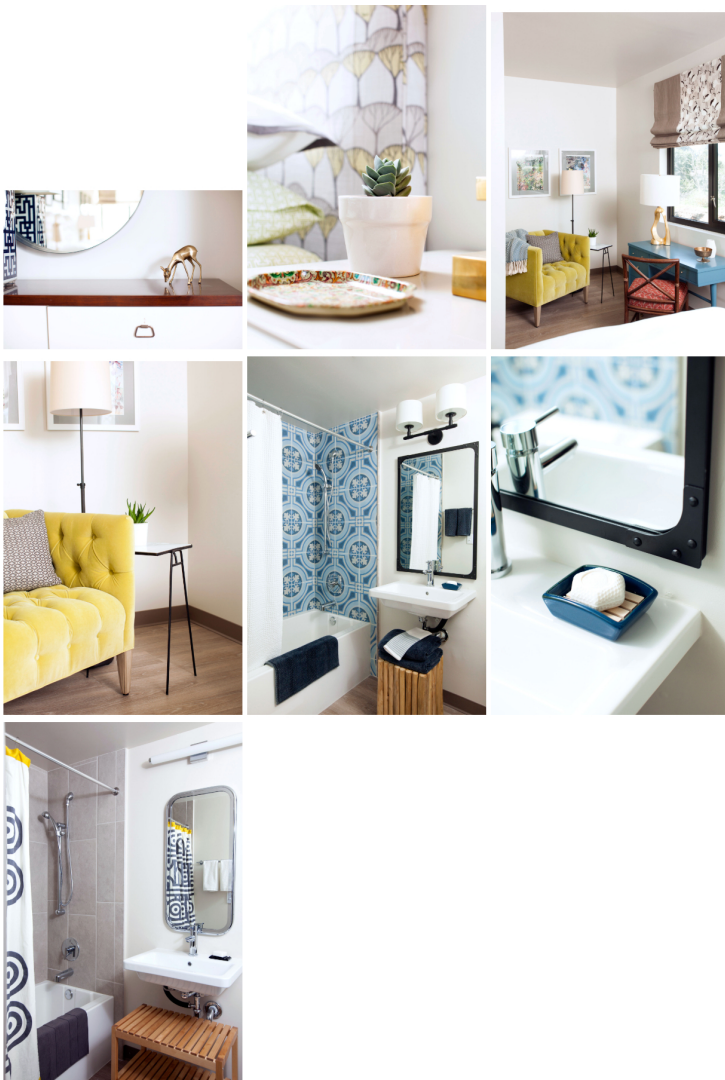
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**For a closer look, start the slideshow!**

## THUMBNAIL VIEW





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1.



MRDAVIDBARNA@GMAIL.COM ON MARCH 23, 2016 AT 2:55 PM SAID:

After the years of planning and design I am glad to see the Ronald McDonald house transform from rough framing into such a wonderful place. I have worked with Melinda and have found her professionalism, knowledge, and detail for the subtleties of a design to be one of the best. The SF Design Center could not have found a better group of designers to help shape the Stanford Ronald McDonald House into what it is today.

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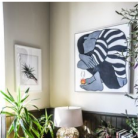
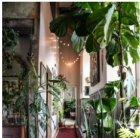
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