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maestro & muse

David Scott designs a harmonious room inspired by artist Michele Oka Doner

CREATING A HARMONIOUS SPACE FOR A DESIGN SHOW HOUSE IS A COLLABORATIVE art, in which the lead designer acts as a conductor, bringing together the instruments of his fantasy—in this case, paint, fabrics, furniture, fine art, antiques, and an exceptional collection of lighting—to provoke a lasting dramatic impression.

David Scott pulled the act off elegantly at Inspired Designs: A Showhouse Celebrating Extraordinary Women, an event benefiting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation founded by Evelyn H. Lauder. The luxurious interiors of Extell Development's new, pre-war-inspired residential building at 53 West End Avenue provided the stage, and, for Scott, the prolific artist Michele Oka Doner served as muse. "There is a quiet drama about her work," he explains. "Her art is inspired by nature, and filled with detail, so her pieces work like jewelry in a room." Drapery fabric from Bergamo and lighting from Bernd Goeckler Antiques and Todd Merrill serve as backdrop and spotlight, respectively. A show house, like a symphony, must eventually conclude—but inspiration goes on. ~ See Resources.



artistic influence This page: Italian floor lamps from Van den Akker Antiques (left) and Bernd Goeckler Antiques (right) illuminate a room filled with sculptural metal furnishings and works on paper by artist Michele Oka Doner (above). Giltwood mirror, Florian Papp Antiques. Silk rug, Carini Lang.



organic forms Above: Oka Doner's *Ocean Reef Bowl* for Steuben rests on her bronze *Radiant Disc* table. Right: *Gilded Seed Pod*, Oka Doner; bud vase, Bergforf Goodman; brass and mother-of-pearl table (Italian, 1955), Van den Akker Antiques.



natural elegance Left: An albino peacock, from Ruzzetti & Gow, symbolizes the beauty of nature, Oka Doner's muse. Vase and bowl by Axel Salto for Royal Copenhagen (1965), from Bernd Goeckler Antiques. Above: Photographs by Gerhardt Mantz, Lumas Gallery; c. 1970 lamp, Todd Merrill; Art Deco console, Guy Regal.