

4 of Our Favorite Spaces From the 2017 Kips Bay Decorator Show House

This year's crop of gorgeous rooms brought a mix of old and new — and a whole lot of whimsy — to life.



BY LAUREN SMITH MAY 3, 2017

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It's that time of year again. No, not Christmas, though it feels that way in the design world. The [45th Annual Kips Bay Decorator Show House](#) opened to the public this week through June 1 and, [per usual](#), it's unbelievable. Inside 125 East 65th Street, designers and architects took on completely reimagining a beautiful old Manhattan mansion.

The annual event is put on to benefit the [Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club](#) and help provide after-school programs for over 10,000 youth in the Bronx. Like every year, the creative minds behind each of the spaces faced the usual challenges: how to tackle tricky features (like a mandatory sprinkler systems or darker hallways), where to even start when there is no client (sky's the limit!) and how to make each room feel uniquely special. The results are more than a dozen beautiful spaces that really show a range of tastes, styles and over-the-top design thinking.

While we don't want to play favorites, we are predicting this year's biggest buzz will go to [Ken Fulk's](#) room. Pause a moment and take it all in:



ALAN BARRY

His standout space, dubbed Madame's Magical Menagerie, features hand-painted wallpaper made exclusively for this project via a collaboration with [de Gournay](#). Fulk was inspired by a fictional Madame in 1968 that he imagined hosting colorful dinner parties on the Upper East Side. One chilly morning, she discovered a zebra in her yard and over the next few days more animals from the nearby zoo found their way to her home — and this parlor is the result. Once you absorb the magical wallpaper, don't miss the epic florals.



degournay

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'Madame's Magical Menagerie' @kenfulk and @degournay collaborate on custom hand painted wallpaper @kbshowhouse, featuring Horace the inquisitive giraffe and Liz and Dick the quarrelsome zebras. @thefacinator #kenfulk #customwallpaper #scenicwallpaper #handpaintedwallpaper #kipsbayshowhouse17 #kipsbay #degournay #degournaywallpaper

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For New York City-based firm [Scarpidis Design](#), architecture guides design. To that end, they used a concrete wallpaper from [Resource Furniture](#) in the second floor staircase and designed a bespoke chevron wood floor with brass accents that helped guide your eyes and the area's flow, resulting in a stairwell that is not to be forgotten.



Designers Kirsten Fitzgibbons and Kelli Ford from the decorating firm [Kristen Kelli](#), brought a punch of vibrant color to the show house. This window-filled drawing room inspired them to create a bright escape within the bustling city. Everything is so happy, and we could just as easily see this working in a beach house in the Hamptons as well as in tony Manhattan. Wood veneer wallpaper from [Phillip Jeffries](#) and a purple love seat from [De Angelis, Ltd.](#) add a glamorous touch. Meanwhile, the walls are filled with work by artists, including Damien Hirst, Kurt Pao and Roy Lichtenstein.



And, of course, it's spring in New York so that means the outside is just as important as in. Landscape artist [Janice Parker](#) named the terrace garden Bamboo Court. Her goal was to honor the building's history as the China Institute of America's former headquarters, but still make the space livable. The most dramatic part of the design is the moon gate, which in Chinese culture was used as a garden entryway, but here takes on more of a sculptural art moment.



ALAN BARRY

If you want to see more room designs from the 2017 Kips Bay Decorator Show House, visit their [Instagram](#) and follow the hashtag [#KipsBbayShowHouse17](#). Or if you're in the city, stop by between now and June 1.

In the meantime, we'll leave you with a few more snapshots to get you excited:



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@quintessence takes us inside the "Well Traveled Room" designed by @richardmishaan for the @kbshowhouse. Follow the link in bio to the Quintessence blog for more from the #kipsbaydecoratorshowhouse. 📍: Stacey Bewkes

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@richardmishann mixed varying patterns and textures in his drawing room at #KipsBayShowhouse17 to create a chic and elevated space. 📸: @samedford #kipsbayandkohler

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Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club Decorator Show House

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Stop by @kbshowhouse 125 e 65 to see our #stairwaytoSAVAGE open now til June 2.
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