

SPLENDID MAKEOVERS: ENTICING BEFORES AND AFTERS

House Beautiful

SIMPLE ELEGANCE

THE BEST IN WEST COAST DECORATING

RETURN TO
GLAMOUR:
OUR CELEBRITY
SHOWHOUSE



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An inspired group of designers define
style in *House Beautiful's* annual



Suzanne Rheinstein
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low living room
an ethereal white
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18th-century scr
twin sofas cover
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iridescent velvet

Suzanne Rheinstein





AMID THE GLITTER and grandiosity so prevalent in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Bel Air, the city's leading designers chose simplicity and unpretentious elegance for *House Beautiful*'s 2003 Celebrity Showhouse.

This was the second annual such project for the magazine. It opened to the public last fall, with ticket proceeds going to the Children's Action Network, a nonprofit group that helps underprivileged youth in Southern California.

"We asked the designers to create a refined, elegant, yet subtly diverse design scheme, and I believe they succeeded brilliantly," says *House Beautiful* editor Mark Mayfield.

The designers' accomplishments should come as no surprise, considering their reputations. All are well known in the more glamorous realms of Los Angeles life, and their client lists include major stars. In fact, a number of well-known Hollywood celebrities lent their names and their inspiration to individual decorators.

Each designer showed a distinctive finesse in mixing periods and styles, particularly in marrying modernist and traditional elements. For example, Joe Nye had the task of creating an entryway that would please on its own terms, both

Above: In the entryway and upstairs hall, Joe Nye's fresh choice of coral as an accent color for the Thomasville bench and the curtains lightens the space above the polished coffee-wood floors. Right: Landscape designer Stephen Block brought clean, simple lines to the lawn, walkway, and pool. Opposite: Waldo Fernandez painted walls and moldings a rich blue for an energetic statement in the small dining room. The round Regency-style table is set with Hermès glass and silver.

Stephen Block







downstairs and upstairs, but would also work with the library, the living room, and the dining room, all of which are visible. Using a sophisticated taupe as the background color, he juxtaposed antiques—an Oushak carpet, a chinoiserie chest—with large, powerful abstract paintings and comfortable seating in traditional shapes.

The complex continuity from first

Peter Dunham



to second floor makes for an effortless transition to two quite different guest rooms upstairs. Both Peter Dunham's deceptively simple use of Indian-inspired prints in one, and Elizabeth Dinkel's almost haute-couture approach to chinoiserie in the other provide the comfort-conscious environments that homeowners want for their guests.

In the Asian-inspired master bed-



room, Mary McDonald played white against chocolate walls in a nod to both the age of great movie stars (you can imagine Lauren Bacall sleeping in the custom-designed pagoda-style bed) and the current fondness for eclectic Hollywood Regency.

To complement the bedroom, Michael Berman designed spacious his-and-her master bathrooms with dressing areas and furniture for reading or napping. Every element in the airy woman's bath reflects traditional shapes but carries a modern, streamlined edge. The man's bath is a library-like environment with neoclassical accents, including a bas-relief of Socrates that perhaps only a

Kathryn Ireland

21st-century designer would think to put in the shower.

Downstairs, the contemporary coziness of Kathryn Ireland's library-clean Mission-style furniture against pale walls banishes all hints of the dark, heavy atmosphere traditional studies can have. Nearby, Suzanne Rhein-stein designed the living room with an ethereal restraint that transforms a long room with six doorways into an

Opposite: Peter Dunham's guest room and bath, with fabrics designed by Dunham for Thomas Lavin in Los Angeles. Above: Kathryn Ireland's library features a Mission-style desk from Thomasville with a Kichler lamp. A modern arrangement of moody early-20th-century landscapes stands out against a pale hue on the paneling.

Mary McDonald



Michael Berman

adult sanctuary. One of the many pairs of pieces that hold the room quietly together, two French chairs announce awareness of the present with a delicious modern green.

In the renovated and enlarged family room beyond a double doorway off the living room, designer Kim Alexandriuk mixed old-world colors and textures with modern shapes and set delicate 17th- and 18th-century antiques off with oversize 20th-century streamlined armchairs.

In the dining room, vibrant blue walls, sculptural moose antlers above a stark fireplace, and a monumental abstract painting make the formality of the round Regency mahogany table and

Michael Berman

This page: **Michael Berman's** custom fixtures hang over the dressing area in the woman's bathroom. Antique stools from J.F. Chen are covered in white terrycloth. Opposite, above: **Mary McDonald's** concept for the master bedroom started with the chinoiserie bed, then came to include the dominant use of white (down to the matelassé coverlet and bed drapery). To add a masculine element, she chose deep Ralph Lauren chocolate for the walls and accents. Opposite, below: Berman provided 1930s-era white glamour to one of two master bedroom bathrooms, which gains a heavenly freshness from pale hydrangea hues.





Jackie Terrell's dairy-fresh kitchen includes RoomScape's cabinets for Wood-Mode.

chairs elegantly welcoming, thanks to the stylish skills of Waldo Fernandez.

Adjacent to the dining room is the large, modern-family-oriented kitchen/breakfast room, decorated by Jackie Terrell in dairy-pale whites and dark wood. The room is awash in fresh traditionalism countered by modernistic overscaling in cleanly designed furniture and by cutting-edge appliances supplied in pairs.

In the guesthouse, Tim Clarke put a large, shocking-coral seashell mirror on the wall of the cabana and then, in contemporary L.A. fashion, brought interior glamour outside with a huge



Terrell's kitchen also includes a deep stainless-steel Kohler sink, twin Sub-Zero refrigerators, and twin Wolf ranges.





Schuyler Samperton & Anna Hackathorn's powder room.



Elizabeth Dinkel's guest bathroom, left, includes a Kallista sink and a brown wicker chair by McGuire. Bedroom is at right.



Tim Clarke's outdoor living room, with all-weather Sutherland furniture, also includes a KitchenAid refrigerator and grill, left.



David Desmond's laundry room.



Kim Alexandriuk's Old Italian/1930s Parisian family room.

Barclay Butera

This page: In the upstairs guest suite, **Barclay Butera** took the cottagey feel out of blue-and-white stripes and wainscoting and infused that tradition with modern freshness and faux formality. Opposite top: A simple garage was transformed into a stylish guesthouse/cabana with a pergola-shaded outdoor room. Opposite, below: Nickel Kohler plumbing fixtures atop mirrored vanities by Kallista seem in perfect keeping with the overall mix.

