

AT HOME

Making 21 unique spaces into one comfortable, eclectic home

By Merlisa Lawrence Corbett
Special to the Washington Examiner

The 21 designers charged with transforming this year's D.C. Design House have spun the many rooms of this 10,000-square-foot home into an eclectic yet cohesive — and stunningly elegant — display of neoclassical design.

The Georgian-style country home, located in Chevy Chase, once served as the site of President Truman's inaugural ball. Though now for sale by the current owners, the general public can tour the rooms of this Beaux-Arts mansion until May 8, with proceeds benefiting the Children's National Medical Center.

"The house has such great bones," said Victoria Sanchez, who designed the library. The bare-bones interior included crown molding with dental detailing throughout; large gilded glass mirrors, tall palladium windows and faux finishes on walls made to resemble marble.

A study in eclecticism, the design house, although massive in size, feels as cozy as a country cottage.



This year's D.C. Design House in Chevy Chase is a study in eclecticism yet feels as cozy as a country cottage.

Designer Frank Babb Randolph, a native of the D.C. area, recalls when Chevy Chase was the country and used this inspiration to merge classic luxury with casual comfort in the living room.

Instead of stuffing the great room with oversized furniture, Randolph

created a primary seating area in front of a large fireplace and a separate breakfast nook by windows that overlooked beautiful landscaping.

"I love the whole concept of using the room for more. It's such a gracious room," Randolph said. A plush garden-green sofa in silk linen



PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARNIK/EXAMINER

At a glance

D.C. Design House

- » dcdesignhouse.com
- » Now through May 8
- » Hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday to Friday
- » Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday



overstuffed, which is the natural inclination with such a large room," Steponkus said. She used different textures and layers of fabrics such as damask, matelasse and cotton blends on the bed, plus bold prints on window treatments. Urnlike bases for lamps continued the Neoclassical theme.

No room captured the Neoclassical theme with as much drama and flair as the ballroom, repurposed into a conservatory by designer Barry Dixon. Dixon created a showstopper with towering columns, Greco-Roman-inspired sculptures, books, throws, rugs, vases and antique gyroscopes fit for a visit from Galileo. Speaking of eclectic, among the many Neoclassical appointments in the conservatory, Dixon mixes in a Moroccan-themed three-panel screen and Raj ottoman from his furniture collection.

Neoclassical inspiration found its way into the most unexpected pieces, including a Kyle Bunting custom-made shimmering cowhide rug designed by Michael Hampton. Hampton, playing on the Greek key design, created a runway-worthy rug that transforms cowhide into haute couture. "That's exactly what I was going for," Hampton said of bringing the "bling" factor to the often understated guest room.

"I really wanted a calm, serene space. I didn't want it to feel

softens some of the strong Neoclassical elements in the room including bold column pedestals flanking the fireplace. A faux-shagreen painted coffee table adds stylish practicality. "You could put wet glasses down on this and not have to worry," said Randolph.

A classic Edwardian-style kitchen by Clive Christian sparkles like fine jewelry, with dazzling chandeliers hanging over arctic cream granite countertops. Most of the kitchen is furnished with natural oak and ivory cabinetry sealed in antique glazing. Opulent in typical Clive Christian style, the kitchen also offers practical solutions for today's family, including a butcher-block countertop in the prep area and a large flat-screen television encased above a stainless steel cooktop. The refrigerator is hidden behind a grand oak armoire.

In the expansive master bedroom, designer Sally Steponkus decided less was more, furnishing the room with necessities, such as a king-size bed with upholstered headboard, end tables and a seating area. Soft yellow and cream colors are repeated about the room.

"I really wanted a calm, serene

Some remodelers give out free pens.
We give out something more valuable. Free knowledge.



KITCHEN AND BATH SEMINAR

Saturday April 10th or Wednesday April 21st from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA and at the Case Bethesda Office, 4701 Sangamore Road, North Plaza, Suite 40, Bethesda, MD 20816.

Saturday April 17th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 302 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, MD 21401.

You will learn the basic building blocks plus tried-and-true advice for preparing you and your family for this important remodeling investment. Learn from the experts about kitchen and bath design, product selection process, latest trends and much more. Educate yourself on how to devise a plan that works and what steps homeowners need to know before spending a dime on their kitchen or bath remodeling project.

GAINING SPACE IN YOUR HOME SEMINAR

Saturday April 24th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA and at Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington DC 20008.

Whether it's reconfiguring existing space or adding new, this seminar will address creative ways to make your home work better for you and your family. The experts will discuss basements, in-law suites, home offices, exercise rooms, play rooms, creative storage ideas and more. Less can be more when it comes to the space in your home. Educate yourself on how to best maximize your home before spending a dime on your remodeling project.

Join us for these 2 hour seminars. Plus, lunch will be served.

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To RSVP visit CaseDesign.com/content/seminar or call 800.513.2250

