

# THREE FOR THE SHOW

SHOWHOUSE from B14

well-heeled, audience. This year is no exception. Of the 16 designers, no fewer than five are making their Kips Bay debuts.

There is an edgy, avant-garde look to the showcase that has influenced even some of the diehard traditionalists, such as Richard L. Ridge and Roderick R. Denault (they created a contemporary room, their first) and Michael Simon (he dressed his classic French fauteils in yellow ostrich hide, a la Prada).

The newcomers—John Barman, Dessins LLC, Randall A. Ridless, Roderick N. Shade Interior Design and Stingray Hornsby—go a long way toward stealing the show, bringing not only 21st Century designs but also 21st Century methods of designing. Bellmore native Ridless and associate Beth Martell, for example, designed and furnished their entire room—a small study whose 18th Century backdrop is the perfect foil for the eclectic mix of 20th Century objects that furnish it—in cyberspace, e-mailing each other ideas and buying the furnishings online.

On Long Island, Mansions & Millionaires has set up its DESIGNERS' Showcase at Frost Mill Manor in Mill Neck, and newcomer Dreamhouse Tours Inc. has set up residence in what promoters have christened Beechwood Manor, the John T. Pratt Jr. mansion in Glen Cove.

At the Frost Mill Manor, which up until this year was the headquarters of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, whose mission is to assist those who are alcohol- or drug-dependent, 27 designers have seamlessly blended technology and tradition to create livable spaces for the new century. Denise Rinfret of Manhasset, for example, placed a wall-mounted, flat-

screen TV in the formal paneled library; Barbara H. Karpf of Southampton and Manhattan warmed up her state-of-the-art kitchen, complete with a computer terminal/TV/CD player, with old-style French furniture and bright colors; and Keith Baltimore of Cedarhurst placed halogen lighting on the ceiling of the master bedroom, which plays upon two 18th Century European styles.

And at Beechwood Manor Show House in Glen Cove, the designers, many of them like Rena Fortgang, Beverly Balk and Anne Tarasoff, veterans of the showhouse circuit, were given a unique mandate: Return the house, which is on the market, to its 1930s Georgian-style splendor so the owner can not only save it, but sell it.

Cynthia and Herb Zucker bought the then-dilapidated Gold Coast mansion, built as the summer home of the John T. Pratt Jr. family of Standard Oil fortune, two years ago. Then they discovered that rehabbing the place, with its carriage house, four and a half acres and view of the Long Island Sound, would take more than they could deal with alone.

Their solution was to create Dreamhouse Tours Inc., under whose aegis the couple led the home's restoration, with the assistance and donated time and material of 24 interior designers and numerous craftspeople and landscapers eager to showcase their talents.

The result: an updated, but traditional and stylistically harmonious

seven-bedroom, true center-hall brick residence with restored moldings, in-laid wooden floors, curving bay windows, a library with pantry, den, reception room, an elevator off the foyer with its sweeping stairway and a creamy yellow kitchen with mahogany countertops to die for.

Cynthia Zucker says tour proceeds will benefit the City of Glen Cove Waterfront Revitalization Plan, an ongoing environmental cleanup of the city's shore. Zucker says the sale of the house would cover restoration costs as well as provide a profit for future Dreamhouse Tours restoration projects. ■

**LUSH LIVING.** Manhattan-based designer Ivan Dolin dressed the Beechwood Manor's spacious living room, below, in vibrant jewel-toned Lee Jofa fabrics, lemon yellow walls and a black wool needlepoint carpet patterned with gold fleur de lis. The molding on the 12-foot-high ceiling and the marble fireplace carved with musical instruments are original. The crystal chandelier with the semi-precious pendants of cloudy rock crystal quartz is valued at \$85,000. The fabric of the floor-to-ceiling drapes match that on two chairs by the fireplace as well as the paper-backed fabric wallcovering of a small foyer at the room's entrance. A piano, life-size statue by Mark Mellon, a round buried wood table with seating under the chandelier, and three separate seating groupings complete the picture. Ivan Dolin 212-207-3351.



Newsday Photos / Bill Davis



**OLD MEETS NEW.** Courland Design of Glen Head designed the Glen Cove manor's light and airy kitchen, left, which still boasts the original cell box (servants could identify from which room they were being buzzed) and stove hood. The old cabinet doors were stripped of their crimson red paint and given a fresh creamy yellow hue. The shriveled linoleum was replaced with blocks of light Mexican quarry tile to match the new color scheme and a new central island utilized the cabinet doors from the former butler's pantry, now converted into a breakfast room. The stainless steel appliances by Viking include double wall ovens, two dishwashers, recessed refrigerator, two wine coolers, and a six-burner cooktop with griddle and grill. And oh yes, those countertops. They're mahogany. They'll be needing up to five more layers of sealant before the restoration is complete. Mercedes Courland, 516-759-4802.