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→ FEBRUARY 16 - 29, 2024 VOLUME 25 NO.4



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## 2024 PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE OF DESIGN

## A TUDOR WOW! By Barbara Beckley, Senior Associate Editor

House of Design "Empty House Party" – and wow! This year's manor do-over is going to be a must. As arguably SoCal's oldest (founded in 1965) and easily, most interesting fundraiser, the Pasadena Showcase House of Design always delights with stylish re-dos of elegant mansions by top interior designers. And gives us wonderful ideas for our own home-makeovers.

Viewing the 30 interior and exterior bare-bones "before" spaces of the 1902 English Tudor Revival style Potter Daniels Manor in Pasadena and chatting with participants like West LA interior designer David Levine, and LA-based Rachel Scheff (two of 30 interior and landscape designers from throughout SoCal) about their exciting concepts, I was impressed.

"Look at my huge bouquet of roses!" enthused Levine. "Their

pink tones reflect the color palette I've chosen for the dining room." Creative from the start, using roses in addition to color swatches, clearly Levine's dining room make-over will be unique. Right up to his ceiling mural reminiscent of a Michelangelo with angelic-like rose-tone figures swarming in a dusky sky.

Speaking of ceilings. Entering the foyer, the beautiful hardwood stairs and balcony are topped by gorgeous stained glass-like ceiling artwork that perfectly complements the space. "They will be left in place," Scheff told me. But we're in for surprises I'm sure, once she transforms this space into "The Foyer of Enchantment."

While the mansion measures 7,300 square feet, the room count is deceptively "normal" to me, with just four bedrooms upstairs. Of course, the primary bedroom encompasses half the upper level! Larger than many folks' condos. With a huge bath space. Walk-in closets that could double for bedrooms, and a mammoth bedchamber with a walk-out balcony. Can't wait to see how San Marino designer Amy Peltier redoes it. And LA-based AYM Interiors transforms a bedroom into the "Cinema/Media Room," And Jerome Thiebault of JTTD Inc. in L.A. re-creates the adjoining "Media Bathroom."

Downstairs, the kitchen sprawls across the entire left wing! Mark Hermogeno of Hermogeno Designs

recently attended the 2024 Pasadena Showcase in LA told me, "since people really live here, I'm designing a small user-friendly cooking area, so they can cook and make dinner." That's in addition to a professional grade catering kitchen, Butler's Pantry, and large informal gathering space with couches, tables, a big screen TV-"which the mansion really didn't have before," Hermogeno explained.

Separate from the main house, the two-story,

two-bedroom Gate House guesthouse will offer cozy design ideas. Look to Studio City designer Stephanie Hatten of SH Interiors to work her magic in the Gate House Kitchen. And wall-to-wall original murals will be a key feature of LA designer Margaret Lalikian's "Gate House Calming Massage/Spa Lounge."

If you haven't attended in years, you're in for a treat. Unlike long ago, "our designers work independently on their assigned spaces, but also together to give continuity

to the home design," explained Suzanne Hart, 2024 president of Pasadena Showcase for the Arts, which puts on this extravaganza. And "yes," the mansion owner does have a say in what goes, and what stays (usually, very little). Where are the owners living while their gutted manor is being redesigned and shown? The mansion has a third-story attic with former servants' quarters, I learned.

While the showcase homes are traditionally in the San Gabriel Valley, Westsiders are just as involved. I was pleased to enjoy the delicious food and drink - think beef tri-tip, amazing butternut squash soup, garlic mashed potatoes, and specialty cocktails - by Ronen Levy Events of Sherman Oaks. And meet top-tier architecture photographer Peter Christiansen Valli of Westwood.

The 2024 Pasadena Showcase House of Design runs April 21 to May 19, 2024. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Friday. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the mansion, guest house and gardens - be sure to drop by the Shops at Showcase, selling high-end merch, and the on-site restaurant. Timed-entry tickets are \$35 for Happy Hour, \$40, and \$50 at www.pasadenashowcase.org. Proceeds benefit four philanthropic initiatives: Gifts & Grants, Music Mobile TM. Instrumental Competition, and Youth Concert.

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