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Design Delights

Show houses give designers a chance to showcase their talents

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PROFESSIONALS UNLEASHED their creative energy at two major show houses in New Jersey this past year. And the results — some of which we feature on the following pages — should give you enough ideas for a year's worth of renovations at your own home.

The Stately Homes by-the-Sea Designer Show House (statelyhomesbythesea.com) transformed Hartshorne Mansion in Little Silver into a home with historical

references but well-suited to life in the twenty-first century. Proceeds benefitted the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group.

The Cape May Designer Show House, meanwhile, gave designers a chance to add personality to a brand-new home on a historic street. The show house, called Cavalier Cottage, raised money to benefit programs of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (capemaymac.org).



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BURKE



STALEY HOMES BY-THE-SEA DESIGNER SHOW HOUSE

Stylish Bathing

Shades of blue and gray create a serene atmosphere in the master bathroom, designed by Ginny Padula of Town & Country Kitchen & Bath. The room is grounded with a gray porcelain tile floor that resembles wood plank flooring. A generous double vanity features cream cabinets and a Carrera marble countertop under mirrors topped with triple sconces. The herringbone-patterned backsplash of white Thassos marble tile calls to mind patterns on the mansion's exterior. The volcanic limestone soaking tub sits on a mosaic tile "rug," while the glass-enclosed shower allows natural light to flow from the windows to the darker side of the room. "The shower was definitely a challenge [because of the angled roof line]," Padula says, "but we were able to work around it, using tile only where we needed to keep views open and the beauty of the overall space intact."

SOURCES design and Eastman St. Woodworks cabinetry, Town & Country Kitchen & Bath in Red Bank; building and installations, Padula Builders in Wall; Carrera marble countertop, ACD Custom Granite in Ocean Township; all tile, Akdo Tile in Bridgeport, Connecticut; cabinet hardware, Top Knobs in Hillsborough; tub, Victoria & Albert in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; all plumbing fixtures, vanity lights and mirrors, Moen in North Olmstead, Ohio; glass ceiling fixtures, West Elm in San Francisco, California; window treatments, Quadrille fabric with fabrication by Laura Madden of G&R Decorators in Red Bank.