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SHOW HOUSE CHIC



Foyer & Reception Hall

A host of talented designers infused the 2012 DC Design House with color, originality and flair

By JEANNE BLACKBURN

Nestled in the bucolic Northwest DC neighborhood of Spring Valley, this year's DC Design House was a classic brick center-hall Colonial built in 1956. Twenty-three area design teams transformed this stately residence into a showcase of 21st century design, both inside and out, using innovation, creativity—and the paints and wall coverings of sponsor Farrow & Ball (with a strong emphasis on shades of gray). In case you missed it, the remarkable results of their efforts are shown on the following pages; proceeds from the month-long event benefited Children's National Medical Center.

L'Orangerie

Kelley Proxmire (Kelley Interior Design) dubbed her room L'Orangerie, and her choice reflects one of her strong suits as a designer: the ability to use color fearlessly. "I've always loved color, even as a child," she says. "It's second nature to me." In this room, Proxmire contrasted the orange hues of a Manuel Canovas toile table skirt, linen draperies and upholstery with walls painted in Farrow & Ball Cornforth White (actually pale gray).

Foyer & Reception Hall

John Matthew Moore (John Matthew Moore Fine Art & Home) designed the foyer and reception hall in a traditional style, but sleek gray walls and a striking Mid Century-inspired chandelier by Rick Singleton lent the space a contemporary flair. "When the entrance respects the architecture, the transition from the outside in is smoother," Moore says. "Here there's a balance of traditional and modern so the interiors feel at ease with the house itself."