

Plus Design tips from the pros

# First Designer Show House in Stamford

We got some of the designers who will be featured in the Designer Show House in Stamford to give us some of their tips for you to use in your own home!

**I**fairfield County is renowned for its stylish and exquisitely decorated homes. Now, local residents will have another source of inspiration and ideas as Stamford's first ever Designer Show House at 422 Ocean Drive West promises to indulge the senses of home and garden aficionados.

Opening on September 26, the house will be open to the public through October 31 and will feature the work of some of the most talented designers from around the tri-state area and beyond, put together by the renown and revered in the Designer Show House world Franco Grimaldi, President and CEO of Talent Resource Centre.

"Bringing a Show House to fruition is similar to theater; both entail drama, hard work and creativeness. You will witness a variety of expressiveness and talents in this very special Stamford Designer Show House located in Shippan," said Grimaldi.

Proceeds from the Stamford Designer Show House will go to the Stamford Museum and Nature Center.

"We are so grateful to Franco

Grimaldi and TRC for choosing the Stamford Museum & Nature Center as the beneficiary for this exciting, first-time Show House. We hope everyone tours the house this fall," said Melissa H. Mulrooney, Stamford Museum & Nature Center's Executive Director.

The 9,000 sq. ft. magnificent stately "1922" estate will be open daily, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Sundays noon to 5 pm. Admission is \$30 per person and includes the Show House Journal. On Wednesdays at noon, Design Lectures will take place featuring a different designer and topic. Tickets may be purchased at the door. No pets or children under the age of 6 will be permitted. The Show House will close on Oct. 31.

SEP 26 OCT 31 T<sup>U</sup>-S<sup>A</sup> 11-5 S<sup>U</sup> 12-5

## For your child's bedroom

TIPS FROM THE PROS

**1** Most kids bedrooms today are used both for sleeping as well as homework and recreation. Try avoiding overhead lighting and consider dimmer switches along with desk and floor lamps. Try placing the various light fixtures in a triangular formation.

**2** Never put window treatments that have cords as this poses a child safety risk. There are many options available today for blinds and shades that operate without cords. When choosing window treatments, consider how much privacy is needed, depending on which way each window is facing.

**3** Playtime is the best time for most kids. Carpeting or area rugs, if you have wood floors, are a great choice to provide for a comfort-

able playing area. Smaller toys require creative storage so adding clear plastic stackable bins will keep things organized and conserve space. If using colored bins and your child is too young to read, tape a picture of the toys to the outside of the container so they can help when it's time for clean up

**4** Painting a picture or mural on a wall can be 'more unique' than adding wallpaper. The design can be as simple as a logo from a favorite sports team, a picture of their favorite animal or a mural covering an entire wall. The more input you allow the child, the better the end result will be. If you are not confident with painting freehand and are not ready to hire a professional painter, you can still attempt the project yourself. If a larger image is needed, try projecting the im-

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age onto the wall with a film projector and copy the outline with chalk. If you need to copy a smaller image, carbon transfer papers are available in different colors. The colored carbon papers allow you to trace the lighter colors on darker walls and vice versa, and these are easy to use.

**5** Adding a desk to a child's bedroom is a great way to get them to hit the books more often, but often limited floor space creates a challenge. A solution I tried in a teenager's room was to utilize the closet. After removing the double bi-fold doors, we installed a Formica countertop from wall to wall to serve as the desktop. When drawers are needed, place one or two file cabinets underneath and have the countertop sit on top.

TIPS FROM THE PROS

OPPOSITE PAGE: 442 OCEAN DRIVE WEST IN STAMFORD/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO