

24 Genius Design Lessons From This Year's Kips Bay Palm Beach Showhouse

Spoiler: You may want to rethink your ceiling.



BY [HADLEY KELLER](#) MAR 4, 2022

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At House Beautiful, there's nothing we love more than finding a clever idea in a beautiful home. And one Florida house—okay, mansion—has almost too many to count: Now in its fourth year, the Palm Beach offshoot of the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse, the most prestigious designer showcase in the country, opened today. Displaying the work of 24 top designers from all over the country, the home is a total knockout. From genius storage ideas to inventive wallcoverings, window treatments, and outdoor spaces, there's a design idea for every style—and then some. Read on for our favorite details.

Planning a trip to Palm Beach? Book IRL tickets to the show here—all proceeds benefit the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club and the Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County.



Wallpaper Your Ceiling!

While this dining room by Beth Diana Smith has no shortage of texture and color (the walls are covered in a Maya Romanoff paper that includes flecks of mica), she upped the ante with a showstopping ceiling, featuring a bold pattern by The Vale London set within a coffered ceiling painted a glossy aqua hue. Talk about looking up!



Make Your Walls 3D

For a one-of-a-kind entryway, Craig & Company didn't stop with custom painted walls: Working with MJ Atelier, they affixed seashells to the walls surrounding doorways for a modern take on coastal style and a stunning, 3D effect.



Tent Your Bedroom

Love the coziness of a canopy bed? Take it to the next level with a room canopy as Ashley Gilbreath did here. Bonus: Drapery around the room will cover any imperfections in the walls or awkward window placements, and they'll absorb sound for a restful night's sleep.



Mix Wallpapers

If Andrea Schumacher's bathroom tells us one thing, it's that there's no such thing as too much pattern—especially when you stick to one color family. The designer's cool blue palette makes 4+ patterns look cohesive, layered, and chic.



Treat Your Exterior Like Your Interior

In her dreamy, retro Palm Beach-inspired patio, Amanda Reynal incorporated textural details like a sisal rug, rattan tables, and a chandelier—all elements you might not typically see al fresco. Thanks to surrounding curtains by The Shade Store, though, her chic space is protected from the elements—and enclosed enough to make it a cozy, inviting hangout.



Don't Be Afraid of Bright Colors

Inspired by her favorite tropical locales (Marrakech, Costa Rica, the Côte d'Azur, and Palm Beach), Catherine M. Austin created a guest suite bursting with color (including walls clad in paper by Voutsas x CW Stockwell). But the most surprising element may be the jolt of kelly green on two unexpected locations: the kitchen hood and the ceiling. The effect is a cheerful transport to the jungle.



Play With Texture

Another 3D treatment we love? The puffy “clouds” on the ceiling in this kids’ room by Damour Drake. The ceiling treatment is kid-friendly without being childish.



Rethink Trim

In a room without trim or molding, Chris Goddard presented an alternative, hanging painted fabric and adding a graphic ceiling treatment to give the room a modern texture.



Deck Out Your Outdoors

Who needs a living room if you've got a poolside like this? Janie Molster didn't stop at lounge chairs for her outdoor space, but offered up a variety of seating including benches, poufs, armchairs, and even a sectional—to ensure comfort during any outdoor activity.



Lacquer Your Ceiling

Another incredible ceiling treatment: glossy lacquer, which instantly draws the eye up, reflects light, and makes a small space—like this jewel box of a bar by Jim Dove—appear bigger and more open.



Build in Your Bed

Joy Street Design's Kelly Finley brings a whole new meaning to "bedroom set" with her room, which features a bed, bench, and nightstands all in one piece—with quartz built in for texture and a place to set your bedside water. Upholstering it in velvet gives a sense of lush coziness.



Light With Multiples

Instead of turning to one large pendant, Nikki Levy made a statement with a line of small sconces running the length of her graphic bathroom, creating a kind of light source-meets-art treatment.



Switch Up Your Shades

There's lots to love in Noz Nozawa's lounge (graphic Porter Teleo wallpaper, playful toile curtains by Sasha Bikoff, and that fringed daybed!), but our favorite detail just might be the twin Soane Britain sconces, which Nozawa outfitted with mismatched wicker shades, giving them an unexpected twist.



Add Texture With Lattice

Paloma Contreras gave her sunny sitting room instant depth with a trellis covering a grasscloth wall. A modern grid shape updates the trellage from the more traditional diamond, making it the perfect pair to other modern-meets-classic details, like the simple slipper chairs in a leafy fabric, clean take on valances, and touches of rattan.



Create a Room Around a Fireplace

An outdoor fireplace becomes its own room, with Pearl Design Interiors's addition of a rug to define space, a few seating arrangements, and a bar cart pulled up to a grill.



Layer, Layer, Layer

Peter Pennoyer presented a (quite literally) layered interior, with a small, ornate rug laid over a larger neutral carpet to define the space, and a round antique mirror hung atop a larger square one above the mantel for added depth. Even the textural grasscloth walls got extra love with handpainted branches.



Mix Your Cabinetry

Why choose between a light, bright kitchen and a moody dark wood one when you can have the best of both worlds? Bakes & Kropp Fine Cabinetry paired dark wood panels with white (connecting them visually with matching brass hardware) for a look that bridges modern and traditional.



Design Upwards

Yet another unconventional ceiling design: This one by Philip Gorrivan is made of foam shapes (!) that were lacquered and stuck to the ceiling, providing an extra element to a room that's short on space.



Use a Folding Screen for a Wall

Want a little extra depth in a small space? Employ a folding screen, as Robert Brown did here—the undulating effect is far more interesting than a flat wall, especially with an abstract pattern on it.



Hang Over Fabric

Opting for a tented room (or an upholstered wall) doesn't mean you have to forego art—Sarah Bartholomew hung prints, mirrors, and drawings over her fabric-clad walls.



Create a Room With Fabric

In a charming closet room by The Lewis Design Group, a deep valance creates the effect of a sectioned-off vanity without having to add any walls (and offers a graphic textile counterpart to painted walls by Aqualille).



Swap a Sofa for a Swing

The centerpiece in Tiffany Brooks's room is a swinging daybed (a piece she actually sketched for a client). Here, it serves the same function as a sofa, but with more levity—and a playful canopy shape, echoed in the Shade Store window treatments.



Use Greenery to Define Outdoor Space

Who would want a fence when you can encircle your outdoor dining area with lush, native greenery, like Bell Design, Inc. did here. Plus, it's way better for the environment.



Carve Out an Office

Tish Mills's room was initially designated as a guest room, but the designer reclaimed it as a cozy office, proving a WFH setup can be pretty, art-filled, and cozy, too.