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PHOTO BY GORDON M. GRANT

GLOBAL GLAM

A WORLD OF DESIGN COMES TO THE HAMPTONS E6

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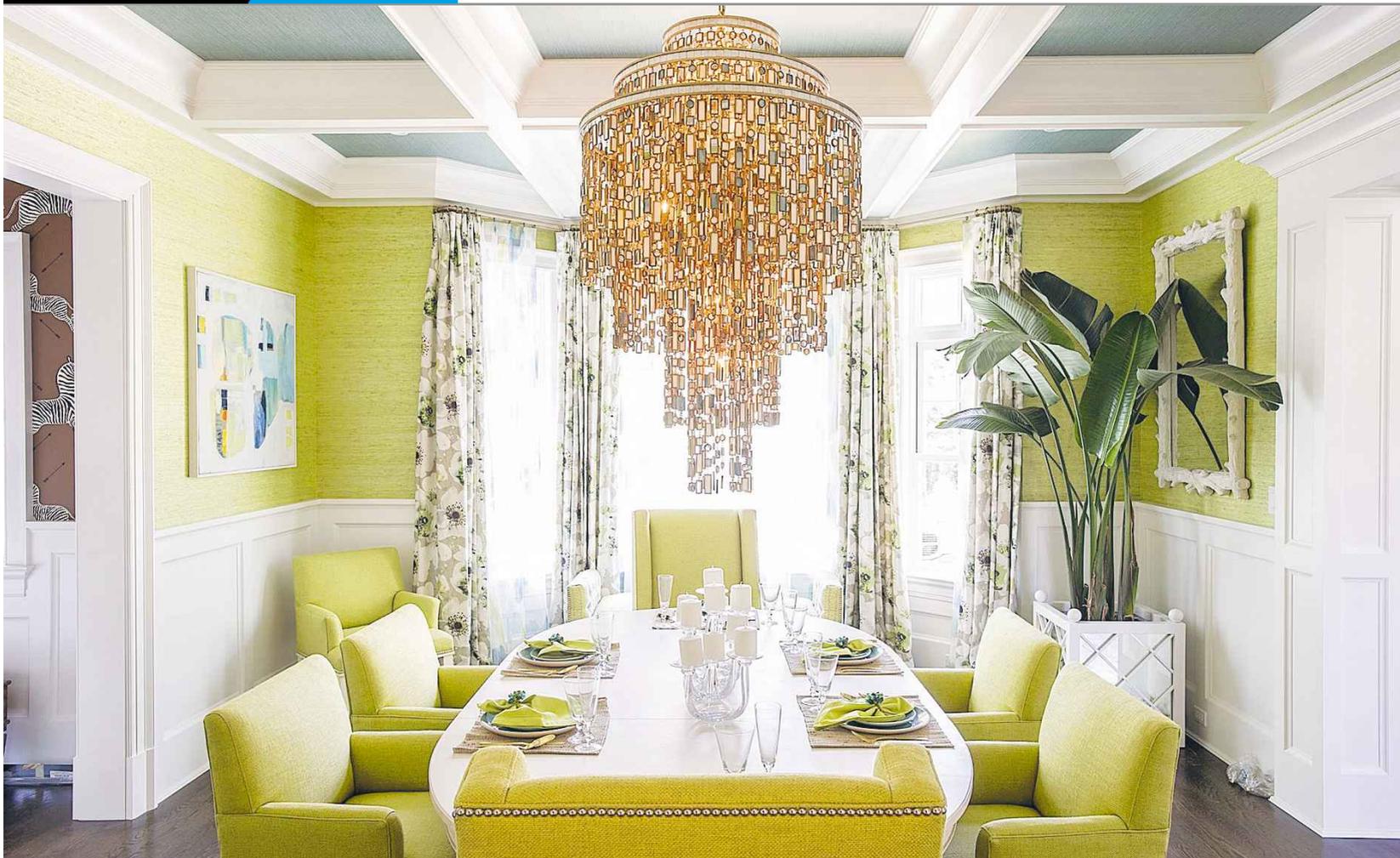
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PHOTOS BY GORDON M. GRANT

gilding & grass cloth

Hamptons
showhouse
spotlights
the shiny
and serene

BY LISA CHAMOFF
Special to Newsday

At this year's Hampton Designer Showhouse, decorators drew inspiration from both Long Island's natural beauty and the vivid colors and patterns of faraway lands. Together, they came up with the ultimate summer getaway at the shingle-style Bridgehampton mansion, which opens to the public with a gala this weekend.

The showhouse contrasts spaces that are serene and soothing with those that make bold, shiny statements. Most of the designers aimed to create living areas that are sophisticated but livable. Many of the looks can be replicated with some simple, inexpensive DIY touches.

NATURAL LOOK

Grass cloth is a big trend for 2013, and Skye Kirby Westcott and Tina Anastasia of Connecticut-based Lillian August, who recently opened a store in Manhattan's Flatiron District, use it to cover the walls in the very green formal dining room. It's part of a bigger use of natural materials in general, says Tony Manning, showhouse marketing chairman. Many of the rooms use both small and very large seashells as accent pieces, and there is a faux wood treatment on the wallpaper in the living room designed by Northport native Brian del Toro, and on the ceiling in an upstairs sitting room/natural man cave by Bradley Stephens. "There are a lot of things that relate back to nature, either color-wise or texture," Manning says.

DIY TIP Shells are fairly abundant — and free. This is Long Island, after all.





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GILDED AGE

Connecticut designer Lynne Scalo was inspired by "The Great Gatsby," which director Baz Luhrmann brought to the big screen this spring, to make an upstairs lounge shine and to capitalize on the latest home design trend. "I was inspired by the elegance and the over-the-topness, and the gold, and the silver," says Scalo, who brought in a curved gold bench accented with large, brightly patterned pillows, and a touch of gold lacquer on the ceiling. On the walls are pieces of modern art, including one bold sculpture of crumpled silvery metal. A pair of wicker chairs with white, furry cushions tone down the bling.

DIY TIP To get a similar look, Scalo suggests painting the walls white and hanging some gold frames around the room. Fill them with family photos, or cut out pictures of luxury brands from magazines to make a graphic statement. You also could find an old piece of furniture and spray paint it gold.

LOW MAINTENANCE

For her informal sitting and dining areas, Patricia Fisher brought in "durable, user-friendly items." Instead of flowers, the centerpiece of the circular dinner table is a giant shell planted with cacti and succulents, which need to be watered only once a month and are very much on trend. "They're great summer plants," says Fisher, who works in New York and East Hampton.



DIY TIP Succulents can grow in just about anything, so it's easy and fairly inexpensive to be creative.

SOME WORK, MOSTLY PLAY

The only hint that Port Washington designer Keith Baltimore's room is an office is the whitewashed desk on one side. Otherwise, a big, rose-colored linen sofa and soft window treatments that evoke a summer dress dominate the space. The vaulted part of the ceiling is painted with calming silver and white stripes. Baltimore, who recently opened a showroom in Sag Harbor, said he wanted to give the workroom a St. Bart's vibe, and that he thinks interior design is "softening up" a bit. You're supposed to be on vacation when you are in the Hamptons, after all. "It's a combination of formality and really casual at the same time," Baltimore says. "It's a very Hamptons visual."

DIY TIP Baltimore whitewashed the brown Hickory Chair desk himself. Get the same effect with a less expensive piece of furniture using a mixture of paint and water.

OUTDOOR ESCAPE

The trend of bringing the indoors out continues, and Bronxville designer Ken Games took a few of-the-moment colors to the backyard patio. The long table is a dark brown and the cushions are white with an earthy, gray-brown trim, with tableware in seafoam green and coral. "Those colors say 'summer,'" Games says. Using neutrals as a base allows people to bring in different accent colors next season.

DIY TIP

Set the space up like an indoor room, complete with art hung on the outside walls. The furniture doesn't have to be expensive, but it should be comfortable and inviting. "You don't want to come out and go and sit on a teak sofa or bench," Games says.



If you go

WHAT The 2013 Hampton Designer Showhouse, a benefit for Southampton Hospital

WHEN | WHERE Opens with a gala preview cocktail party from 6 to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow, then opens to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week starting Sunday, through Sept. 2, at 990 Brick Kiln Rd., Bridgehampton (use Sag Harbor for GPS navigation systems).

INFO Gala tickets are \$225 each; entry starting Sunday is \$35, which includes a showhouse journal; no strollers, infants, children younger than 6 or pets allowed; 631-808-3008 or hamptondesignersshowhouse.com.

Showhouse for sale

ASKING PRICE \$5.8 million
SQUARE FOOTAGE 11,800 square feet

LOT SIZE 5.1 acres
STYLE Newly constructed shingle-style home

FEATURES Seven bedrooms, 7½ bathrooms, 10- to 28-foot ceilings, a fully furnished lower level with a wine cellar and a movie theater with a large screen, and geothermal and solar power. Outside is a 50-foot-long gunite pool with a water sun bed and 10-person spa, a fireplace and a tennis court.

LISTING AGENT Frank Bodenchak, Saunders & Associates, 917-968-9020



ON THE COVER The Moorish-patterned wallpaper inspired Barbara Page's bedroom decor.

GOING GLOBAL

Manhattan-based designer Barbara Page decided to create a bedroom for her 18-year-old daughter, who will soon be heading off to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. The room is designed around the Moorish-patterned wallpaper. The purple drapes and the bed upholstered in green velvet create a color scheme appropriate for a sophisticated, well-traveled teenager, or young adult, who may be returning to the nest. "I wanted a sophisticated, playful, restful retreat when she comes home," says Page, who also has a house in Southampton. "It's not a young girl's room." A recent trip to Morocco also inspired Sherrill Canet, based in Locust Valley and Manhattan. Her sitting room includes a laser-cut aluminum panel with geometric shapes over the window instead of a curtain, and mirrors in bone and ebony.

DIY TIP Make a room personal by including special tokens from your travels. One of Page's inexpensive design elements is a shell from Santorini in Greece. "You want them to tell a story," Page says.



A sitting room by Sherrill Canet at the Showhouse