

Palm Beacher Jim Dove offers a shot of glamour in his Kips Bay show house bar

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The fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs will be open for tours March 5 through April 3 at a 1920s home in the Old Northwood neighborhood.

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For his room in this year's Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach, interior designer and Palm Beach resident Jim Dove is offering a visual ode to the Monkey Bar — the longtime Manhattan establishment at Hotel Elysee that closed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Palm Beach resident's work will be on view at the show house, which opens Saturday at a historic home in the Old Northwood neighborhood in West Palm Beach.

Dove, who runs Jim Dove Design showrooms on South Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach and in Short Hills, New Jersey, adapted the Monkey Bar's primate theme as he planned his room in the show house.

While the New York Monkey Bar had hand-painted murals of monkeys created by caricaturist Charlie Wala, Dove's rendition features "Deco Monkeys," a hand-painted DeGournay wallpaper that was his inspiration.



"In my designs I love using color, and I love DeGournay's work," Dove said. "I wanted to do something tropical with tropical colors — and people love animals. I wanted to do something that people would find unique. Then I discovered this wallpaper, and I began to fly."

Dove is among 23 designers from across the country who have transformed rooms and the grounds of the 1923 house on Spruce Avenue, which is known to locals simply as "The Mansion."

The fundraiser benefits Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in The Bronx in New York City. The West Palm Beach project made its debut in late 2017 as a satellite of the venerable Kips Bay Decorator Show House in New York.

For Dove's bar — an 11-by-11-foot space — his goal was to create a glamorous spot for sipping while celebrating the ending of the day.

In addition to the wallpaper, he custom-designed a glowing bar crafted from Cristallo Sunshine quartzite from Primastones and fabricated by Granite & Marble Factory.



Other items in the room include a Kohler faceted Brinx bar sink; barstools from LeJeune Upholstery, covered in Groves Bros.' "Sally," a hand-screened cotton; and cantaloupe-colored silk-taffeta curtains by The Shade Store, trimmed with Samuel & Sons decorative taping.

Overhead is an Art Deco-style Sillage chandelier from Currey & Co., while underfoot is a Starke carpeting with a classic antelope-skin pattern.

With 32 years in the design industry — and 25 years focused on kitchen design — Dove has created plenty of bars and bathrooms. He holds a master's degree in architecture from University of California, Los Angeles, has appeared on NBC and HGTV, and has seen his work published in numerous design publications.

He described his design approach this way: “A kitchen is a highly technical space, and it helps (in my kitchen design) being an architect. It’s like building a house within a house. As an architect, I first respond to the architecture of the home and to the wants and desires of each of my clients. If there’s already decoration in place, I will respond to that. If not, I will create a physical environment (to reflect) what my clients have in mind, my past experiences and the physical environment and quality of light.”





Dove is a Kips Bay show house alumna: He took part in the 2019 fundraiser in New York. His work also was seen in last fall's Hampton Designer Showhouse. In New Jersey, he's participated in six Mansion in May Designer Showhouses, and a couple of Stately Homes-by-the-Sea Designer Show Houses.

"I love design, and I like to show my work, and a show house is a living advertisement," he explained. "Everything I do is (in) private (residences or buildings), so it's nice for people to see a designer's work in person."



The home that is hosting the fundraiser was the site of at least one previous show house, back in 2012 when the American Red Cross sponsored the annual events. After the Red Cross ended its show houses, Kips Bay officials filled the void, opening their first project in West Palm Beach in late 2017.

The house was previously the home of former West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio and her husband, Charles. In June, the Muoios sold the house to a married couple, Stephen Quinnant and Romina Polanco.



Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the two-story house was built in 1923 by Orrin Randolph and is the largest original home in the neighborhood on the north end of the city. The residence presides over three lots totaling about a half-acre on land once occupied by a pineapple plantation. The house also has been a frequent stop on annual holiday home tours sponsored by the Northwood homeowners' association.

The house, Dove said, has provided the participating designers with plenty of opportunities for creative expression.

"It's a Mediterranean-style (home) with nice natural light, so you can pack a punch of color. I am seeing (rooms with) a lot of texture, an organic outdoorsy vibe, a lot of hand-painted wallpaper — and there's probably a bar in every room."



Home bars, he added, “have become a big thing” for people who have spent more time than ever at home during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Since they were not going out, they wanted something wonderful in their house. For a long time, bars were seen as decadent, but now they are beautiful little jewel boxes within the house, which is what I am doing at Kips Bay.”

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IF YOU GO: The Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach at 3001 Spruce Ave. in West Palm Beach will open daily for in-person tours March 5 and continue through April 3. General admission tickets are \$40, available in advance, while virtual-tour tickets are \$20. A by-special-ticket-only “preview day” will take place today. For tickets and more information about the fundraiser, visit KipsBayDecoratorShowhouse.org/PBPlanYourVisit.