

Room salutes Lilly Pulitzer in Kips Bay show house in W. Palm Beach

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ENTERTAINMENT

Designer Reynal salutes Lilly Pulitzer at the new Kips Bay show house in West Palm Beach

Decorator Amanda Reynal's "Lilly Pad" room pays homage to the late fashion icon at the new Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach, open for tours at a house off Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach.

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Special to Palm Beach Daily News

- Interior decorator Amanda Reynal has designed a room called "The Lilly Pad" for the Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach, inspired by the late fashion icon Lilly Pulitzer.
- The room features fabrics and a wallcovering from Lee Jofa's new Lilly Pulitzer collection.
- The show house, which benefits The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in New York City, will open to the general public Feb. 22 in West Palm Beach.

At the latest Kip's Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach, interior decorator Amanda Reynal has designed a library with the late Lilly Pulitzer in mind.

"I'm calling it 'The Lilly Pad,'" Reynal says, happy to pay homage to the Palm Beach fashion icon, who at her death in 2013 went by her married name, Lilly Pulitzer Rousseau.

Reynal's room will feature products licensed under the Lilly Pulitzer brand.

"I am so honored to have been invited by Lilly Pulitzer for Lee Jofa to use their new line, which launches this spring and will be unveiled in my room. I selected fabrics and wall coverings from this new collection and created a whimsical wonderland that feels livable and timeless," says Reynal, whose firm, Amanda Reynal Interiors, has locations in West Palm Beach and West Des Moines, Iowa.

Reynal's room will be on view when the show house opens to the general public Feb. 22 for three weeks of tours of designer-decorated rooms at a historic house facing the lakefront on North Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach.

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Reynal recalls, as a child, visiting the Lilly Pulitzer shop on Via Mizner in Palm Beach with her mother and sister.

"Her summer dresses were the mainstay of our summer wardrobe, and we collected her little beanbag animals. There was also a Lilly store in (New York's) Locust Valley, Long Island in the town where I grew up," Reynal says.

A resident of West Palm Beach, Reynal is a long-time visitor to Palm Beach, where her mother and stepfather, Nancy and Ed Madden, have a home on Brazilian Avenue. Reynal moved to South Florida a few years ago from West Des Moines, keeping her studio there and establishing a Palm Beach County office on South Dixie Highway last year. She also has a historic home in Onteora, New York.

“There’s a joyful feeling when you get off the plane and arrive in Palm Beach. Crossing over the middle bridge immediately inspired my mood growing up, and I couldn’t wait to move,” she says.

Reynal also is an advocate of The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, so the Palm Beach show house is especially important to her: The fundraiser, in its eighth year, jointly benefits The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in New York City.

Reynal is among 26 design professionals participating in the project, and this year’s edition marks a return visit for her. She took part in the 2022 project and is a committee member for the Kips Bay Designer Bash fundraiser.

“The Kips Bay show house is an overwhelmingly gratifying experience — to complete a space out of my imagination out of nothing,” she says. “It’s very challenging; the timeline is short, and resources can be limited. But it’s my opportunity as a creative (professional) to show what a space can be and realize my vision without any parameters besides being assigned to a room.”

With an art history degree from Connecticut’s Trinity College, Reynal learned her trade at the New York School of Interior Design while working at Cullman & Kravis, a design firm in Manhattan. But she credits her mother for instilling in her a love of design.

“My mother has a beautiful household and entertains impeccably. I was always inspired by how she created a *joie de vivre* for our home and for everyone around her,” she says.

Reynal’s Lilly Pad is positioned just beyond the main staircase on the first floor of the red-brick house, which was also [the site of a 2009 show house sponsored by the American Red Cross](#).

The original room wasn’t quite what she expected, Reynal notes.

“It was called “the library,” but there was not a single bookcase,” Reynal says. “I think it was set up as a home office with two TVs on the walls.”

When designing her room, she started by selecting the wall covering — with a pattern of nearly life-size palm trees — and built the scheme around it.

“When I was poring over the new collection, I felt inspired and excited, and I was most intrigued by the grass-cloth printed wallpaper, which is a fresh take on a traditional concept,” she says.

A natural woven rug with a simple design serves as a counterpart to the grasscloth wallcovering, she says, and windows are framed with saturated kelly-green draperies made from a Brunschwig & Fils fabric and embellished with white-embroidered Lilly Pulitzer tape

trim.

“All the other fabrics — even the solids — are Lilly’s,” Reynal says. “I am hoping to show that in order for the space to feel Palm Beachy and vibrant, it doesn’t need to be covered in (fabrics featuring) florals. There are actually no florals at all in the room, which is unusual for me. I used a very fun, pineapple print on a pair of vintage chairs, and the sofas are covered in a blue-and-green woven strié that pulls colors from the wallpaper and the prints.”

The artwork in the room also has connections to the Pulitzer legacy: A photograph by Chris Leidy, one of Pulitzer Rousseau’s grandchildren, will be featured, as well as two ceramic tortoise shells made by her daughter, Minnie Pulitzer.

Both Lilly Pulitzer Rousseau and Reynal attended the famous Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Connecticut, and the show house room includes, of all things, a nod to alumni — a small collection of Battersea boxes with daisies incorporate sayings of Miss Porter’s.

“The boxes are borrowed from my roommate’s mom, who also went to school there,” Reynal says.

To see more photos of Amanda Reynal’s work, click on the photo gallery near the top of this page.

IF YOU GO

The Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach will be open to the general public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily Feb. 22 to March 16 at 1125 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. General admission is \$50 via advance ticket purchase and \$60 at the door if available. Ticket and admission details are available at KipsBayDecoratorShowHouse.org.

OTHER DESIGN FIRMS AT THE SHOWHOUSE

In addition to Amanda Reynal Interiors, the roster of design firms participating in this year’s Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach includes Amal Kapen Interiors, B.Berry Interiors, Bierly Drake and Steele, Inc., Caroline Gidiere Design, David Mitchell Brown, Garden 26 Landscape Design and House of Clark Interiors.

Also participating are Indigo Pruitt Design Studio, Kristin Paton Interiors, Laure Nell Interiors, Leta Austin Foster & Daughters Inc., Louise W. Cronan Interior Decoration, Mally Skok Design, Marshall Watson & Reid Deane Ganes, Meg Lonergan Interiors and MONIOMI Design.

Rounding out the list are Nellie Howard Ossi Interiors, Nikki Levy Interiors, Oxford Design, Rajni Alex Design, Robin Henry Studio and Shakoor Inc.

