

HOME DECORATING

Local Artistry Featured at Designer Showcase

• **VICTORIA CROSBY**

Several local designers and businesses were featured last year at the Mill Neck Manor Designer Showcase and Holiday Mansion, presented by *Mansions and Millionaires Inc.* The Music Room designed by Susan Bloom of Locust Valley, 2009's winner of Notable Designer at La Selva Designer's Showcase, featured a six foot two inch piano on loan from Rick Smith of The Piano Exchange in Glen Cove. The piano was displayed on a raised area in an alcove surrounded by leaded glass windows. The unique mahogany Steinway, which has twelve legs, has a fascinating history. Built in 1900, it was hand painted by Everett Shinn in 1906 in an 18th Century style for famous playwright Clyde Fitch and is worth over a million dollars today. (In the 1930s it was featured in an edition of *Arts and Decoration Magazine*.) A harp was the only other instrument in the room and it, too, was on loan from The Piano Exchange. Safavieh in Glen Cove was the resource for the lovely furnishings in the large room which was decorated for relaxing and listening to music on fine instruments.

Eva Karsai, of Eva Art & Design Inc. of Glen Cove, painted a lovely mural of the formal gardens which made you feel as though you were actually looking out on to a terrace leading down to an expanse of lawn with flowers, birds and butterflies. The room Eva said "is inspired by the balustrade terraces and gardens of Mill Neck Manor and provides a calm and tranquil refuge."

Roland Cotter-Kroboth, who started his design company with his late partner Robert Cotter in 1970, decorated the large dining room. Each room had a theme and this room was Living with Antiques featuring magnificent English, French, Scottish, and Asian antiques and objet

d'art, of marble, bronze, jade and lapis lazuli and included an oil painting by James Webb (1825-1895) "View of the Greenwich Naval Hospital" hangs over a sideboard. The table was decorated with antique porcelain birds, and a silver Tiffany candelabrum. A French Malachite and ormolu antique clock was centered on the mantelpiece, and the side board was graced by an early 19th century French ormolu antique clock. (Note: ormolu was a method of mixing gold for decoration that was not used after 1830 because of the use of mercury in the process.)

Piazza Di Cappa's room was called The Blue Note featuring handcrafted Italian furniture in soft mellow neutral colors with accents of blue. Willow of Locust Valley's room was the Architect's Study, which features four hand painted renderings of world renown architectural buildings including The GE Building at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. The furnishings are industrial in origin. Anita Widder's room, A Floral Affair, was a floral designers study, featuring flowers and antiques.

Mansions and Millionaires has been bringing Designer Showcase events to the public for thirty nine years in a variety of venues including; mansions, castles, and this inspirational event was to benefit the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Learning Center.

When planning to decorate and design your own home, these local artists will be able to help turn your home into a showcase.