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Section F

REVIEW | *San Francisco Decorator Showcase*



Photos by KATY RADDATZ / The Chronicle

Eating and reading are equally at home in the treasure-filled "dining library" designed for the showcase by Douglas Durkin (pictured) with Greg Elich.

Designers' creativity fueled by arts, culture

With no client ordering them around and holding them to a budget, showcase designers sometimes take inspiration from other arts. Or they find they miss having a client and so they invent one.

Here are a few inspired examples of creativity at this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase:

► Steven Miller took his blue and white color cues from the home's Beaux Arts style and bay view, but as he researched 20th century French style, the 1946 Jean Cocteau film "Beauty and the Beast" struck his fancy. So he has a bust of star Jean Marais on the cabinet, white pilaster "tables" from Benjamin Stork aside the bed. "I found that era so rich with inspiration," Miller said.

► When decorative painter Katherine Jacobus was awarded a tiny alcove of a first-floor powder room, a Buddhist monk's story called "The River" inspired an exotic mural of gold bridges, temples and other chinoiserie-style images over a deep, rich green base. She added three hand-painted and antiqued mirrors over the sink for the most dramatic bathroom at the showcase.

► A dreamy fictional scenario sets the stage for Catherine Macfee's "Artists' Retreat," where invented characters France-

Catherine Macfee chats with fellow designer Trey Reed in her "Artists' Retreat," at right. Below, wallpaper is used on a screen in a bedroom designed by Steven Miller.



ERIC LUSE / *The Chronicle*



KATY RADDATZ / *The Chronicle*

sca and Nathaniel are reunited after Nathaniel's latest expedition. The room itself is dreamy, one of the most memorable of the showcase, with bookcases and niches of burnt bamboo, backed in a deep brownish

red and filled with exotic artifacts. The darkness of the room — which has two easels for the painters — makes it seem impractical for artists, but it's immensely appealing as a retreat.

► Caitlin Moran's mind's eye saw the image of Clarissa Sloan Huffington at the desk of the green and lavender "Her Office," and created a space where visitors will want to inspect such details as invitations on the ribbon board, certificates on the wall, and notes on the fax machine and desk to find out more about Clarissa — Harvard undergrad, Yale law grad, Wharton business grad, synchronized swimmer, mixed-doubles badminton champ and . . . sharpshooter!

— Susan Fornoff