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**Kelly
Wearstler's
Decorating
Wallop**



San Francisco Decorator Showcase's Sparkling Opening Nights When Top Designers Dish Directoire

By Diane Dorrans Saeks. Photography Caroline Kopp.

“T his is my favorite decorator showcase in many years,” said **Randolph**

Arczynski, as he swept through the throng at the first of this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase's two opening nights. “The decorating has a playful edge and a light touch that's perfect for today. It's not ‘dress to impress’ or heavily traditional. San Francisco design is truly looking forward instead of embracing the past. It's refreshing to see so many talented new designers.” Interior designer **Charles de Lisle**, who created the dreamy dining room, and designer **Geoff De Sousa** were pleased to receive his imprimatur during the opening festivities. Arczynski has been a treasured advisor to the showcase since its inception. Now in its 28th year, the Decorator Showcase and both opening night events benefit student financial aid at San Francisco University High School. The area's top designers created majestic, spare and theatrical rooms in a Presidio Heights manse and then threw open the doors for public viewing.

Martha Angus' romantic sitting room was one of the most popular in the house. Glorious green hand-painted de Gournay wallpaper served as a dramatic backdrop for shocking pink silk gift boxes, stacks of art books and a dramatic Ellsworth Kelly drawing from the John Berggruen Gallery.

“I've always wanted to use this wallpaper from de Gournay,” said Angus, who first encountered the exquisite paper when she was working on Estée Lauder's office, high above Central Park in New York. Angus' room was

rococo writing desk from Ed Hardy San Francisco was a poetic black-and-white photograph of a French scene by Angus' talented husband, **Christopher Flach**. On the center table stood a Jeff Koons ceramic puppy, from her private art collection.

In the master bedroom, **Angela Free** combined an elegant chair from Hedge with light-as-air linen window coverings made by David Dawson's custom sewing workroom. Designer **Grant K. Gibson** gathered chic vintage little black dresses by Givenchy, Balenciaga, Halston, and Chanel from The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles for his graphic black-and-white atelier. He also borrowed the cream of the crop of antiques from Urban Chateau and Antique & Art Exchange. The effect was so dreamy that many visitors lingered to watch *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (LBDs were at their best on Audrey Hepburn) playing on a Jetson Systems TV screen that cleverly doubled as one of the room's mirrors.

This was also the year designers fully embraced mid-century modern classics. Crystal-base Rat Pack-style lamps and shimmering gold Paco Rabanne-esque chandeliers were borrowed from Benjamin Storck's SoMa gallery, which was stripped of many of its treasures for the duration of the showcase.

Steven Volpe, **Dede Wilsey**, **Birgit Hall** and **Bill Hughes**, **Ed Hardy**, **Malin Giddings**, **Kendall Wilkinson**, **Suzanna Allen**, **David Kensington**, **David Duncan Livingston** and **Elizabeth Cutler**, **Kay Kimpton** and **Sandy Walker**, and **Willem Racké** were among the design fans checking out the chintz. “The designs are truly inspired,” noted art collector **Lindsay Joost**.



Emily & Roth Martin



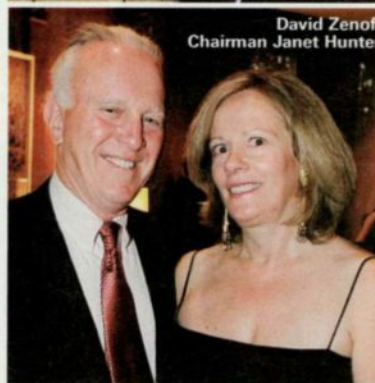
Dede Wilsey



Angela Free



Charles de Lisle
Laura Pacchini



David Zenoff
Chairman Janet Hunter

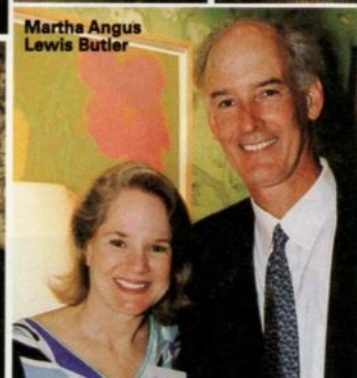


Grant Gibson
Ariele Senara



Christel Heinelt
Melanie Coddington

Shelley
Gordon



Martha Angus
Lewis Butler