



IT'S SHOW

TIME!

Area designers donate their time and stylish skills to the 2008 Red Cross Designers' Show House.

By Jennifer Math
Photography Submitted



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A SHOWHOUSE TO SHOWCASE the scope of a designer's imagination and creativity. And this year's American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter Designers' Show House in Fort Lauderdale proved no different. With two styles (and houses) to choose from – contemporary or traditional – more than 35 designers exercised *carte blanche* in their designated space. And we chose four of the most inspiring and exquisite spaces to highlight – each with something that can speak to anyone's style. With trends including pops of color and Spanish-inspired décor, each room had its own personality and flare, while still blending seamlessly with the rest of the house.



VIEWING PLEASURE

Inspired by the Alhambra Palace in Granada, the breathtaking mural in the dining room is just one example of the strong Spanish influence resonating throughout the Classic House. Created by **Dana Donaty** of Dana Donaty Designs in Delray Beach, the elaborate artwork was based off a photo Donaty took while living in Granada, and adapted to flow with the rest of the room's neutral color scheme and majestic aesthetic.

The custom mural, which was created with architectural coatings and tinted glazes, was velcroed to the pre-existing mirror – making it easily removable when the showhouse comes to an end. And the Mosque-like shape is also mimicked in the silhouette of the chairs. With the help of fellow ASID designers Anabel Peicher of A.P. Designs Inc. and Monica Joyce of Interiors by Joyce, Donaty created a unique *al fresco* dining experience in a Moroccan-style setting. “It just seems that when everyone does a great job – and all the designers did – it just flows,” Donaty says.



DANADONATY | BLACKBOOK

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

Baker Knapp and Tubbs, Dania
Drexel Heritage, Boca Raton

AREA RUG

Amini Rug Gallery, Fort Lauderdale

TABLESCAPE

Carroll's Jewelers, Fort Lauderdale

FABRICS

Robert Allen, Dania

LIGHTING

Wired Custom Lighting, Dania



michael



payne

Michael Payne, interior designer, author and host of HGTV's "Designing for the Sexes," was the honorary chair for the second annual American Red Cross, Broward County Chapter Designers' Show House. He met with us to share his insights on upcoming trends in interior design.

This year, the Red Cross decorated two homes – one contemporary and one traditional. Payne noted his favorite was the contemporary home, and that most men would feel the same. "Often men favor more contemporary design with gadgetry, electronics, etc., but women prefer more romantic, traditional design with tassels and 'stuff.' Women want homey, cozy – they want to feel embraced," he said. "Men don't need that."

"I am seeing more interest in Islamic design – Arabic and Moroccan. I love it as a subtle element."

"The use of new materials, like laminate cabinetry and glass tile walls, aluminum tile and metallic paint, is really exciting for design. Faux leathers and furs also – there's no need to kill any animals anymore."

"Understatement! Utilizing interesting textural and material mixes within limited color schemes provides an open, fresh and yet dimensionally interesting combination. The world is too noisy – even visually; subtle is calming," he said.

Payne also favors the trend of using extensive art throughout the home to lead the eye from one room to another, revealing interest at each turn. He also likes a room to contain little surprises, like laminate sheeting on a faux fireplace to create a modern chimney effect, or a shag area rug, hand-painted murals, exotic woods, and textured glass tiles that work together harmoniously, but individually provide artistic detail.

Payne is also a furniture designer, so it's no surprise one of his favorite details was the blue floating sofa that had been built into a wall niche and provided space below to stow its matching ottoman. Custom-designed furniture is an art unto itself.

"I have always felt Floridian design needed to move into more sophisticated design," he said, alluding to the ubiquitous pink flamingo, beach themes of the 1980s.

"Here, I found a level of sophistication that was quite refreshing." - Merri Grace McIeroy