

Stylish Solutions

What's New in the World of Design

By Ann McDonald



Mark D. Sikes' red gingham room.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

What do the Kip's Bay Decorator Show House, International Contemporary Furniture Faire, MoMA, Frieze Art Faire, Wanted Design and the National Stationery Show have in common? They are all parts of New York's Design Week, also referred to as NYCX or NYCXDesign, www.nycxdesign.com.

This month I am excited to share on point trends that you can implement this season as stylish suburbanites.

As my co-workers and I were being driven from openings to private parties we had to pinch ourselves. Design as a profession is usually hands-on hard work,

but for this week a group of 11 other women and I were sponsored by several larger brands to do nothing but attend and blog and post on social media. Dream time. During the entire trip, I was thinking about pieces that would translate into real life in Lamorinda.

Here are my top trends relevant to our Lamorinda lifestyle:

1) A return to traditional: Mark D. Sikes hit it out of the park with his red gingham room. From the upholstered walls layered with red painted moulding to the shaped wicker dining table and chairs, each element in his room easily translates into real life.

What I loved was his use of different pieces of furniture in a cohesive way. The room felt flexible. Armless banquettes settled in two corners, a simple side chair in another and my first thought was, brilliant! When the large dinner party night arrives, these could be pulled up to a fully extended table. For every day, you had several beautiful spaces and places to choose for

your morning coffee. It was stunning.

The other standout room in my opinion was the kitchen. Christopher Peacock designed the cabinets replete with custom brushed brass hardware; Dacor supplied the built-in appliances and Kohler the sinks and faucets.

Attention to detail and mix of surfaces appealed most to me. No boring white kitchen when you add plaid tile backsplash, live edge burl in one section of counter and face several individual drawers with cuts from the burl wood. Absolutely beautiful.

2) Real life arrangements: I noticed several consoles were layered with more realistic displays. It was as if someone actually lived there. Gone are the days with books piled so high you could never hope to read one next to a bust of some Greek icon you should know, but can't recall, and an oddity no one dares to ask about.

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Each year for the past 43 years, Kip's Bay has put on a Designer Show House. This year's kitchen featured a live edge burl wood counter.