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January-February 2013

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ROOMS WE LOVE

Engaging spaces created by New England designers
BY PAULA M. BODAH / PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL J. LEE

We can't imagine a house better suited for the **2012 Junior League of Boston Show House** than the Potter Estate in Newton, Massachusetts. The three-story mansion, built by John C. Potter in 1862, stands as a lovely example of Victorian Second Empire architecture. For the league's thirty-fifth show house, thirty-five of the region's very best designers turned their talents to the ten-bedroom house, working their magic from top to bottom with beautiful results.

1 SITTING ROOM

Michael Carter wrapped the sitting room in shades of warm gray accented with gold, silver and the crisp contrast of white, setting a perfect scene for classically inspired furniture and accessories. The result is a soothing, convivial space that glows with understated elegance and refinement.



2 LIVING ROOM

Classic and modern elements mix easily in **Paula McCusker and Kate McCusker's** living room. A palette of cream with bursts of blue makes a setting that's tranquil but hardly sedate. It's easy to imagine a couple in quiet conversation or a roomful of partygoers generating a lively buzz.



3 CONSERVATORY

Oh, to spend a sunny interlude in **Gerald Pomeroy's** conservatory! The designer made the most of the copious natural light and spectacular architecture, choosing a color scheme that complements the outdoor vistas and outfitting the space in a delightfully diverse collection of comfortable furniture and gracious antiques.



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4 GENTLEMAN'S LIBRARY

Scott Bell and Susan Schaub traveled back to an era well before e-readers in designing the luxuriously masculine library. With the carved mahogany mantel and bookcases and the elaborate ceiling as a backdrop, the duo added wallpaper in an elegant neoclassical design with a gold foliate motif that catches the light and echoes the gilded frames of the artwork. The larger scale pattern in the rugs adds a fresh update, while the carefully curated collection of furniture references periods from ancient Greece to nineteenth-century England.

5 DINING ROOM AND BUTLER'S PANTRY

Formal, yes, but hardly stuffy, **Kay McKallagat's** dining room is all dressed up in a sophisticated palette of cream and pale gray that offsets the dark woodwork. McKallagat used high-gloss paint on walls and ceiling to help the light bounce around the room. An airy stenciled design of vines and leaves by decorative painter John Coles is a beautiful finishing touch. The butler's pantry beyond is now a chic wet bar.



6 GUEST BATH

Janet Tosi Marena drew inspiration from the antique Arts and Crafts stained-glass window—a modern touch at the time this bathroom was last remodeled—to take the space another big step forward to the contemporary. The designer bridged the centuries, bringing together a streamlined tub, sink and faucets with the existing antique tile work, proving that old and new can coexist in happy harmony.



7 FRANK'S STUDY

Frank D. Hodge imagined a place where one can relax and focus, reading a favorite magazine or catching up on e-mails. He based the room's color scheme on the enchanting hand-printed linen fabric he chose for the drapes, repeating the fabric's taupe in the Venetian plaster on the walls. Butter-yellow upholstery made an unexpected, but very successful, match. A mix of antique and modern furniture and accessories add interest and a sense of history.

8 LA SALA DA BAGNO (BATHING ROOM)

The enigmatic photograph by Paulina Otylie Surys inspired the theatrical space designed by **Stephanie Rossi**. The large scale of the photograph helps ground the soaring ceilings, and the height of the space is further softened by the silvery sheer drapes. A fanciful drum shade and an oversize tufted ottoman are both functional and works of art.

9 MASTER BEDROOM

Kristen Rivoli's master bedroom is a luxurious getaway for her imaginary clients: a well-traveled couple with a romantic streak. Reminders of their adventures abound—in the canopy with its Moroccan-design trim, in the Moroccan lantern that hangs above the bed and in the antique French furniture and accessories. A Kyle Bunting hide rug is a masculine counterpoint to the feminine furnishings.

RESOURCES For information about these designers, see page 132.

