

SHOW ROOM

This eclectic master bedroom was designed for an annual showcase, but a real-life resident would love its spirit, equal parts regal and contemporary.

Design by **Diane Durocher**
Photography by **Peter Rymwid**
Text by **Haley Longman**

Diane Durocher of Diane Durocher Interiors in Ramsey says designing for a showcase like Splendor in September is “not for the faint of heart,” but she put her heart and soul into this master bedroom display at the historic Tyvan Hill in New Vernon, New Jersey. “There are a lot of pieces in this space that make it feel fresh and new,” she says.



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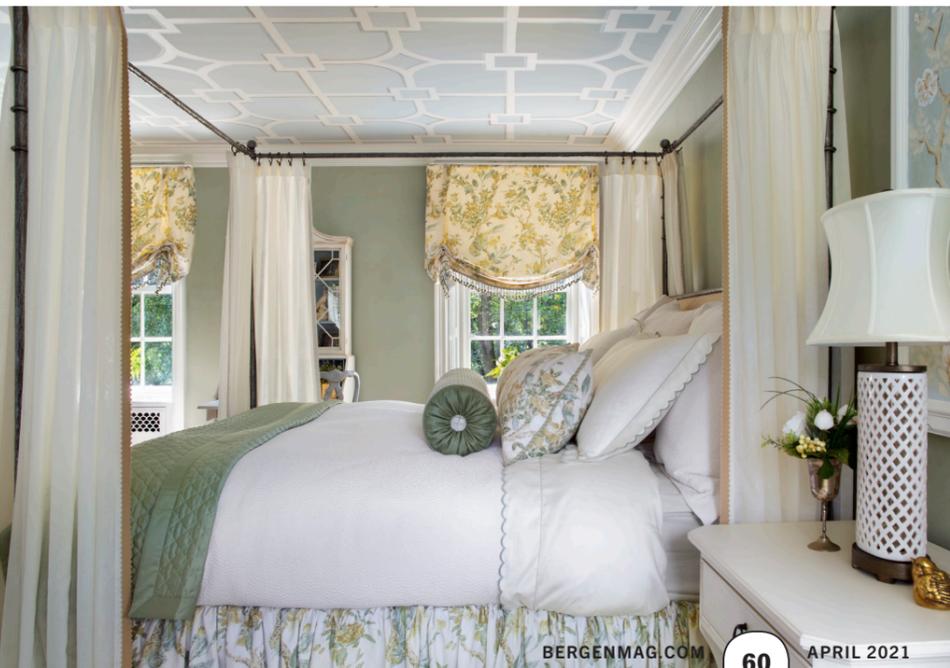
served as the springboard for the palette. “I wanted something fresh, something that seemed somewhat unexpected for a historic home,” the designer says. But she wanted to infuse youthfulness into the traditionalism too, so Master Interiors upholstered a contemporary cut velvet bergère chairs that flank the fireplace. Durocher also positioned a leopard-print bench from the same company at the foot of the bed to add a touch of whimsy. “It has that sense of fun but never goes out of style,” she says, “It’s a neutral tone, so it really can go anywhere.”

Another common thread in the master that pays tribute to the era is in the architectural details, the trellis pattern in particular. “I think it’s important to repeat a motif,” says the designer, “but in a way that is not so obvious.” The trellis is seen on the ceiling, on the radiator covers, on the bedside lamps by Chelsea House and on the screen for the fireplace.

And rather than establish one focal point in the room—though that painted ceiling by Studio 18 just may be a candidate—the Durocher team created numerous areas that celebrate the height of the room so that it didn’t seem so boxy and horizontal. That was done, for example, by adding molding to the fireplace, by repainting and glazing an antique secretary from the Chippendale era and opting for a transitional-style canopy bed from Old Biscayne Designs, which has a metal base and a woven footboard and headboard. “The bed is romantic, but it combines masculine and feminine,” she says. “And I loved the idea of softening the bed with sheers in the corner.”

Oh, and about that part where a showcase is exemplary of the designer’s talents, tastes and vision? Durocher says this one nails all that to a tee. “I love eclectic design that incorporates clean lines, and where I combine transitional or traditional pieces with more contemporary fabrics and accessories,” she says. “It’s my way of being a bit greener—I take something old and antique and give it a new life, and this project definitely represents that.”

This page: The trellis design, reminiscent of early 1900s architecture, was a motif the design team incorporated throughout the space, from the fireplace to the radiator covers. Window treatments from Steve’s Custom Drapery Shoppe in Haskell cozy up this window seat. Opposite page, top: Durocher chose contemporary art from Broadfoot and Broadfoot, Design Domain and Studio 18 to complement the room’s traditional stylings. Opposite page, bottom: There isn’t just one focal point in this bedroom, but the ceiling draws attention. “It beckons you to look up because it’s so interesting and detailed,” Durocher says.



Designing a room for a showhouse is different from designing a home for a client. It allows the designer free creative reign, the ability to incorporate stylistic elements that truly represent his or her aesthetic. And that’s what Diane Durocher of the eponymous Ramsey firm did when it came time to participate in the annual New Jersey designer showcase Splendor in September (known as Mansions in May before a COVID-related postponement in 2020). Durocher and her team have participated in this showcase five times before at Tyvan Hill, a 1928 New Vernon estate where it is held every year. For the 2020 display, she conceptualized a romantic master bedroom. She wanted the space to reflect her personal aesthetic, but also the aesthetic of a grand master bedroom reminiscent of the home’s construction in the Roaring Twenties.

The inspiration for the design was an archival Lee Jofa print called tresillian, which was used in the window treatment, the dust ruffle and the throw pillows and