



From left, David Chiarella of Creative Kitchens in Red Bank will redesign the kitchen of the Metcalf Estate; Judy King of Princeton has been chosen to design the library; and Ginny Padula of Toms River will turn the "refrigerator room" into an office.

Grand plan for a grand mansion

Designers are lined up to transform a Rumson estate for a May fundraiser.

By PATTI MARTIN STAFF WRITER

Now, it's time to get to work.

Although plans for the Stately Homes By-The-Sea designer show house have been ongoing for some time, it was just last month that designers were announced for the May event.

After welcoming remarks from show-house chairwomen B.J. Henderson and Mindy Minerva, it was time for the more than 35 designers to get up-close-and-personal with their spaces at the historic Metcalf Estate (now Scothigh Farm) in Rumson, the site of the show house. The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey will present the monthlong show.

Between now and May 1, designers will work to create warm, exciting, inviting spaces for the 11,000-square-foot home, the largest single-owner residential property in Rumson. The show house will be open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays from May 1 to 31.

"It's going to be very exciting, really spectacular," Henderson says.

About five years ago, Henderson, a longtime supporter and trustee of Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, visited a show house in Northern New Jer-



Pat Mills (left) of Little Silver, who will design the living room of the home, and Nancy Monserrat, director of development for VNA.

IF YOU GO

STATELY HOMES BY-THE-SEA SHOW-HOUSE

DETAILS: The event will take place May 1 to 31 at the historic Metcalf Estate (now Scothigh Farm), 142 Bingham Ave., Rumson. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (last ticket sold at 3 p.m.).

TICKET PRICES: \$35 general admission; \$25 advance sales.

MORE: A cafe on the grounds will be open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. A boutique will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

INFO: Call (732) 224-6791.



Grand

FROM PAGE D1

need to be available for a year and a generous homeowner would have to be willing to have his or her property transformed by a multitude of designers, craftsmen, landscape architects and artisans.

Additionally, the philanthropic recipient would have to be held in such high esteem that hundreds of volunteers would be eager and willing to give their time, energy and creativity to the project.

The search ends

After five years of looking for the right time and venue to initiate such a project, Henderson's vision of "Stately Homes By-the-Sea" was launched in conjunction with the celebration of the VNACJ's 95th anniversary.

Nancy Montserrat, director of development, and Danielle Barr, manager of special events, approached homeowner Nancy Mulheren about holding the show house at Scotchigh Farm. Mulheren agreed to open her estate house and farm, which encompasses more than 30 acres, for the show house.

"We are tremendously grateful to the Mulheren family for their generosity in sharing their property with us in order to present the show house," Montserrat says. "And we are deeply grateful to the entire show-house committee for their tireless effort and commitment to the mission of VNA of Central Jersey."



Karla Trincanello, Florham Park, will design one of the bedrooms in the Metcalf estate in Rumson, which is now known as Scotchigh Farm. (STAFF PHOTO: TANYA BREEN)

Fit for a gentleman

Once the property was confirmed, it was time to find designers.

A committee, headed by Patty Cohen and Lynn Mangini, was formed to solicit and choose designers for the house.

Invitations were sent to a multitude, inviting them to visit the house. More than 100 designers from throughout the metropolitan area viewed the home. More than half submitted proposals. One hundred

and eleven design boards were then displayed in their proposed spaces.

Then, the committee went to work. The goal was simple: provide a beautiful and flowing show house, but one that would showcase a variety of styles. Committee members first viewed the design boards in their spaces, recording their first and second choices for each room. After that process, the committee met to make their initial selections.

For three weeks, the members met several more times. Some designers who were not awarded the room of their choice were asked to submit proposals for other spaces.

"We are pleased to have so many talented designers involved in this project," Mangini says. "It will surely be spectacular."

The designers agree.

Princeton designer Judy King of Judy King Interiors will work on the small library, which she envisions as a "gentleman's retreat."

"It's a place where the master of the house and his guest would go to have a glass of port and smoke a cigar," she explains. "I will decorate this room in a way in which he will be surrounded by his most precious possessions, packed with silver trophies and books, along with his favorite painting above the fireplace."

A pair of English club chairs and custom ottoman is all this room can handle, King says, and beautiful, warm, Old World colors of mustard and moss green will bring inside elements of the large window looking outside to the horse pasture.

'Jackie's retreat'

Blessed with pastoral views that he will frame in luxurious draperies, designer Charles Pavarini III says the conservatory will draw visitors into a relaxed mood suitable for reading a novel or sparking the creative impulse to write.

"As tranquil as the landscape, the blend of whites and soft organic tones bring the serenity indoors to relax the spirit and the mind," says the New York City-based Pavarini. "Free of austerity yet full of prosperity, the room represents a physical manifestation of the spirit of place: a gentleman's manor in Monmouth County."

In designing her bedroom and adjoining bath, Karla Trincanello was reminded of Hamp-ton-style homes that were elegant and secluded.

"I thought Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis could have possibly been a friend of the homeowners and been a weekend guest at some time," says Trincanello of Florham Park-based Interior Decisions Inc. "This was never verified, but it became a theme I wanted to pursue about the possibility of her visiting in her lifetime, riding her horse on the grounds, viewing polo matches and the like."

Trincanello selected the bedroom and bath, calling it "Jackie's retreat," a private area on the third floor showing her elegant yet unpretentious style along with her favorite things always ready when she visited her own quiet area.