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YOUR FAMILY DECORATOR

In the pink for Valentine's Day

Carleton Varney

If you are a Palm Beach card player who is into bridge, you might know my friend, master bridge player Louise Aylward, who next Friday would be my choice as Queen of Hearts for Valentine's Day.

Aylward

With her signature style and charm, Louise has been a decorating pal of mine for many years. She was responsible for providing wicker furniture when the presidential yacht Sequoia was reconditioned and decorated some years past.

She also proudly provided period furnishings during the decorating of the Neenah Foundry office building in Neenah, Wisc. That company is a well-known manufacturer of manhole covers, among other metalwork.

Once known — and still known to some — as the "Queen of Manhole Covers," Louise is one of my favorite Valentines of 2020. Her Gulf Stream home is filled with a majolica collection that's much admired by her friends and visitors. And those who know majolica ware — with its pinks and corals, aquas and pale greens — also know it feels right at home in Palm Beach.

I think majolica would, perhaps, be a terrific Valentine's gift. Some of the shops on West Palm Beach's Antique Row have nice selections of majolica, including Patricia's Gallery at 3608 S. Dixie Highway and Brass Scale Antiques at 3721 S. Dixie Highway.

Other Valentine's day gifts that come to mind are pretty pink porcelains and glassware. Think pink water goblets or dessert dishes, such as the ones you might find at Mary Mahoney, 336 Worth Ave.

Of course, one Valentine's classic is always in style, a pink or red heart-shaped box filled with chocolates, caramels and buttercreams. Honeycomb chocolate is my favorite. I made sure to send Louise a heart-shaped box of See's Candies on a recent visit to Los Angeles.

Closer to home, Peterbrooke Chocolatier at 298 S. County Road will no doubt have plenty of Valentine's goodies. And Hoffman's Chocolates' flagship store at 5190 Lake Worth Road is always worth the drive out west to Greenacres this time of year.

Candy may be a Valentine's classic, but heart-shaped jewelry can be even sweeter. I always enjoy seeing a woman wearing a diamond-encrusted heart pendant — and I like it even better if the stones are pink. There are other pink stones, of course, including morganite. I've also seen gold heart-shaped pendants

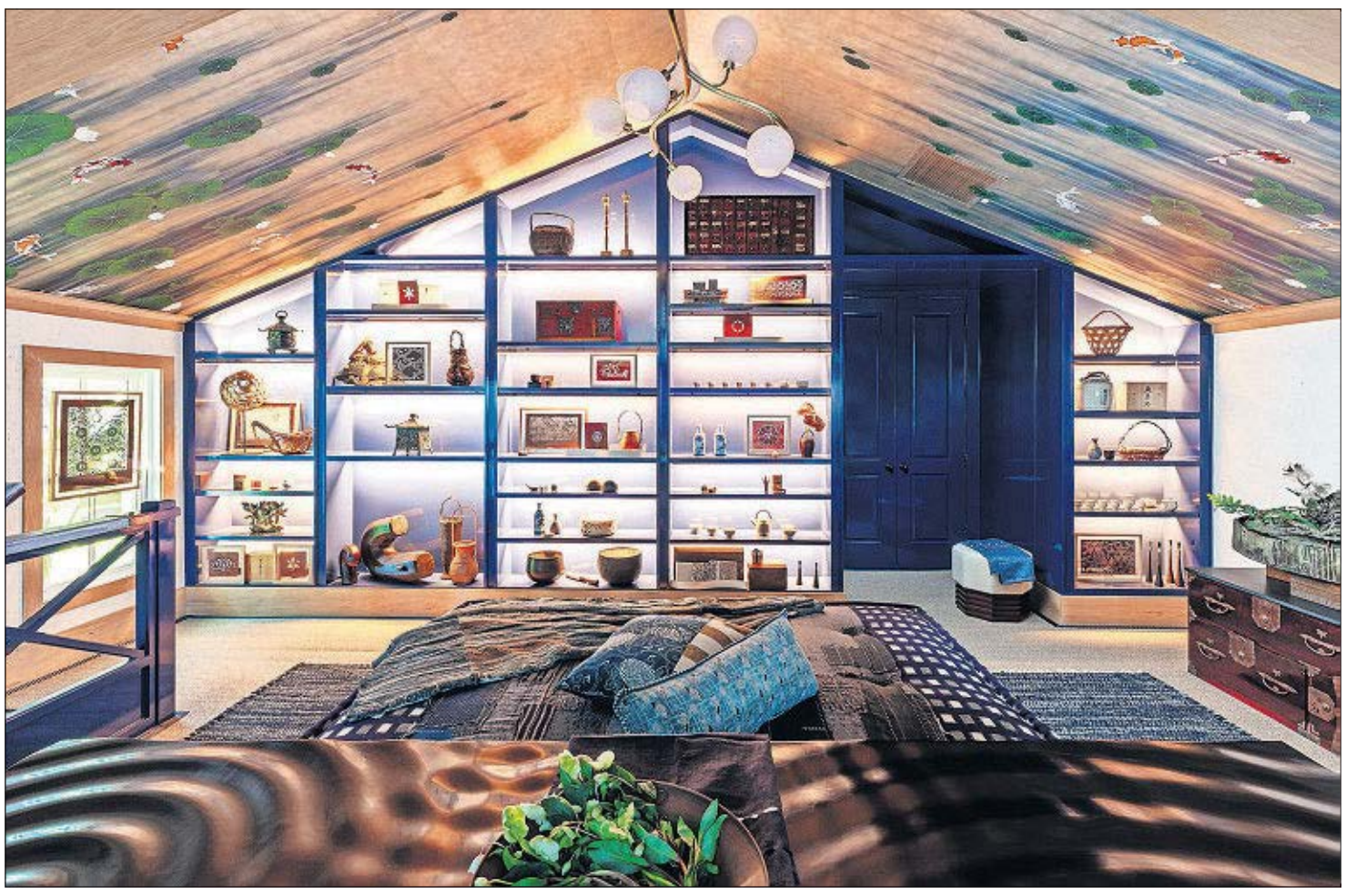
See DECORATOR, B4

ON VACATION

Darrell Hofheinz's "Beyond the Hedges" column will return Feb. 14.

KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE

A profusion of patterns and colors



In the newly opened Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach in West Palm Beach, New York City designer Sara Magness' Japanese-inspired master study features a wall of blue-lacquered shelves, a central day bed and a ceiling covered in a custom Gracie wallpaper depicting a koi pond. [PHOTOS BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

Designers let loose their imaginations for 2020 show house in West Palm Beach

By Christine Davis
Special to the Daily News

A visit to the just-opened Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach might bring to mind an adage: "If only the walls could talk."

And those walls would likely have a lot to say, whether their statements were moody or cheery, calm or colorful — or somewhere in-between.

For that, you can thank more than a dozen designers who have drenched the walls of their rooms in color and pattern at the third annual show house, the centerpiece of an estate near the waterfront in West Palm Beach. The fundraiser opened Saturday, and the show house continues through March 1, jointly benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in New York City.

Here's a wall-to-wall tour of what you'll see in the home, which is owned by interior designer Lars Bolander and his wife, artist Nadine Kalachnikoff.

Foyer

In the foyer designed by Brady Design of Southampton, New York, father and daughter designers Brian and Alexandra Brady took a windowless space and created their own views of palm trees using hand-painted wallpaper. "It's a take on trompe-l'oeil," Brian Brady says. "I found the wallpaper by Jim Thompson Fabrics, and since this room is devoid of windows, these palm trees are great." Paul Axelband of Axelband Decorative Paint Finishes & Murals in Jupiter also contributed to the fool-the-eye effect by painting a pair of freestanding columns to match the wallpaper.

In Brady Design's windowless foyer, hand-painted wallpaper frames images of palm trees. The columns were then hand-painted to match the wallpaper. The design firm is based in Southampton, N.Y.

An animal-print wall covering and Hawaiian Mission-style furnishings lend an exotic air to the upstairs study designed by Leta Foster & Associates of Palm Beach. Note the wood-grained wallpaper on the ceiling.

The walls are complemented by pedigreed and one-of-a-kind furnishings that the designers used to achieve their signature simple but refined look.

Master study

Above the foyer, designer Sarah Magness of Sarah Magness Design in New York City, repurposed the second-floor study, which overlooks the living room. It is now her "Mindfulness Retreat," and she says she was inspired by the room's bones, including its peaked ceiling. "I lived in Japan for four years, and I realized that the architectural features were similar to what I saw there, which gave me the idea to do something with a Japanese spirit." Above an oversized daybed, Gracie wallpaper mounted on the ceiling depicts a tranquil lily pond with koi fish. "It's hand-painted and designed for this space specifically," she says. "The idea is to lie back on this daybed, look up at the ceiling and reflect on your day."

Upstairs study

Also overlooking the living room — and directly opposite Magness' space — is another second-floor study with an exotic Asian theme. Leta Austin Foster of Leta Austin Foster & Associates in Palm Beach relied on wallpaper, one of

See HOUSE, B2

If you go

What: Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach
Where: 260 Palmetto Lane, West Palm Beach
When: Through March 1; open for tours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday
Admission: $35
Information: 718-893-8600, ext. 11236; or KipsBayDecoratorShowHouse.org

HOUSE

From Page B1

her favorite design elements, because it returns the "biggest bang for your buck," she says. On the ceiling is a Nobilis paper, Chene, that looks like wood paneling, and on the walls, trimmed out in teal woodwork, is the custom China Seas paper, Nairobi, which features an animal-print pattern in cream and teal. Foster says she built her room around a story, in which the main figure is Jim Thompson, co-founder of the Thai Silk Co., who disappeared in Malaysia without a trace in 1967. "It's supposed to look like a retreat that Jim would have had in Thailand," she says. "The space didn't loan itself to something grand, so consequently, I wanted to make it exciting. So I thought of having a story to the room — but I also wanted it cozy for a den and retreat." For furnishings, she mixed pieces from her Pretty Fabulous Rooms collection with authentic Hawaiian Mission-style pieces.

The Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach is open daily for tours through March 1 at a Dutch Colonial-style house at 260 Palmetto Lane in West Palm Beach. Lopez Group in Palm Beach designed the front garden. Tickets to the show house are $35, and details are available at KipsBayDecoratorShowHouse.org. [PHOTO BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

Great room

Designer Suzanne Kasler of Suzanne Kasler Interiors in Atlanta has named her two-story living room "Edited Style." She also has embraced pink, one of her favorite colors, which finds a place in one of the two-story room's focal points — the San Souci wallpaper by DeGournay. "It's on a white background, which is unusual for DeGournay, but we love it," says Paige Goodloe, Kasler's project manager. "It feels fresher and clean and more Palm Beach. We chose the colors from the flowers to the palms to the bees, and DeGournay hand-painted it in our colors. And when we wanted a tree taller, they could make it taller." The sectional and the sofa, from Kasler's Paris collection for Hickory Chair, are mixed with Paris-flea-market finds. To make the voluminous room more intimate, Kasler designed a row of second-story mirrored round "windows" and added deed moldings above the French doors. Moldings also edge the wallpaper, helping to bring the eye down to ground level.

Master bedroom

In the second-floor master bedroom designed by Alessandra Branca of Branca Inc. in New York City, the walls are embellished with blue-and-white tiles — or so it would seem at first glance. A closer inspection reveals the tiles to be hand-painted wallpaper that Branca designed for DeGournay, based on azulejos, the traditional ceramic tiles popular in Portugal. "I love open and fresh bedrooms — that's how you start the day — and the blue and white aesthetic plays into this need for freshness and light," she says. "The furniture is a mix of Dutch and French pieces with 18th-century painted chairs, and we brought in some modern (pieces) to freshen it up." She adds: "If this bedroom were mine, I would never leave it."

Master bathroom and closets

The master bedroom's dressing area and bathroom are a collaboration between Tom Kirchhoff of Kirchhoff and Associates in Jupiter and Betsy Wentz of Studio B in Sewickley, Pa., who reconfigured the existing bath and closets. The area also features walls and ceilings covered with — brace yourself — 11 different wallpapers by F. Schumacher & Co. They range from a bright leafy pattern to one with stars, from polka dots to more muted animal prints. "We tried to pull the rooms together but keep them separate, so one could be more feminine and one more masculine," Wentz says. The

See HOUSE, B4

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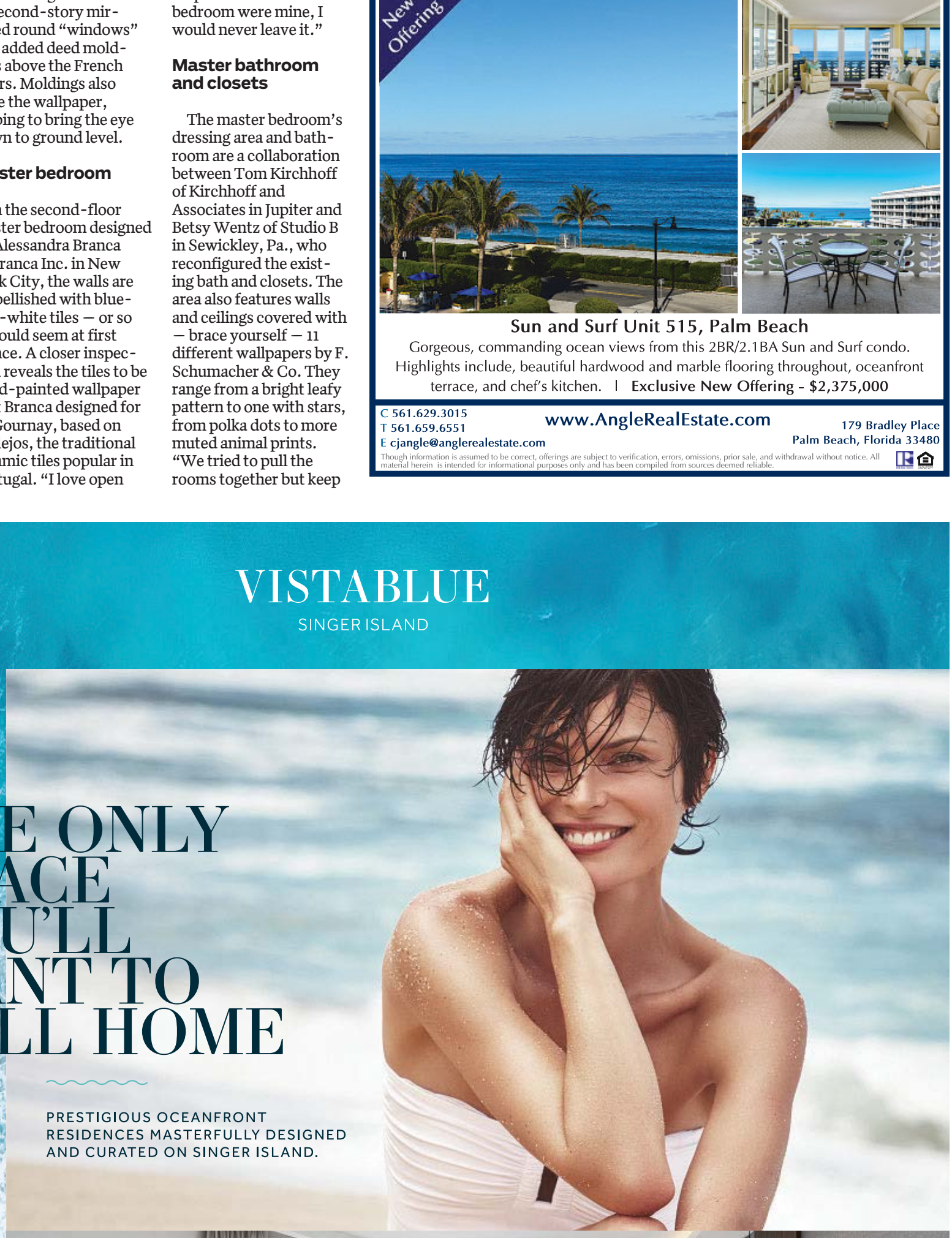

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A custom-designed DeGournay floral wallpaper is a focal point on one wall of the living room designed by Suzanne Kasler Interiors of Atlanta. [PHOTOS BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

HOUSE

From Page B2

colors transition from medium-bright colors to bolder hues, including navy and orange. "And in the men's space, we used black and grays," Wentz adds. "The wallpaper makes it feel a little softer and more cozy, and we also wallpapered the ceilings instead of keeping them white, which I'm not a fan of. I wanted the space to be fun and have a cohesive feel."

Guest suite

Robin Gannon of Robin Gannon Interiors in Lexington, Mass., is calling her second-floor bedroom "It's a Jungle Out There," because the bougainvillea climbing over the balcony railing inspired her when she first saw the room. She also took inspiration from buildings of Colonial-era Africa, she says. Against steely blue-gray walls, wood moldings frame antiqued mirrors to reflect light, while framed wallpaper

See HOUSE, B6

A custom-designed trellis becomes a wall in the outdoor dining terrace designed by Toronto's Colette van den Thillart Interior Design.

Pink is used liberally in Atlanta-based Suzanne Kasler Interiors' two-story living room.

DECORATOR

From Page B1

set with blue sapphires and even black spinel.

Valentine's red isn't a very common color in Palm Beach, although you can sometimes see it in the hibiscus that blooms here. But Valentine's pink is everywhere in Palm Beach, from blush-pink houses to the salmon pink — named Walcott Salmon — that my firm used to paint the exterior of The Colony a few years back.

The hotel building recently earned landmark protection, so the color will remain in place until the Landmarks Preservation Commission says otherwise. Perhaps its signature Walcott Salmon pink will be here to stay. (For those who like the color, it's from Fine Paints of Europe and can be ordered direct from the company, which is based in Woodstock, Vt.)

Carleton Varney holds boxes of Valentine's candy at a See's Chocolates shop in Los Angeles. [PHOTO COURTESY DOROTHY DRAPER & CO.]

This Valentine's Day, I'm reminded how beautiful Palm Beach is and how thankful I am to enjoy the sea and the sun and the colors that surround us.

I'm hoping your holiday next Friday is filled with love and happiness, and I'm sending a special Valentine's Day hug — along with those fabulous See's Chocolates — to my friend Louise!

Palm Beacher Carleton Varney is president of Dorothy Draper & Co., an international design firm with offices in New York, West Palm Beach, London and White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. Visit CarletonVarney.com or email him at cvarney@dorothydraper.com.

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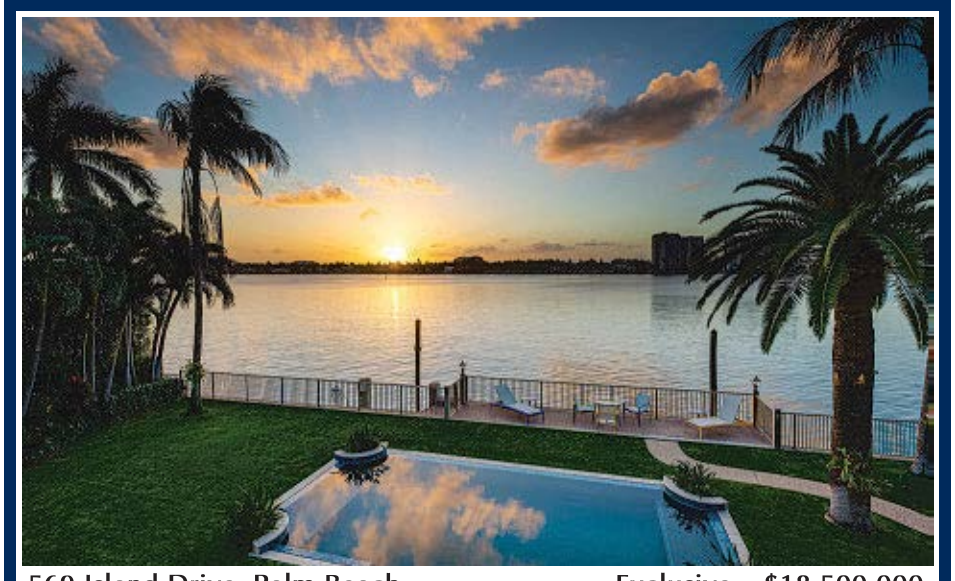

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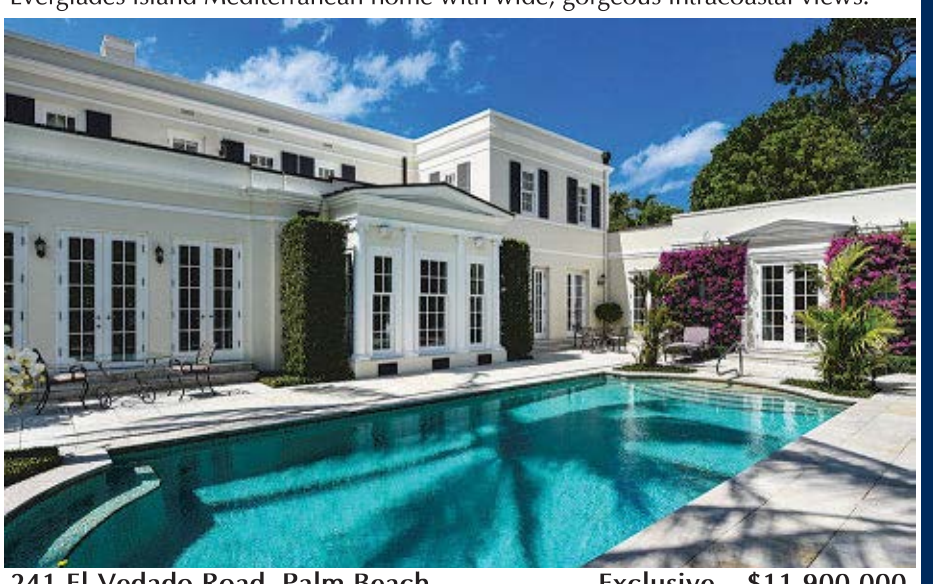

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In the master bedroom, the tile decoration used for wainscoting and around doorways looks such as Portuguese ceramic tiles but is actually a custom wallpaper by DeGournay. Branca Inc. of New York City designed the room.
[PHOTOS BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

Kirchhoff and Associates of Jupiter and Studio B of Sewickley, Pa., collaborated on several spaces comprising the master bathroom and closets, where walls and ceilings are covered in 11 different wallpapers by F. Schumacher & Co. In this area, a sleek soaking tub by Kohler, which provided bath and kitchen fixtures throughout the house, complements the colorful chaise as well as the draperies by The Shade Store.

HOUSE

From Page B4

panels depict landscape scenes. And Gannon accented the adjacent bathroom with wallpaper featuring a vividly hued pattern of leaves.

Hallway and powder room

Back on the ground floor, designer Javier Fernandez of Boca Raton's Transitional Designs Inc. created a cohesive and dramatic transitional space — comprising a vestibule, hallway and powder room — entitled "Design with Bite." Fernandez added padded fabric grids as wallcoverings, complemented by gleaming laminate accents. "The panels are microfiber made by Arte, and we did them in a light gray to complement the wood and lighten the space. In the powder room, we used the same color, but in a lattice-like pattern." The ceiling and a panel on the vanity, meanwhile, are faced with a faux-leather Fabricut wallcovering in taupe brown.

Kitchen

In the kitchen designed by Sarah Blank of Sarah Blank Design Studio in Greenwich, Conn., a neutral-hued Fabricut wallpaper above the backsplash is used to set off the eye-catching periwinkle-blue millwork.

Guest suite

On the opposite side of the house, a room called the "Writers Retreat" is enveloped by walls covered in a custom wallpaper design by Gracie. "A tropical-scene fantasy in sepia tones and robin's egg blue, it's 175-percent of the pattern's normal scale," says designer Kevin Isbell of Kevin Isbell Interiors in New York City and Los Angeles. The furniture and accessories were chosen to create "a place where you can shut the door and settle in," Isbell says. As a designer, he adds, "I need to be stimulated by the kind of beautiful things you don't see every day." A Ceylon el Cie pagoda daybed, set against a striking aubergine wall, would be a fine perch for thinking while drinking in the richness of the multi-layered room. And the vintage desk is ready and waiting for working.

Robin Gannon Interiors of Lexington, Mass., designed a custom drapery treatment, fabricated by The Shade Shore, and headboard for her edgy second-floor guest bedroom. At the left, wallpaper panels provide a background for a piece of art with the word "REBEL" spray-painted on a framed landscape.

The padded wall covering in this hallway, designed by Transitional Designs Inc. of Boca Raton, is a geometric microfiber.

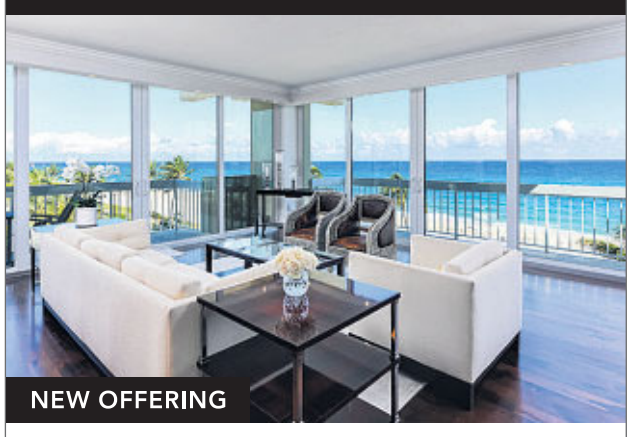
Front garden and entry hall

Down the hallway is the front door, which opens onto a motor court with a garden designed by Jobe Lopez of Lopez Group in Palm Beach.

The front door also leads into an open-air entry hall named "Le Jardin" designed by Alizee Brion of Light on White Design Studio in Miami Beach. The entry hall acts as transitional space between the home's interior spaces and its garden rooms.

See HOUSE, B7

Palm Beach Condominiums



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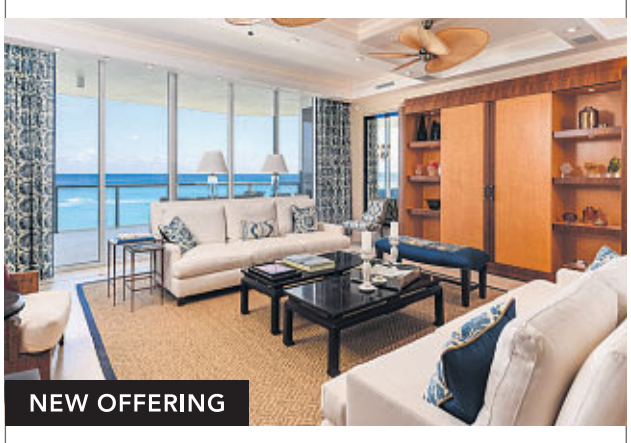

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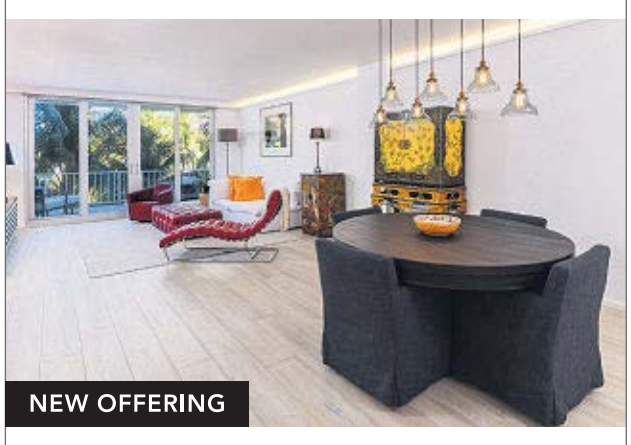

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HOUSE

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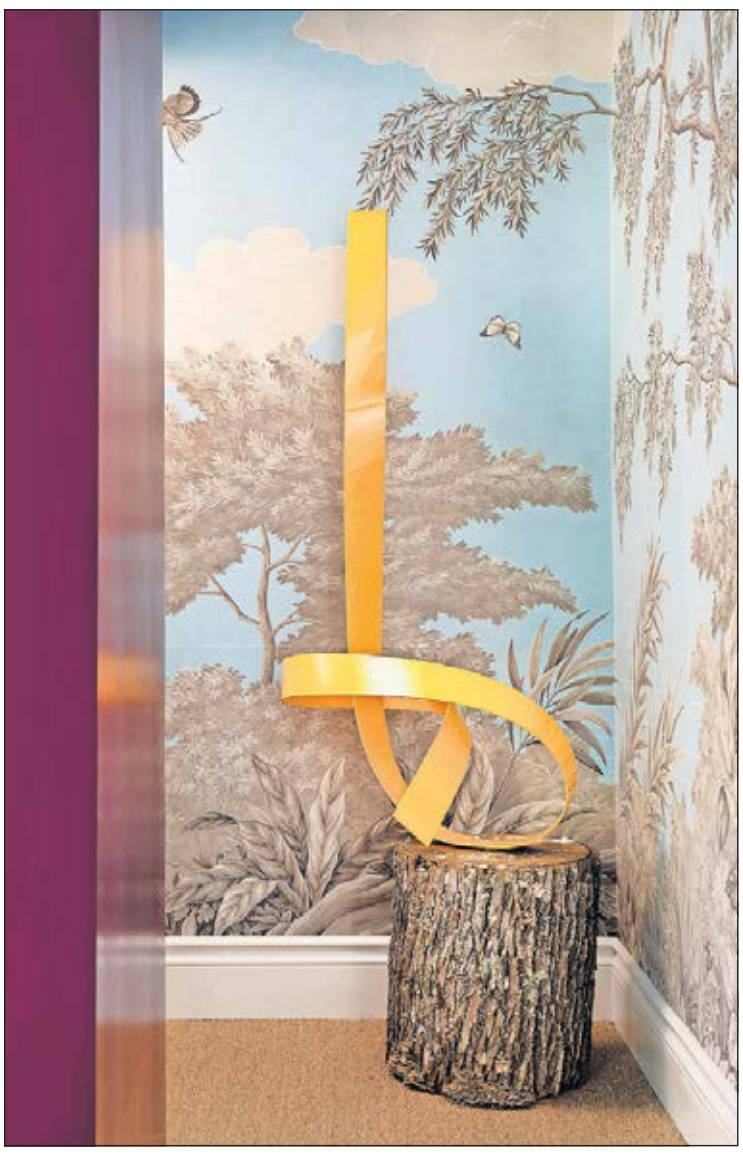
So the color scheme was built around green, Brion explains. "It's such a cool intersection," she says. "We wanted to take the idea of a layered tropical garden and so we collaborated with different artists." Muralist Austin Kerr, for instance, painted walls with breezy palm fronds to provide a soft backdrop for the solid white-marble furnishings from Brion's new line, Objets. Valeria Nascimiento did the porcelain installation, and photographer Nicolas "Pottsy" Potts is represented by one of his works, *Ella Monsatera 2*.

Guest suite

Nearby is "The Palmetto Snug," the name designer Joe Lucas of Lucas Studio Inc. in West Hollywood, Calif., gave to his cozy sitting room, with its bathroom and outdoor loggia. The hand-painted wallpaper by Fromental features Le Corbusier-like abstract designs in peach, parchment and coral — a soothing backdrop for furniture pieces

See HOUSE, B8



A sculpture stands in front of the Gracie wallpaper in the "Writer's Retreat" designed by Kevin Isbell Interiors of New York City and Los Angeles. Isbell worked with Gracie fabricators to lend a sense of depth to the wallpaper by having plants in the foreground depicted in sharper focus than those in the background.

Neutral-color wallpaper by Fabricut complements periwinkle-blue cabinets and millwork in the kitchen designed by Sarah Blank Design Studio of Greenwich, Conn. [PHOTOS BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

A tropical-theme wallpaper by Gracie covers the walls in the "Writer's Retreat" designed by Kevin Isbell Interiors of New York City and Los Angeles.

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HOUSE

From Page B7

from Lucas' Harbinger line. "It's a little bit more of an outer building to escape to and read a book," he says.

Outdoor areas and gardens

Walls in the outdoor spaces also make strong design statements. Designer Colette van den Thillart of Toronto's Colette van den Thillart Interior Design used a custom trellis to help define her dining terrace off the kitchen. And the pool pavilion designed by Jonathan Savage of Savage Interior Design in Nashville is closed in on two sides with louvered teak panels.

Designer Sherrill Canet of Sherrill Canet Interiors, Ltd. in Locust Valley, New York, used an ingenious twist to embellish walls in her loggia: she mounted Indian carved panels that serve as backplates for her Italian torchieres. "I like to put something (in show house rooms) that people can do at home. These make the walls interesting and break up the space," she says of the loggia, which features her custom outdoor furniture line for Richardson Allen. The loggia also overlooks the backyard gardens designed by Mario Nievera and Keith Williams of Nievera Williams Design in Palm Beach.

Guest 'casita'

One of the outbuildings has been dubbed "The Sanctuary" by designer Keith Baltimore of Baltimore Design Group in Port Washington, N.Y. Baltimore wanted to create a "retreat within the home," he says. "It's a spot for massage, contemplation, or just a place to 'be' — a luxurious concept and a decadent thing to have." Furnished with two upholstered custom massage benches and driftwood stools, which help set a Zen-like mood, he used a wallcovering of sand-dune-like mountain ranges in pale green and peach by Zoffany.

An abstract wallpaper from Fromental sets the tone for this sitting room designed by Lucas Studio Inc., dubbed "The Palmetto Snug" by designer Joe Lucas, whose firm is based in West Hollywood, Calif. Vintage rush-seated chairs and a relaxed Roman shade in custom fabric from The Shade Store, which provided many window treatments for the show house rooms, are among the design elements. [PHOTOS BY NICKOLAS SARGENT PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH]

A custom-designed rug and green walls painted with murals of palm fronds greet visitors entering the front doors of the show house. This entrance hall was designed by Light on White Design Studio in Miami Beach. The marble furniture pieces are from designer Alizee Brion's own line.

Baltimore Design Group of Port Washington, N.Y., created "The Sanctuary" with twin massage tables in a guest cottage. The background wall covering with sand-dune-like mountain ranges is by Zoffany.

The pool pavilion has a rear wall draped in fabric and end walls covered in louvered teak panels. The pavilion was designed by Savage Interior Design of Nashville.

The main lawn and pool area were designed by Nievera Williams Design of Palm Beach with shapely gravel-covered foot paths that bridge the pool pavilion in the rear and the main house's courtyard.

Pierced Indian carved panels, painted white, hold lanterns on either side of the French doors on the main loggia designed by Sherrill Canet Interiors of Locust Valley, N.Y.

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