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One of the great American showhouses is the **SAN FRANCISCO DECORATOR SHOWCASE**. Here, some of this year's designers share their secrets. So many good ideas!

Interviews by
SHAX RIEGLER



Designers transformed the rooms of a four-story Georgian house this year for the West Coast's premier showhouse event.



"I wanted to create a modern kitchen for a traditional house. Taking some of the cabinetry off the walls helped make a lighter, brighter, airier room. I chose handcrafted materials that would feel appropriate in an older house, like zinc for the countertops and range hood, and white bronze pulls. Since so much goes on in a kitchen, I wanted to keep things simple. But I splurged on that sculptural silk-wrapped ceiling light by Aqua Creations. I've been a fan of their fixtures for years, but this is the first time I've used one. It really draws you in." **JENNIFER WEISS**

"A canopy over a writing desk just seemed like a beautiful way to create a set-apart, private space within a room. The drapery softens the austerity of the neoclassical *bureau plat*, and really makes it clear that it's a study for a woman. It also hides all the cords. The walls are covered in silk, and I used the same fabric as the outer layer of the canopy. I love the illusion of the wall peeling back to reveal a secret garden created by the other fabric, Manuel Canovas's *Ange in Violette*. That little boxwood wreath on top of the stack of books is from the Alameda flea market—an elderly Belgian woman makes them, and I buy them all the time from her. But I decided not to hang this one on the wall. It feels casually tossed there, and it brings a little natural element to the table." **BENJAMIN DHONG**



"This is a bathroom for a teenage girl. The vanity was a nondescript, off-the-shelf white cabinet with a Carrara marble top. To dress it up, I painted it Benjamin Moore's *Pink Ladies* in high-gloss finish. I first tried a softer pink, but it was too sweet. If you're going to use pink, you've got to really go for it. I also added new white ceramic pulls. Those two simple actions transformed a nothing cabinet, giving it a fresh, modern look. To distract from the banal shower enclosure, I decorated the glass with a bold, graphic motif: the *Chanel No. 5* bottle. We designed a stencil and sprayed on *Frosted Glass* by Rust-Oleum, which creates an etched look. The labels and caps are vinyl decals, stuck on both sides of the glass." **NANCY VAN NATTA**