

SEPT • OCT 2022

# FLOWER

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GARDEN  
PARTY PICKS



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INSPIRATION  
FROM  
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Chezar*



**GLAMPING**  
*Round Top Style*

# One of a Kind

With an array of inspirations ranging from the Victorian Age to the Arts and Crafts movement, Thomas Jayne and William Cullum transform a guest home from mundane to magical with a dose of ingenuity and plenty of colorful joy.

By ALICE WELSH DOYLE Photography by DON FREEMAN

*If mythology* is an allegorical narrative, then Thomas Jayne and William Cullum of Jayne Design Studio certainly know how to tell a story filled with plenty of compelling highlights and dreamlike embellishments. The tale begins with a quirky guest home and its eclectic architecture in a storied community on Long Island's North Shore. The designers' longtime artist-client bought the property primarily for the landscape and then turned to the design duo to right the wrongs and imbue the home with décor that reflects her passion for art, mythology, and fairy tales.

Drawing on a host of inspirations including Arts and Crafts, Victoriana, Classicism, British follies, and a smattering of nautical notes, the designers employed some clever renovations to make the best of the existing architecture. "While the house is not very old, we viewed it with a sense of antiquity because it had so many references to historic architecture," says William.

The structure reads Victorian in places, with its turret and an octagonal-windowed breakfast room, but it also nods to Classicism with pediments on the façade. And then there are



ABOVE: The quirky architecture inspired the designers to stretch their creativity and celebrate the water view with a clever new porch featuring decorative paint techniques. OPPOSITE: The owners are avid sailors so nautical references pop up here and there such as this collection of old boats hung as art in the foyer.





**ABOVE:** A newly designed stairway created a beautiful focal point, softened with a stippling paint technique for an aged look. **OPPOSITE:** The living room combines a variety of styles with an antique chest, more contemporary chairs, and a custom curved sofa with a generous scale, all highlighted by a large-scale fantasy painting by the artist/owner.

Colonial references in the interior's floor plan and in various details. "We wanted the décor to serve as a foil to our client's own art and to her collection," says William. "And the two front-facing parlors needed to be conducive to showing art and hosting events." In that regard, the designers decorated these rooms for ease of movement with a purposeful absence of carpets. In addition, some of the furniture sits on wheels, allowing it to be removed when the space is used as a gallery. While the home's footprint remained intact, the designers

did make substantial uplifts, including the relocation of the powder room that was originally at the entry. "When you walked in, you literally saw a toilet," laughs Thomas. The entry stairwell also needed replacing for better functionality and safety. Not wanting it to read as new, the duo employed decorative painter Chuck Hettinger to stipple the banisters with a warming bronze. The original, lifeless porch was also sent packing, and a sensorial space came to take its place. Columns of faux bamboo with a painted, flame-like design on the bases join with the





ABOVE: An outstanding patinaed Italian bench sits under a collection of the homeowner's artwork featuring her inventive alphabet characters in a gallery space where events are hosted. RIGHT: In the other gallery drawing room, the designers went bold with a blue painted floor, while custom fabric throws provide pretty pet protection on the sofas. The space also features more of the owner's paintings.



The idiosyncratic light fixture, purple linoleum floor covering, and blue ceiling join together for a flair-filled breakfast room.

painted trim above in a swirling pattern, instantly making the space a true destination. "We weren't sure the client would go for it, but she did," says William. "Now it's a favorite spot." Over a three-year period, the house evolved with kitchen and bathroom renovations while an unfinished attic space over the garage transformed into a self-contained bedroom suite with its

own exterior entrance. To connect the new room to the existing bedrooms on the second floor of the main house, the designers had a brilliant aha moment right up their client's alley. They replaced an opening in one bedroom with an antique wardrobe straight out of the Kingdom of Narnia, only opened when the connecting passageway to the newly created bedroom is



needed. “It really captures people’s imagination,” says Thomas. “Never has a piece of our decoration brought such a welcome surprise. Everyone who visits becomes a part of the secret, so to speak.” The door’s detailing also relays the client’s love language with a relief of the Roman goddess Diana on the outside and a fabric panel printed with constellations on the inside.

Other alterations involved subtle additions and tweaks. William introduced an Arts and Crafts-style marble fireplace surround in the living room, based on a Sir Edwin Lutyens design. “It may be a bit unexpected, but it elevates the room instantly and gives it gravitas,” he says. Other hallowed talents “spoke” to the designers as well. The kitchen replicates

the style of Charles Rennie McIntosh, a Scottish architect instrumental in the Art Nouveau movement. Other style clues were borrowed from iconic late 19th- and early 20th-century New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White, based on their designs in Newport, Rhode Island. And legendary designer the late Albert Hadley whispered in their ear when they chose to paint the door surrounds red, softened with a decorative stippling application.

The homeowner perfectly sums up the atmosphere: “The house has so much energy and personality inside and out—it invites you in and enchants you.” Just as a compelling and eternal myth should. ❖



*“The antique wardrobe leading to a secret passageway really captures people’s imaginations. Never has a piece of our decoration brought such a welcome surprise.”*

—DESIGNER THOMAS JAYNE



**OPPOSITE:** The designers wanted each guest room to have its own identity but not feel like a bed and breakfast. In this suite, the joyful palette and custom bed bring a fresh upbeat attitude. **THIS PAGE, TOP:** The delightful secret wardrobe serves a practical purpose as an inventive connecting passage. **ABOVE:** “This guest suite feels like you are in the hull of a ship and is the most nautical in the mix,” says William Cullum of Jayne Design Studio.