



DESIGN FIRM: AMAL KAPEN INTERIORS  
PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO RICCA

## 2019 HAMPTON DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE

Photos featured are from the 2018 Hampton Designer Showhouse.

Interior design does good with the return of the Hampton Designer Showhouse this summer. A much-anticipated event for both designers and visitors, the 19th annual showhouse will feature creative and thoughtfully designed spaces by more than 20 top industry pros at a shingle-style home at 66 Rosko Lane in Southampton, generously donated by Paramount Custom Homes. As designers prepare to materialize their visions for their respective spaces, they share their approach and how together they can support a great local cause: Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.

Honorary design co-chair Alexa Hampton, who has worked alongside fellow co-chair Jamie Drake on multiple showhouses, has long supported the Hampton Designer Showhouse, though this will be the first time she has designed a room in recent years. Laughing that she wanted to do a room for big reasons and selfish reasons, like using new fabrics and furniture lines, she says it's important for the design community to be involved in events such as these.

Noting that while designers have free reign without client restrictions, Hampton says rooms should be decorated as they would be in a home, not a showroom. "We always want to have interiors that have some sort of appropriate relationship to the house, but also be creative and fun," she explains. "I want to do a lot of soft blues and whites, but then some fire engine red. It will be playful and airy."

Mixing various finished elements like natural wood, ebonized, and painted white pieces, Hampton hopes to achieve a layered room like what one you would find in someone's actual home. While she takes over the junior master

bedroom on the ground floor, in the same suite the bathroom will be designed by Keith Baltimore. Showhouses are among his favorite spaces to design, and finds they present a cool dilemma in that without a client to dictate the needs of the space, there's the opportunity to interpret the space as he sees it.

In years past, Baltimore has designed rooms that have been inspired by road, travel, Zen moments, and sexy moments. When it comes to the Hamptons, his interpretation is that it's like a playground. He envisions vacation, fun, sex and rock and roll, and all of the things people are doing when they come out east.

"I crush the box," Baltimore says of this unique, uninhibited opportunity. "People may not live in this home or understand it for themselves, but they appreciate artistic expression of what a designer can do. It's problematic and fantastic at the same time."

Baltimore looks forward to the showhouse every year as a time that once the work is complete, it's like a designer's clubhouse. It's a time they can be together, share stories, and also unwind when the work is done. Owner of Sea Green Designs LLC, Shannon Willey, will also be designing a master bath this year. She, too, has participated in the Hampton Designer Showhouse in the past.

A trip earlier this year to Paris landed Willey at the Maison et Objet tradeshow, where she discovered a section called "Unique and Eclectic." The combination of hand-made pieces in natural materials, as well as classic and contemporary design, will serve as her inspiration for this year. Lead Showhouse designer Greg



DESIGN FIRM: KATE SINGER INTERIORS FOR GARNETT LEE  
PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO RICCA



DESIGN FIRM: MARY T. MILLER INTERIOR DESIGN  
PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO RICCA



DESIGN FIRM: BRIGGS INTERIORS FOR THE SHOWHOUSE FOUNDATION  
PHOTO CREDIT: MARCO RICCA

Mackenzie chose a black glass mosaic tile for a wall with a mounted vanity being made by Ciuffo Cabinetry, and floor tile in a classic overlapping square pattern in mixture of Carrara marble and black stone. This will serve as Willey's backdrop.

"I'm going to balance the tile with a light color venetian plaster on the walls, and I will be bringing in Ramie and Jute for window treatments and accents," Willey explains. "I'm also headed to the Brimfield Antique Fair to see if I can find some vintage items to include as well. The room will be an eclectic mix of unique pieces with an upscale beach house vibe."

Ciuffo Cabinetry is responsible for the contemporary kitchen with a "sophisticated suburban loft" feel with white painted slab doors that were given a touch of elegance with a high-gloss finish. They also added elements to the master bath, powder rooms, laundry rooms, wet bar, and his and hers closets on the first and second floors.

President Gary Ciuffo says unexpected details are the use of large-scale hammered steel inside glass cabinets and visible machine screws used to secure sheet metal cladding. Various contrasts like black and white, matte and glossy, hard and soft textures, and casual and sophisticated style give the kitchen energy and interest.

"We introduced various metal details such as unique large-scale hammered steel on the kitchen island and precisely machined and visibly attached sheet metal cladding around the refrigerators that help lend a loft-like vibe to the kitchen," Ciuffo shares. "We selected some reclaimed oak to add the repurposed feel of lofts

and to help conceal the refrigerators and the freezer. The decorative hardware finished in a matte black to pay some homage to the black iron windows common found in many loft spaces."

Designers are planning their spaces in anticipation for the Hampton Designer Showhouse cocktail preview party on Saturday, July 20, kicking off its season. It will run from Sunday, July 21 through Labor Day. The Showhouse will be open to the public Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes the Showhouse Journal.

"When you do a showhouse, you get to be the client," Hampton says. "Sometimes it's terrifying. You get into the habit of creativity on demand but in the service of a person. Here you always have to remember it's for charity. You have to do as many interesting things as possible to pull people off the street."

The Hampton Designer Showhouse is produced by Hampton Designer Showhouse Foundation, Inc. (HDSE, Inc.). HDSE, Inc. is led and operated by a dynamic team of experts from the worlds of marketing, public relations, fundraising, and special events production, managed by Tony Manning. They have combined their talents to produce what is now recognized as one of the country's most successful Showhouses. Hampton Designer Showhouse Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Gala preview cocktail party tickets are \$225 each. For more information at [hamptondesignershowhouse.com](http://hamptondesignershowhouse.com).

RACHEL BOYD

JUNE EDITORIAL