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Design showcase: Restored home in Harleston Village is CSOL's 2011 ASID Showhouse

BY WEVONNEDA MINIS
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Formal furnishings that might be expected in a historic home blend seamlessly with casual, unexpected ones in a late neoclassical house in Harleston Village.

The pieces are found in the living room of the 2011 ASID Designer Showhouse, sponsored by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League and open through April 17.

Photo Gallery

Charleston Symphony Designer Showhouse



The 34th ASID Symphony Designer Showhouse is a three-story, late neoclassical structure at 89 Beaufain St. in Harleston Village. The showhouse, sponsored by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League, is a fundraiser for CSO programs. Designers from North and South Carolina put their talents to work at the house, which has more than 4,177 square feet. The house was built by lumber merchant William G. Steele in the second decade of the 19th century and will be open from March 17 through April 17. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10-4 and Sundays 1-4. For more information, call 452-3659 or e-mail ltjc@msn.com. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

room features handmade wallpaper, a stone vessel sink with interesting edges and a deep brassy figure as part of its base. Those who don't stop to observe the room's ceiling will have missed something special.

This year's showhouse also features a little girl's room designed by Sandra Gaylord, ASID, of Gaylord Designs in Charleston. Its creams punctuated by pinks and oranges create a lighthearted setting that's perfect for a child. An interesting piece or two catches the eye at every turn. But what holds the attention is the set of drawer pulls, colorful, delicate and a little oversized.

One type of accessory that continues to amaze throughout the house is light fixtures. The designers chose classical and modern chandeliers and sconces, and every one of them is a conversation starter.

The showhouse is one of the major fundraisers for the symphony. The symphony had suspended operations due to financial pressures and is now restructured. But it still must raise the capital for this next year.

"We would hope to raise in the six figures," says Janet Knorr, CSOL marketing director and co-chair of the ASID Designer Showhouse. "We have been successful in doing that a number of years.

"Advance ticket sales were excellent. People are not just buying one or two, they are buying five, 10 and 16," Knorr says. "Our symphony is now restructured, and it is extraordinarily important that the city come forth and support that, so that this wonderful symphony can continue to play."

Reach **Wevonneda Minis** at 937-5705.

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