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SHOW HOUSE SHOPPER

SHOW HOUSE SHOPPER; Rooms Dressed in Novelty and New Ideas

By Marianne Rohrlich

For most visitors, a decorator show house is a reverie, a chance to walk through the pages of a glossy design magazine. But a worthy show house provides ideas that can be translated to any home. Such is the case with the International Designer Show House, held in an 1876 row house (left) at 59 East 77th Street. The show house, a benefit for the American Hospital of Paris, is open through Nov. 16. Admission is \$20; for information, (212) 838-0157.

Sleeping or Working In a Room That Multitasks

Katina Arts-Meyer designed a bedroom that doubles as a sitting room, complete with a writing table and a coffee service by the fireplace. "This room is a retreat," she said. "You can have a bedroom but do many other things in it." A Chinese paper scroll, made in the 18th century for use in France, hangs on the wall. A similar effect can be achieved on a budget with a roll of interesting wallpaper unfurled on the wall. A pair of 18th-century French chairs were freshened and modernized with small linen slipcovers that tie on with bows. The same technique can easily be used with thrift-shop chairs, as an alternative to reupholstering.

Now You See, Now You Don't

Some rooms are not always suitable for viewing. Hunter Douglas made a kitchen disappear with its Luminette Privacy Sheer, a drape that can be shifted from transparent to opaque. The drapes are custom-made only, and can be ordered floor to ceiling, to divide a room, or to cover windows. Information is at (800) 205-8225 or www.hunterdouglas.com.

Add a Little Carnival To the Office

A home office designed by Cristiana Mascarenhas has rotating bookshelves of cedar slats by Etel Carmona, a Brazilian designer, \$2,150 for the taller column and \$1,900 for the shorter version. A desk chair, far right, with a webbed leather seat and back (\$500) is by Carlos Motta, also Brazilian. The furniture is available at Espasso, a showroom that opened last year in Long Island City, Queens, which sells only Brazilian designs; (718) 472-0022, or www.espasso.com.