


\$11.9 million Philharmonic House of Design

Showcase house features designer rooms.

By **JENNIFER J. BUSH**

The Orange County Register

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Check out a slide show of the designed rooms. 



ARTISTIC INSPIRATION: The artist's loft by Gary Finley Interiors is accessible by an exterior staircase and features colorful custom floor tiles from California Pottery..

NICK KOON, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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Need inspiration for your own home?

Visit the Philharmonic House of Design, which opens today in the gated Crystal Cove neighborhood in Newport Coast.

Twenty-seven designers from the American Society of Interior Designers Orange County chapter wove a unique mix of traditional and contemporary elements into the 8,500-square-foot, Spanish Mediterranean-style estate.

Designer Gayle Lee of Corona del Mar may have the best description of a fresh take on an Old World style: "Spanish conquistador meets Barbara Barry." To achieve this look, Lee blends elements of the California mission lifestyle such as rich leather and heavy textures with clean modern furnishings in her rendition of a teen media room.

Certainly, a showcase house is designed to have over-the-top amenities, so many of us pay our \$35 for a glimpse of how the rich and famous must live. But to get the most out of your tour, look for the take-

More information

Who: Philharmonic Society and American Society of Interior Designers Orange County chapters sponsor the fundraising event

What: An 8,500-square-foot, Spanish-style estate transformed into a showcase to benefit the society's youth music programs

When: Tours run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays with extended hours until 9 p.m. on Thursdays, when the designers will be present. The showcase runs through May 18.

Where: Continuous free shuttles Tuesdays through Saturdays from Mariners Church, 5001 Newport Coast Drive, Irvine and Sundays from Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School, 5 Federation Way, Irvine. No parking is available in the gated Crystal Cove neighborhood.

Cost: \$35 for general admission, \$45 for an unlimited pass. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Touring tips: Flat shoes are required. No photography, baby strollers, carriers or backpacks are permitted. Visitors can shop at the boutique and buy refreshments after the tour. For a list of free lectures available during tour hours, go to www.philharmonichouseofdesign.org.

home design tips.

Be a house detective. Examine the floors, wall finishes and details within each room. See if you can locate the ancient stone flooring from Malta, a wall of split-faced honey onyx, crystal bath fixtures, a hammered-pewter sink, vintage-inspired colored floor tiles, upholstered walls and panels, and a variety of wall finishes that resemble suede and leather, which are sprinkled throughout the 23 designer spaces.

And don't forget to look up. Designers treat ceilings as a fifth wall. Find massive carved beams, stamped-tin and elaborate parquet wood patterns that work with the architecture.

Keep your eyes open to the subtleties and transitions between the spaces. Stay attuned to color transitions between rooms and notice how long hallways function as galleries.

Find ideas for luxurious outdoor living while strolling the courtyards, patios and covered loggias surrounding the home. Even the designated children's areas connect to outdoor spaces with a rose garden off the sophisticated young girl's suite and the teen loggia with a cozy fire pit.

Docents will lead visitors through the spaces, but don't skip the exterior staircase that climbs to the inspirational artist loft created by designer Gary Finley. The Laguna Beach designer added a sense of history to this space by treating the room as if it were once used as a lookout or bell tower.

"I wanted it to have the look as if it was converted into a room in the 1940s," Finley says. "It adds a sense of romance to the space."

To achieve this, he ran red bricks up the stairs, through the room and out to the small iron balcony. He framed the brick with custom-colored floor tiles from California Pottery for a vintage feel.

Tours end on May 18, but this custom estate built by Stonefield Development of Trabuco Canyon can still be yours. The McMonigle Group in Newport Beach is offering the property at \$11.9 million. Designer furnishings are not included.

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**\$11.9 million
Philharmonic House
of Design**

**A GRAND
ENTRANCE:** The entry,
living room and dining
room designed by
Sheldon Harte, Harte-
Brownlee & Associates
pay homage to the
Mediterranean
architecture, yet uses a
lighter, more modern
approach.

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