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Dallas show house

How designers use rugs to ground, elevate or set the tone for a space is endlessly fascinating. The Kips Bay Decorator Show House projects offer a window into various creative approaches on this theme



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Twenty-two designers created spaces for the Kips Bay Decorator Show House Dallas, in Old Preston Hollow's Sunnybrook Estates neighbourhood, which opened to the public for seven days in November. The fundraiser will benefit two local charities—Dwell with Dignity, dedicated to creating soothing, inspiring homes for families struggling with homelessness and poverty; and The Crystal Charity Ball, which aids children's charities in the county.

Of its primary bedroom, *A Breath of Fresh Air*—its first ever show house space—Pursley Dixon Ford Interior Design says, 'sometimes it is not what you could say, but leave unsaid, that is most impactful'. The intention was to create a palate cleanser to bookend the day, working on the understanding that 'distinct pieces in quiet balance can yield an environment greater than the sum of its parts'. A thick Loloi rug provides a soft spot for bare feet to land by the bed and, beneath that, are a pair of Kyle Bunting hair-on-hide rugs.

Kristi Nelson believes that great design is multi-layered and -faceted, saying it 'uncovers and melds the contrasts and harmonies of who you've been and who you are now; leaving space for who you will be'. Her en-suite bedroom, *Memoir of Marrakech* draws inspiration from the bohemian decadence of an elite group of creatives who spent time in Marrakech in the early 1970s, such as Talitha and Paul Getty. Potted plants, plush teal fabrics and one-of-a-kind rugs by Marc Phillips evoke the Moroccan city's hidden courtyard gardens.

In Laura Lee Clark's living room, a rich, silk rug by J.D. Staron adds understated luxury and is reflected in the high gloss ceiling. The Gracie wallcovering mural, *Kano Garden*, based on an antique Japanese screen, was the starting point

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for the scheme. While the *Inner Sanctum* family room by Kirsten Kelli LLC, run by sisters Kirsten Fitzgibbons and Kelli Ford, is designed 'to be both memorable and serve as the backdrop upon which memories can be made', all founded on a Stark Carpet overlaid with an Indian rug.

Outside, the pool folly and terrace room by Todd Fiscus are meant as the embodiment of enjoyment—a space where friends and family can savour the season with outdoor entertaining. A Tibetan Knot Performance Rug from Perennials anchors the folly with drapery surrounds in *Willow Bough Indigo* by Morris & Co. www.kipsbaydecoratorshowhouse.org

Photo: Stephanie Korfelich



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Photo credit: Strictly Natural Light



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