

Robb Report

This is the Last Weekend to Get Real-Life Design Inspiration at the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse in New York

Sasha Bikoff

The volume has been pumped up. No one got more double-takes than Sasha Bikoff's exuberant staircase. "I was inspired by the simple shapes and motifs (such as zig-zags, polka dots, squiggles and pyramidal triangles) in the work of Memphis Milano designers Ettore Sottsass and Alessandro Mendini," says the New York-based designer. "These shapes, when combined, create a sense of movement that I wanted to evoke on the staircase as you transition from room to room. I also worked with The Rug Company on a fun and modern custom rug for the stairs, which is the first highlight of the space, as it sets the pastel color palette."



This stately townhouse at 110 East 76th Street is legendary not only for its splashy opening night fete, but for the A-list design line-up that participates each year. Design icon Bunny Williams is the chair and she's brought her high-end decorative verve to the place. A mix of revered firms like Drake Anderson, Alessandra Branca, [Clive Christian](#), and [Juan Montoya](#) share seven floors with cool talent like [Sasha Bikoff](#) (whose staircase nearly melted Instagram), Wesly Moon and B.A. Torrey. With 22 designers outfitting every corner—from the butler's pantry to the gracious dining room and envy-inducing terrace—the styles range from classic and patrician, to modern and risk-taking, but everything vetted to reflect the best taste.

Kips Bay's influence is substantial, with career-making moments and buzzed about rooms that inspire visitors, magazine editors, and future clients. While the true [design](#)-obsessed joy is standing in a live room dressed to the hilt (or wearing very little) that plays into a designer's fantasy. The sense of camaraderie that exists among visitors is also worth the trip. During last year's edition, I happened to overhear two non-industry ladies effusing over a particular room, "I like too, but it's going to cost you."