

GOODlife

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HIGH ON THE CAPE

Take a tour
that's just plane
spectacular

DESIGN 'DREAM' TEAM

We stole their
decorating ideas

ZOLTAN, MOON BEARS & SAND

How to entertain the kids
this summer

SIZZLING SWORDFISH

It's the spices that
make it great

TIPS FROM THE TOPS

DESIGN IDEAS
ABOUT AT
'DREAM HOME'

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PHOTOS BY BEAR CIERI

Does your dining room need some spice? Is your bedroom a little sleepy? Or maybe you're ready for something really dramatic – a complete redesign of your kitchen. No matter the size of your home design project, we've got the showcase for you.

Nine designers are now strutting their stuff in the "Dream Home," at the Boston Design Center, down on the Boston Waterfront. A stroll through the rooms – it's free and open to the public through July 31 – is a great way to steal some design ideas from people who know what they're doing. After taking the tour, we're taking these tips.



1. MIX IT UP

Cheryl and Jeffrey Katz of C & J Katz Studio in Boston created an eclectic entryway that you won't want to exit. The Asian-inspired room is filled with botanical references, from 19th century floral candelabras to teal wall-paper adorned with metallic gold trees to intricate pencil drawings of limbs and branches from the Katzs' own private collection.

"We love scanning the world, taking inspiration from wherever and putting it all together in a big stew and seeing what develops," says Cheryl Katz.

2. A SHOUT-OUT TO GROUT

Orange grout? It works. The grout should always be in service of the tile, and this striking orange grout makes the round marble mahogany-colored floor tiles really pop. Instead of lining the ceiling with crown molding, they've stacked rows of molding on their side along the bottom half of the wall. And green velvet drapes get some added flair with multi-colored stripes of satin ribbon.

3. THINK INSIDE THE BOX

A jewel box was the inspiration for Jill Litner Kaplan when she envisioned the study, awash in turquoise, brown, and beige. The West Newton designer describes it as "small and compact, and packed with personality." And as with a jewel box, you will find plenty of treasures inside, from the dramatic ivory wool rug woven with an intricate brown silk design to a striking quartz lamp. But perhaps the real centerpiece is the focal wall adorned with white capiz shell tiles by Myra Romanoff.



4. WARM UP

Fireplaces aren't the only way to warm up a room. Tony Cappoli Interiors uses upholstered wool walls in the library, and then appoints the room with menswear-inspired tweed chairs, a zebra and suede ottoman, caramel leather sofa, silk drapes, a wool rug, and red cashmere pillows. Soothed by the library's neutral tones, you'll want to curl up with a good book.

5. UNIFY YOUR ROOM

Cappoli's design also reminded us to repeat a pattern or material to create a sense of continuity. A modern version of the Greek key adorns the oatmeal- and cream-colored carpet, a pattern which is repeated in the drapery and cashmere pillow trim. In addition, the satin nickel pulls on the backs of the cream game chairs add a nice design element – mimicked in the satin nickel nailhead detail of the chairs and ottoman – as well as a way to keep the light-colored furniture from getting dirty. ➤