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2016 HAMPTONS SHOWHOUSE

Memory Lane

JENNIFER QUAIL



Gideon Mendelson



A bright pop of modern art announces the heart of any party – the bar cart – and also keeps pace with the pattern motif established by the lattice and carried through other pieces in the space.

ENTERTAINING

Nostalgia for family, modern takes on historic motifs and a mind for magical entertaining set a timeless tone in a light-filled dining space created by designer Gideon Mendelson for the 2016 Hamptons Designer Showhouse. Christened “Memory Lane” via a handwritten footnote on the room’s planning illustration, this dining room was specifically created to both recall the past and pave the way for new memories.

Mendelson’s well-earned reputation is for creating classic interiors that shine with a youthful glow and energetic vibe. That sensibility went to work here to suit the lifestyle of his imagined client. “(She is) a very sophisticated woman, but one who is grounded by the values of family and friends,” the designer explains, noting the team at Mendelson Group created natural, yet stylish space for her.

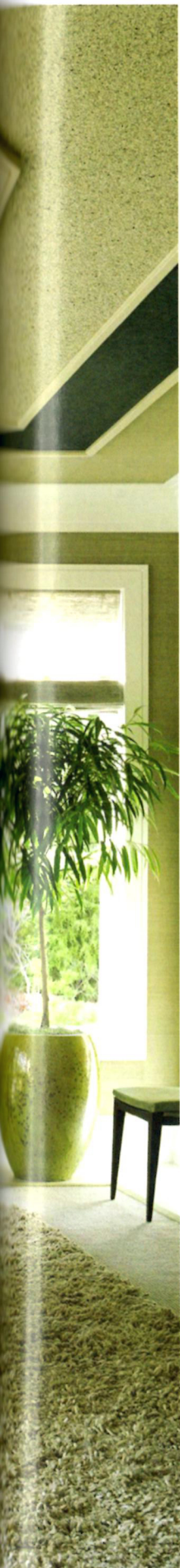
“The room’s muted palette and mix of midcentury elements create an aura of the past,” Mendelson says. “On the other hand, the architectural elements – the lattice and the ceiling treatment – and the modernist art and palette bring us into today.”

Vignettes throughout the bright and airy space set tones of individuality, clearly defining specific areas while also connecting them to one another. The modern take on the ceiling medallion, for example, defines the primary dining space, which is in direct conversation with a side table that can be expanded for larger parties or enjoyed for intimate meals; the marriage of modern art with a midcentury bar cart would be just at home on a “Mad Men” set as it is in this modern-day space, where it is in chorus with the room’s overarching themes; and the dining room’s large expanse of windows not only contribute the warm glow of natural light but offer up the working palette of nature at every turn.

“We hoped visitors would feel a sense of familiarity and nostalgia, as well as a sense of freshness,” Mendelson tells. “The wish is for visitors to experience the space and discover more with each visit.”

Materials chosen for the project reflect what is found in the surrounding nature. “In this space, we have many large windows, so it’s natural to want to connect the palette to the outdoors,” the designer says.





A multipurpose side table with a beautiful view can act as either a children's table at family gatherings or a space for the homeowners to have a quiet dinner or breakfast on their own. "It's all about function," the designer says.

ASPIRESIDECHAT

'Tis the time of year to gather family and friends for cocktails and feasts. It's also the perfect setting to showcase your hosting prowess with perfected playlists, signature spirits, decadent dishes, and decorations that will keep the conversation purring and the mood just right.

Every entertainer loves to make a statement, so for this issue, **ASPIRE DESIGN & HOME** asked designers and tastemakers how they make their own. From centerpieces to parlor games, their tips are sure to make your own holiday event a memorable one. **JENNIFER QUAIL**

E n t e r t a i n i n g .

Howard Hawkes & Kevin Kemper | H3K Design | Palm Springs, CA | h3kdesign.com

Every fab party has two elements: continuity and libations. The food you are going to serve – small bites, full dinner or maybe simple deserts. Whatever avenue you choose, be sure to have continuity and a theme. Don't have chips and salsa next to a charcuterie platter, or chocolate tarts alongside sausage bites. Keep it simple and related, such as a charcuterie platter neighboring endive bites. Your guests won't be left scratching their heads over what to eat. Another great tip, if it's in budget, is to hire a bartender or server. This ensures guests won't be clamoring for a cocktail, and prep and cleanup will be easy breezy. Most of all, it allows the host to mingle and talk with guests instead of trying to remember how to make a vodka gimlet. Money well spent!

Trudy Dujardin | Dujardin Design | Westport, CT + Nantucket, MA | dujardindesign.com

A dinner party should feel festive! I love the glitter and reflection of vintage-cut crystal and the mix-and-match Murano glass goblets that I've found in my travels. A colorful idea is to add the beautiful Tutti Frutti Goblets by glass artist Robert Dane of Nantucket. My centerpieces are not always flowers, but often objets d'art or treasures that I've stashed away for a special occasion. The table's focal point could be small sculptures, carved shore birds, Russian artifacts from my father – such as samovars in Russian brass or a bronze "troika" – or, because I live on the coast, lots of seashells. Set the table with those pieces, and it's a party. They add the sparkle and set the mood.

Roxy Te Owens | Society Social | New York | shopsocietysocial.com

The number one thing every event needs to make it memorable is the perfect playlist. It's not a party without music! To make it extra fun, reach out to your guests ahead of time for their favorite songs. I assure you everyone will have a good time! Also, when entertaining, I love to set a table. Even if you're not sitting down to a formal dinner, a thoughtfully decorated table for apps, drinks or all of the above will always impress your guests and encourage them to dive right into whatever you're serving up!

Gideon Mendelson | Mendelson Group | New York | mendelsongroupinc.com

Entertaining family and friends at home gives me tremendous pleasure. I happen to love to cook, so food is always the center of attention. The food has to be easy – nothing fancy or fussy – and should make everyone smile. Creating a relaxed atmosphere is also critical and that starts with the spirit of the host. Nothing is worse than showing up at someone's house and feeling that the host is under stress. If you're hosting, plan ahead so you can enjoy the party when the first guest arrives. Invite outgoing and interesting people that like to have fun. Music and wine is also key, as well as soft lighting. A fresh herb arrangement from the garden in the summer or a fire in the winter will add to the ambience. If you make it look easy, your guests will feel at home.

Vanessa DeLeon | Vanessa DeLeon Associates | New York | vanessadeleon.com

My party list will include guests that will make the party fun, diverse and entertaining. I start out by sending a unique invitation that contains clues, and a key that fits into a treasure box. Because all clues are different, each guest must persuade others to share their clues; it's a great icebreaker for everyone at the party. One time I taped the treasure box to the center bottom of my coffee table. Curious about what's inside the treasure box? Sorry, I have to keep it a secret, but it is definitely a memorable hunt.