



October Design Favorites

Sneak Preview: Long Island's Designers' Showcase



Valerie Onor created a sumptuous bed alcove retreat for the upcoming Designers' Showcase in Mill Neck,

We just received a tantalizing peek at designer **Valerie Onor's** bedroom, cleverly entitled "My Suite Embraceable You," for the upcoming Mansions & Millionaires **Designers' Showcase® '09** at the historic **La Selva** mansion in Upper Brookville, Long Island, October 3 through November 15, a show house spotlighting the talents of **over 40 designers**. Built in 1915, by **Hunt & Hunt**, with grounds by the legendary



Olmstead Bros., La Selva represents the unusual in the **Italianate Mediterranean Style**. The interior is chock full of details depicting many of the world's masters in their field, columns carved with gargoyles and critters, ironwork, vaulted ceilings, marble floors, a stone staircase that seems to float to the second floor, **Renaissance paintings** built into the walls, and many more elegant features. On the exterior, Showcase guests will find garden sculpture and artifacts, some from the 1st Century AD.



Valerie Onor's bedroom in the Showcase is done up in great style, which she says "like great music and great love, never goes out of fashion." It's her special homage to **elegance and romance past and present**. She designed her significant, second floor space with great care, to create an ultra-romantic bedroom that nods to the past while firmly based in the present (see top photo). Onor's inspiration was the commanding mural in the

bed alcove featuring Chinese pavilion, mountains, and exotic birds original to the home's 1915 décor. The technique used is called **marouflage**, a 3,000-year-old technique whereby artists adhesives were applied to both the wall and the canvas before adding paint. Coordinated panels were artfully designed to extend the mural, while still leaving the original panel as a focal point. Onor's workroom painstakingly replicated the mural in the two added end panels, gradually reduced the intensity of their color moving outward to seamlessly blend with the soft palette of the room — hues of aqua, ochre, and green.

The room's lush furnishings are done up in velvets, silks, a touch of lace, and soft colors that lend warmth and enhance the romantic mood. The modern and sophisticated audio-visual system is integrated invisibly into the room — notably within the **19th century rosewood cabinet** that houses a retractable flat-screen TV. The connecting bathroom and dressing room are carefully refurbished and preserved, maintaining their vintage quality. Original brass fixtures, antique wall scale, and tile coexist comfortably with new amenities — fresh wallpaper, fine linens, and accessories. Her dressing room continues to augment the room's plush feeling with a pair of feminine fireside chairs, a handpainted chest of drawers, and a retro dressing table with a tufted, upholstered seat.

Designers' Showcase Dates: Open for public tours October 3 through November 15. Check this **info sheet** for dates and hours of operation.

Location: La Selva, 187 Oyster Bay Road in Mill Neck, NY. Click on the **info sheet** for directions.

Tickets and Proceeds: \$30 per person. On Oct. 2nd there is a **special gala preview** open to the public at a cost of \$125 per person. All proceeds from the ticket sales benefiting the non-profit organization **The Mentoring Partnership of Long Island**.