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Kips Bay Showhouse 2018

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Sometimes it takes a few days for something to sink in. You think about it, let it roll around in your head, and then come to a conclusion—like a great movie: If you're still thinking about it a week later, you know it's a winner.

That was Kips Bay for me this year—it opened May 1 and will run through the 31st. Each of the 22 designers—including luminaries like Alexa Hampton, Mark Sikes, David Netto, Drake | Anderson, Juan Montoya, Alessandra Branca and Bunny Williams—designed their own individual spaces, but distinct themes emerged for me this year, and it was impossible for me to take them out of the larger context of what's going on in our world.

There was a distinct Jazz Age feeling in many of the spaces, where a gilded presence felt quite literal:

Salon by Drake | Anderson. The walls are covered in Lelievre fabric that's hand-beaded by Ankasa. Photo by Marco Ricca.

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Philip Mitchell's Drawing Room is a riot of collections. Photo by Nickolas Sargent.

"Art and A La Carte" is a good way to describe this library and dining room, with its Frank-Stella inspired ceiling and 18th-century paintings that live in harmony. Photo by Nickolas Sargent.

All of these rooms have so much more interest than the photographs that were taken here, as they show only one vantage point. What I loved about Kips Bay is that there are 360 degrees worth of interest, with not a single surface left untouched. I'm telling you, it's worth the train ticket to New York and the $40 entry ticket!

(And if you want to read more on each room before you go, here's a detailed description of the designers and their rooms.)

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