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DESIGN WITHOUT BORDERS

EAST MEETS WEST AT THE NSO SHOW HOUSE

WRITTEN BY EMILY LYONS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACY ZARIN-GOLDBERG

Design inspired by the Orient has been en vogue for so long that it's hard to call it a trend – it's been fully embraced and absorbed into the way we plan our spaces. Clean lines, natural motifs (think lotuses, dahlias, willows, hummingbirds), exotic materials such as bamboo or teak, low seating, and subtle lighting – we see these elements in many shelter styles, from traditional to contemporary. As proud sponsors of the National Symphony Orchestra's 2008 Designer Show House titled *Beyond Dragons: An East-West Fusion of Interior Design*, we were delighted to see many new designers in the mix and a diverse medley of cultures (Indian, Indonesian, Korean, Filipino) represented, sometimes all in the same vignette. The complete show house, presented at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase in late October, was surprisingly harmonious and brimming with ideas.



DECADENT DRESSING ROOM

BY DEMORAIS & ASSOCIATES PLLC

This hot-pink-and-black-lacquer affair is basically a temple of shoe worship. The built-in "shoe showcase" turns ladies' footwear into objets d'art, and a low black lacquer dresser with drawers that don't match each other in size or finish is another charming curiosity. The intensely feminine flourishes and color scheme conjure many feminine brands – Designers Janet Morais and Anna Bimba have heard visitors murmur about *Sex and the City*, Betsey Johnson, and Louis Vuitton when they enter the space. Shoes were loaned by The Little Shoebox. DeMorais & Associates PLLC, 703.369.3324, demoraisid.com.

COCKTAIL HOUR IN SINGAPORE

BY LIZ LEVIN INTERIORS

Designer Liz Levin took, in many respects, a non-literal approach to Asian design. Instead of putting up scrolls of calligraphy, she says, she used the curvy, black and white contrasts as a point of inspiration. Her Singapore cocktail parlor uses Regency-style furniture in oxblood and peacock taffeta to invoke the jazzy liveliness of the city. An antique brass bar cart, a statement-making rug by Madeline Weinrib Atelier, and an enameled red birdcage enhance the effect. The finishing touch? Campari and Bombay Sapphire cocktails to match the interior, of course. Liz Levin Interiors, 202.333.5386, lizlevininteriors.com.

