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Show & Tell Part IV

Trish Muyco
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STStieven_Fustenburg

Lisa Watson

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We present you with the final installment of our series of conversations with *LN's* Show House designers. Don't forget, the 2012 William Bernoudy *Ladue News* Show House opens next Friday, Oct. 5, and runs through Oct. 21.

MAGGIE STIEVEN, MKS DESIGNS

LN: What's the best advice you ever received?

MS: My dad told me that there are about 13 simple words that will help you be successful in life and in business: *Please, thank you, yes sir, no sir, yes mama, no mama, I'm sorry.*

LN: What's your most prized possession?

MS: A small oil of a rather large man and woman dancing together. I have it in my hallway. Whenever I pass by it, I smile.

LN: Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?

MS: Diane Von Furstenburg. (1)

LN: Where or when do you feel most inspired?

MS: It could be something as simple as going to the fresh floral market or just being out at our family farm in Hermann. (2) But I feel most inspired when I'm around my mom.

LN: Favorite architectural style?

MS: I'm drawn to the Greek Revival homes. (3) There's something about the large columns, the painted plaster exterior walls, and the large porches. I also love French chateau architecture.

LN: If you could decorate any type of home, which would it be?

MS: An old farmhouse. I love restoring old things.

LN: What should no home be without?

MS: Bookshelves or a display cabinet where you can display your treasures and things you love.

LN: What's your favorite fabric?

MS: I love Romo because of the bold graphic designs and rich textures. Madeline Weinrib fabric is awesome to give old furniture a new updated look. (4)

Ken Stuckenschneider, Stuckenschneider Decoration & Design

LN: What's the best advice you ever received?

KS: A professor at New York City's Pratt Institute (where I earned my Master's) advised: *If you are going to draw attention to something, you better make it beautiful.* I took it to heart and have never stopped.

LN: Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?

KS: My work is a blend of Michael Smith's classic style, Billy Baldwin's relaxed, casual modernity, and incorporates details like those in the great work of Nancy Lancaster and John Fowler. I also adore the American glamour of Ralph Lauren and the modern traditionalism of my mentor, Robert A.M. Stern. (1)

LN: Where do you feel most inspired?

KS: I'm most relaxed and inspired at my family's 100-year-old farm on the plains in central Missouri--- the sunlight is incredible.

LN: What's your favorite architectural style?

KS: Palladian--- anything derived from the great renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. (2) That could be an Italian villa, a Georgian townhouse, a Caribbean plantation great house, or a mansion on the bluffs of the Mississippi.

LN: What's the most beautiful building in St. Louis?

KS: Cass Gilbert's Art Museum, of course.

LN: If you could decorate any home, which would it be?

KS: St. Louis is filled with beautiful, traditional, rambling English-style Georgian and Tudor houses that I adore updating so they are fresh and inviting for family life.

LN: What should no home be without?

KS: Fresh flowers, real fires, candlelight, dogs, children, and great food.

LN: Who's the best designer in the world right now?

KS: I madly follow the work of Stephen Gambrel, (3) a University of Virginia-trained architect with a delightful and irreverent eye for traditional and modern detail; as well as the exotic work of Muriel Brandolini, whose enchanting home I visited on the Upper East Side and which has had a lasting influence on the elegant and unusual architectural finishes I incorporate in my own work.

LN: What's a perfect night out in St. Louis?

KS: Old-fashioned cocktails and exquisite appetizers at Taste with my wife, and then taking in an independent film at The Chase, Hi-Pointe, Tivoli, or Plaza Frontenac.

LN: What's your favorite movie?

KS: The Merchant Ivory film, *Howard's End*, (4) about the enchantment of a small, English cottage and the spell it casts over all those who visit.

TAMMY HARDESTY, LIFESTYLES UNLIMITED

LN: What's the best advice you've ever received?

TH: Love where you live, and enjoy the surroundings that you come home to every day.

LN: What's the most prized possession in your home?

TH: The beautiful photographs of my children, Blake and Eric, as they were growing up...treasured moments in time.

LN: Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?

TH: Laura Day. (1) Her sophisticated designs exude an easy elegance with personal touches to satisfy a client's needs for function and beauty.

LN: Where or when do you feel most inspired?

TH: I feel a sense of excitement when I travel. The newness of a place inspires me to be creative.

LN: What's your favorite architectural style?

TH: European. I love the Old World charm. (2)

LN: What's the most beautiful building in St. Louis?

TH: The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. The Romanesque style possesses a majesty and magnificence that is unmatched.

LN: If you could decorate any type of home, which would it be?

TH: A castle in England. (3)

LN: What five things can't you live without?

TH: Friendships, humor, creativity, books on my nightstand and my iPhone.

LN: What should no home be without?

TH: Photographs of family and friends and lots of comfy blankets!

LN: Who's the best designer in the world right now?

TH: Charlotte Moss, because of her elegance, sophistication and classicism. (4)

LN: What's a perfect St. Louis night out for you?

TH: Dinner at Jimmy's on the Park and a show at The Muny.

Trish Muyco

