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Left to right: This sleek living room is featured on the cover of Rinfret's book, *Greenwich Style: Inspired Family Homes* (Rizzoli); this lauded master bathroom features a hand-painted Gracie wallcovering with matted silver gilt background; a rendering of Rinfret's entry for the Show House.

CINDY RINFRET

Greenwich-based designer Cindy Rinfret's global aesthetic will be front-and-center at this year's Kips Bay Show House in Palm Beach, but it's not her first rodeo in Southern Florida. In fact, she reports many of her clients have second homes or are relocating to the area. "I've always wanted to do Kips Bay, and this is such a great opportunity for our office since we've been doing projects in Vero Beach and Palm Beach," Rinfret confirms.



Still, Rinfret couldn't have foreseen the particularly daunting challenge ahead. Tasked with designing the show house entry and living room, the Rinfret, Ltd. team faced a tight time crunch (less than two months with the holiday season smack in between) to deliver a stellar first impression for the space. "It's the first thing you see when you walk through the door, with 27-foot double-height ceilings," Rinfret says, adding, "8,000 people will go through this room."

Never one to back down from a challenge, Rinfret took the assignment in stride and leveraged her connections with vendors to outfit the room. With a Mizner flair from the outside, Rinfret wanted the entry and living space to match the home's authentic-

ity on the outside. First, she sourced grass-cloth wallcoverings by Nicolette Mayer to balance the oversized scale. Then, Rinfret added 18-foot Moroccan-inspired arches to create a lounge alcove area and make the space more intimate.

"There are multiple seating areas, and the room now has this wonderful cozy feel to it," she says. "We wanted it to feel like the person who lived in this house was well traveled, and had built a collection over the years." To create a collection, Rinfret scoured the Antique and Artisan Center in Stamford, Connecticut. "We found Anglo-Indian chairs and beautiful stone-carved tables that look like panels in the Taj Mahal," she adds. "I hope people will be romanced and taken away by this room, like they've been transported to another place."

Like her process for the show house, Rinfret always starts with the house itself and the client's needs to design spaces in any area, from Greenwich, Connecticut to a mountain house in Vail, Colorado, or a New York City penthouse on Park Avenue. "I never want a home to feel like a stage set that's just frozen," she adds. "Clients always say, 'I can't believe I use my living room.'"