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'Outdoor rooms' distinguish Red Cross show house exterior



Jeffrey Langlois

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At the rear of the American Red Cross Designers' Show House, white curtains billow in the breeze in a second-floor loggia designed by Veronica Volani-Inza of Smith and Moore Architects Inc.'s interior division. The house faces the Intracoastal Waterway.



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Daryl McCann of Gregory Lombardi Design created a variety of 'outdoor rooms' for relaxing and dining on the main pool patio at the American Red Cross Designers' Show House. In back of the whirlpool spa is a bench that provides seating for those enjoying a fire pit. Behind the dining table at the right is a curved 'living wall' vertical garden.

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SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS

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Not all of the design drama occurs inside the 2011 American Red Cross Designers' Show House, which is open through Feb. 19 at 3000 N. Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach. The decorators and landscape artists have put into place plenty of noteworthy strategies that make the outdoor spaces as eye-catching as those indoors.

A primary landscaping trend today is to create "outdoor rooms," which can be as intimate as any other room, agree Keith Williams of Mario Nievera Design Inc., and Daryl McCann of Gregory Lombardi Design.

"You have to form spaces and develop movement through those spaces," said McCann, who designed much of the rear patio area.

A pathway, separate from the patio, gives that impression in the backyard. He also used distinct colors in several different seating areas to help delineate spaces.

McCann's "living wall" vertical garden, meanwhile, creates a privacy screen, acts as a sculptural element and creates an intimate space from which to appreciate plants from a different angle, he said.

At the front of the house, Williams "wanted to create a feeling of a Mediterranean courtyard, with not just a bunch of plants, but by using a combination of materials — pots, gravel — to accent the architecture of the house, give a sense of arrival and add an element of surprise.

"The idea was to include trees in containers and palm trees on the side of the driveway to give the space height and to make it feel like you are underneath a canopy of green, while framing the courtyard," Williams said.

Meanwhile, on the rear pool patio, Michael Powers of Studio Powers and Veronica Volani-Inza of Smith and Moore Architects Inc.'s interior division created outdoor rooms in the more literal sense: Each decorated an open-air loggia — one space above the other — and hung weather-resistant white draperies to define their spaces while adding a bit of romance and drama.

Powers' loggia in navy blue and white is on the ground level, where a king-size mattress, which is supported by a white frame and upholstered in all-weather fabric, invites relaxation.

Volani-Inza's loggia is on the second floor above Powers' space and is accessible only from the master bedroom. Her palette of white, gray and bright yellow is pleasing in itself but also doesn't detract from the eye-catching views of the shimmering Intracoastal Waterway and Palm Beach beyond.

■

Home and Loggia Editor Darrell Hofheinz contributed to this story.