

White Webb "Makes an Entrance" at Holiday House 2015

The Academy Mansion's grand foyer gets a grand design courtesy of interior designers, Matthew White and Frank Webb.



“It was a rare privilege for us to use design to raise awareness for two important causes: breast cancer research and marriage equality.”

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[Holiday House](#), the esteemed designer show house that raises funds for breast cancer research, flung open its doors this past week, and visitors were greeted by a warm welcome from [White Webb](#). Designers of the mansion's grand foyer, Matthew White and Frank Webb well understood their responsibility to create a stunning first impression, and they used their signature style to deliver exactly that.

As the event's name suggests, the designers needed to choose a holiday as the source of their inspiration. After considerable research, White Webb chose a little known holiday, called [Loving Day](#). Not exactly what it sounds like, it's the holiday marking the anniversary of the 1967 US Supreme Court decision in the case of *Loving vs. Virginia*, in which interracial marriage was legalized. They “loved” the double-entendre of the holiday name, and also thought it particularly timely given the most recent Supreme Court decision to sanction gay marriage. What they settled upon was a design scheme that riffs on the idea of love being something to be shared equally by everyone.

With marriage on their minds, they created a color scheme based in black and white with touches of silver, gold, gray and cream. Artwork makes subtle reference to themes of love and marriage, such as [Knot No. 7 by Wolfgang Leidhold](#), which gives dynamic presence to the concept of “tying the knot.” Similarly, the shimmering multi-media work by [Steven MacIver](#) evokes the laciness of a bride’s veil. Towering over the room is [Sabin Howard](#)’s life-size, bronze sculpture of Apollo, famous for his ardent, yet unrequited, love. In the entry hall, a series of photographic works by [Pierre Sernet](#) appear as abstracts, but are actually silhouettes of amorous couples of different races and genders. The only clue to their identity is the name of each piece, which is that of the pictured lovers. Finally, in tribute to the love pioneers who inspired the design, a [colossal bookcase by RO/LU](#) houses pictures of the couples who fought for love equality: Richard & Mildred Loving, Edie Windsor & Thea Spyer, Kris Perry & Sandy Stier and Jeff Zarrillo & Paul Katami. A true representation of love being shared by all.

As with much of White Webb’s design, the furnishings represent a juxtaposition of shapes, periods and textures, which create visual excitement and allure. In love parlance, it could be likened to the spark that occurs when opposites attract. Seating vignettes appear like dramatic courtship rituals with an exuberantly scrolled, wrought iron armchair seducing a cement bench, or [Donghia](#)’s curvaceous [Giselle settee](#) flirting with the frilly, but shy Louis XV armchair perched by its side. Rich and intricate fabrics from [Elitis](#) and [Rubelli](#) lend luxury, warmth and glamour.

Standing sentinel over the amorous festivities are a pair of White Webb’s very own [Clearly Classic Alexander Consoles](#), appearing for the first time in a smoke gray acrylic and now available exclusively at Donghia. What’s not to love!

About Holiday House

Having survived the disease through early detection, Holiday House Founder Iris Dankner has made it her mission to support breast cancer research and help women who are facing the same fight. In 2008, Iris combined her passion for design and her efforts to help others by creating Holiday House, a New York City based showhouse benefiting breast cancer research. Each year since, Holiday House has recruited top interior designers from across the country to transform the historic Academy Mansion on the Upper East Side, establishing itself as one of the premier showhouses in the country.

Proceeds from both events benefit The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®. For more information, please visit <http://www.holidayhousedesignshow.com> or call 212-472-3313. Like us on Facebook (Holiday House Design Show). Follow us on Instagram and Twitter (@HolidayHouseNY).

About The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®, founded by Evelyn H. Lauder in 1993, is an independent not-for-profit organization committed to funding scientific research to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer in our lifetime. In October 2013, BCRF committed \$45 million to support the research of more than 207 scientists across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, China, and Australia. Currently, 91 cents of every dollar spent by BCRF is directed towards breast cancer research and awareness programs. BCRF remains one of the most fiscally responsible charities in the country. For the eleventh time since 2002, it has earned the top rating of 4 stars from Charity Navigator. BCRF is proud to be the only breast cancer organization rated an “A+” by CharityWatch. For more information about BCRF, visit <http://www.bcrfcure.org>.

About White Webb

White Webb, LLC is an interior design firm with offices in New York City. The firm’s principals, Matthew White and Frank Webb, bring a sense of history to every interior design project, but balance it with an appreciation for modern life. This blending of old and new is the hallmark of the White Webb sensibility. In addition to high-end residential interiors, the firm produces a popular furniture line - Clearly Classic by White Webb – which is a collection of acrylic occasional tables sold exclusively through Donghia. The firm also operates White Webb Finds, a lifestyle shop offering antiques and contemporary design items in Hillsdale, NY. For more information on White Webb, visit <http://www.whitewebb.com>. Follow White Webb on Facebook and Twitter (@whitewebb), on Pinterest (@whitewebblc), and on Instagram (@whitewebbinteriors).