

Mansion in May 2010: A Sight to Behold

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HARDING TOWNSHIP, NJ - Mansion in May 2010 at Fawn Hill Farm in Harding Township, New Jersey, is truly a sight to behold. Featuring the work of 35 interior decorators and 17 landscape architects, the former country estate of businessman and philanthropist Allan Kirby has been transformed into a designer showhouse with lush gardens. More than a dozen boutiques are also on the premises showcasing unique furnishings and home accessories. The 15th Mansion in May presented by the Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital involves over 1,000 individuals volunteering in excess of 12,000 hours. All funds raised at Mansion in May are being used to fund the expansion of the Emergency Department of Morristown Memorial.

Tina Mulhane, President of the Women's Association of Morristown Memorial Hospital, told The Alternative Press that upwards of 18,000 visitors are expected at the Mansion, which is open to the public from May 1st through May 31st. Mulhane told The Alternative Press, "Mansion in May is the Women's Association's signature fundraiser and represents the culmination of talented designers and enthusiastic landscapers coming together as a team to create this spectacular showhouse."

Valerie Matthews of British Home Emporium in Madison created the "Sexy Little Library" at Fawn Hill Farm, "an intimate pine paneled room, seductive in its appointments - a special place for the ladies to gather for a drink before the evening festivities begin." Matthews told The Alternative Press, "The warmth of the pine paneling and the texture of the fabric and the romance and comfort showcased here are the perfect fit for British Home Emporium."

"Rhapsody in Bleu," a room designed by Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors in New Providence, was inspired by the room's original milk glass chandelier with subtle hues of blue. Rachel Kapner, President of Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors, said that the blue used throughout the room "envelopes you but does not overwhelm." She added, "This is our third Mansion

in May. We won in 2006 for 'Best in Show.' We are extremely excited to be back."

Spring Street Dezigns and Haute Bungalow, both of Chatham, came together to create the Fawn Hill Farm Social Club. Inspired by a bottle of Veuve Clicquot champagne, the Club features a warm orange and is a room that you never want to leave. "It's for socializing with friends, and enjoying each other's company," said Anne Pryor of Haute Bungalow. "I recently was in the emergency room at Morristown Memorial and was so blown away by the professionalism and organized chaos that greeted me. That's why I'm working so hard to make the emergency room even better," said Pryor. "It's really rewarding," she concluded. Dezi Folenta of Spring Streete Dezigns told The Alternative Press, "We've been involved in 5 Mansions in May. It's really about the Women's Association - they are the strength behind this. They truly are what make it happen. They love it and believe in it so much, which makes the execution of it so much better."

In addition to the designer rooms, visitors can stroll 16 lush gardens including The Three Arches created by Beth Riley of The Potted Garden in Madison. For Riley, it's about much more than creating a beautiful garden for Fawn Hill Farm. Riley's son Connor was born with a compromised gastro-intestinal system. For four months, he stayed in the NICU at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Today, Connor is an active 13-year old. "Morristown Memorial's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nursed my newborn back to life - and here's my chance to do something in return," said Riley.

Completing the tour of the Mansion in May is A Garden Gives Back by Susan Cohan of Chatham, New Jersey. A Garden Gives Back is an active vegetable garden whose produce is being donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry to help feed Morris County's residents.

What a wonderful way to end a delightful tour of a spectacular showhouse.

The Mansion in May is open to the public from May 1st through May 31st, Monday through Saturday 10-3 and Sunday, 11-4. General Admission is \$30 and \$25 for Seniors (Age 62 and up). Visitor parking is provided at Atlantic Health's Corporate Offices, 475 South Street in Morristown, NJ. Shuttle service to Fawn Hill Farm will run continuously during the hours of Mansion operation.