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DESIGN

new england

GARDEN ENVY

Bunny Williams and
her Connecticut oasis



SAVVY SYNERGY • The four main rooms of the Portland Designers' Show House work in harmony to make them best in show



Study

COLLABORATION was the name of the game at the Designers' Show House to benefit the Portland, Maine, Symphony Orchestra last fall. It is also what made this show house stand out in our memory. Instead of disparate spaces, the study, drawing room, dining room, and kitchen worked in concert yet still highlighted the individual talents of their designers. "We're competitors, but we're also friends," says Brett Johnson of Maine Street Design Co. in Portland. "We knew if the entire floor looked harmonious, it would make each of our individual rooms look good, too."

COLOR CONFIDENCE

For continuity, the designers agreed on a compatible palette that would employ shades of purple — from barely there lavenders to bold aubergines. In the 15-foot-by-15-foot study, Brett Johnson (RIGHT) went for intensity by saturating the walls in tones of eggplant applied, wet-on-wet, on an oil-based glaze for an ombre finish. Surprisingly, the rich color adds sheen and light to the intimate space, which he filled with comfortable custom furniture, one-of-a-kind accessories, and lots of art. Windows were dressed with linen curtains interlined in flannel bump. Proof of success: The owners, who loaned the house to the symphony, bought the window treatments and are keeping the wall color.

