



ARF Designer Showhouse with a Twist

By Sharon McKee

On Saturday, May 28, the Animal Rescue Fund of The Hamptons (ARF) will host a preview cocktail party at the newly renovated ARF Thrift & Treasure Shop to celebrate its grand re-opening. ARF's Thrift & Treasure Shop will be transformed into a stunning Designer Showhouse featuring nine rooms created by renowned interior designers from Manhattan and the Hamptons. Unlike most benefit designer showhouses, however, each stylish room will incorporate Thrift Shop items and pieces donated from the designers' own collections. Everything will be for sale!

Guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while they stroll among the themed rooms and chat with the designers. It's all about re-decorating and re-purposing for a purpose; proceeds will benefit ARF, one of the beloved animal rescue organizations of the East End. "The idea that there are endless new opportunities for things which once seemed old is an important theme for this evening. The Thrift Shop renovation has created an amazing space and we're hoping our designs help showcase how thrift

store pieces can be used creatively in any home," said event chair and interior designer Sandra McConnell.

More than 200 guests are expected to attend the preview party at 6 p.m. to kick off the 2011 summer season. Tickets cost \$150 general admission, or \$250 if you want to attend the "preview of the preview" hour from 5 to 6 p.m. to enjoy first dibs on shopping.

Following the Opening Night party, the Thrift Shop will charge a \$10 entry fee to the general public (children free) on Sunday, May 29, and Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day). All purchases will stay in place until Tuesday, May 31, at which point they will be available for pick-up.

The lineup of top designers who will create rooms for this inaugural and unique Thrift Shop Designer Showhouse includes: Geoffrey Bradfield, Thomas Britt, Alex Papachristidis, Marshall Watson, Mark Fichandler, Peter Hallock, Thomas Samet, Priscilla Ulmann, Sandra McConnell and Sharon Zambrelli. According to ARF, all the designers are animal lovers who are donating their time and expertise to help ARF raise funds. Each room will feature Thrift Shop items and pieces donated from the designers' own



Geoffrey Bradfield and Mr. Willoughby

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collections. Adding to the occasion, ARF has received the entire contents of a large private estate in Amagansett, including beautiful Asian-themed furniture and decorative arts.

"Tom Samet and I got to do the garage," said Peter Hallock, himself a dog lover. "We turned it into a lounge and called it The Kennel Club!" he added. A longtime Southampton resident, Hallock could not remember a time when a designer showhouse or showcase was devoted to thrift shop finds.

Interior designer Papachristidis will design a sumptuous dining room incorporating furniture from the Thrift Shop, Bradfield will design a writer's lair, Fichandler will create an artist's studio with artwork from the store, and McConnell and Zambrelli will showcase a stylish woman's dressing room featuring designer clothing and accessories from the ARF Thrift Shop.

Over the past year a significant expansion and renovation was completed at the ARF Thrift Shop. The renovation team included contractor John Hummel & Associates, architect Rob Smith of Hollenbeck & Smith, and Landscaper Charlie Marder of Marders in Bridgehampton. The thrift shop generates 20% of ARF's annual operating budget, so with the expansion of the shop ARF will be able to accept more donations and continue to successfully fund the organization's animal Adoption Center.

The mission of ARF is to provide for the health and welfare of dogs and cats on the South Fork of Long Island and Shelter Island through shelter and adoption services, medical care, spaying and neutering programs, community outreach and humane education. Founded in 1974, ARF is the leading animal adoption center on the East End. For more information, please visit arfhamptons.org.

The ARF Thrift & Treasure Shop Designer Showhouse Preview Event takes place Saturday, May 28, at the ARF Thrift & Treasure Shop, 17 Montauk Highway, Sagaponack. Tickets at \$250 include the Preview Hour from 5 to 6 p.m., or \$150 for General Admission at 6 p.m. The Showhouse will be open Sunday, May 29 and Monday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10. For tickets call 631-537-0400, ext 216, or email gloria@arfhamptons.org.

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