

BEST OF SHOWHOUSES 1998

DESIGN TIMES

THE ART OF INTERIORS

ALEXANDRA STODDARD ♦ CARLETON VARNEY



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ENTERTAINING THE CROWD

Best Place to Display Art and Antiques

Judi R. Male, Judi R. Male, A.S.I.D., Inc.
The Viscaya 1998 Designer Showhouse & Gardens, Viscaya, Fla.

"Most clients are not collectors of fine art and antiques," said interior designer Judi Male. But when Male dreamed up clients for this living room in the Viscaya showhouse, she imagined "a sophisticated young couple, world travelers" in need of a space to display their art and books.

First, Male and her associate, Alison Cahlin, composed a collection of modern art, Oriental ceramics, and African baskets for their imaginary couple, and then created a room to show it off.

The space originally had dark-brown walls and virtually no lighting, and the antique pine entry door

and mantel were obscured by their dark stain. Male and Cahlin had these refinished to let the original wood shine through, and lightened the space further with the walls and bookcases painted in a soft ivory. Male then installed recessed lighting and a crystal chandelier from Niemann Weeks. A cream sisal rug provided a pale base for the furniture and grand piano.

To really make the space glow, Male and Cahlin had the ceiling painted in Ralph Lauren's candlelight silver paint. "It really enhanced the lighting and gave the room a beautiful shimmer," said Cahlin. — C.L.

Furniture from Baker, Knapp & Tobbs. Painting from Heritage House Galleries.

