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Michelle Lane's shabby chic office offers a comfortable space for creativity.

Trash to TREASURE



The line was out the door last month when the items used in the ReStore ReStyle 2011 Design Challenge went up for sale. Customers flocked to Our Towns Habitat for Humanity's thrift store in Mooresville to snag a table made from an old door, a clock designed from old plates and a bathroom vanity fashioned from a desk.

The items were part of the June 7 event, which showcased the innovative efforts — completely volunteer — of seven designers who were each challenged to create a room of their choosing using only items from the ReStores in Cornelius and Mooresville. Some 250 people came to see firsthand how someone else's discarded and donated "trash" could be turned into something useful and stylish.

CHIC DÉCOR

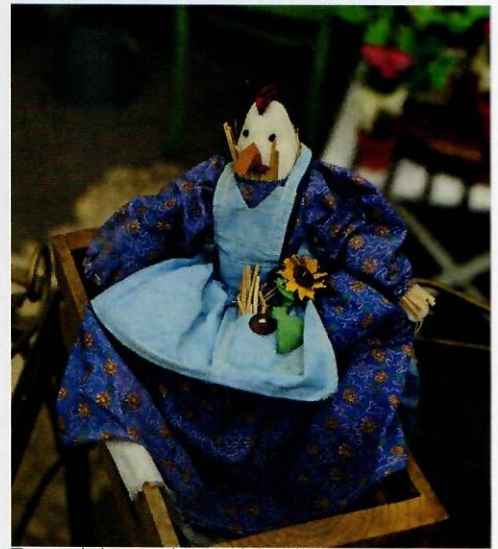
The ReStore ReStyle 2011 Design Challenge was co-hosted by Women of NASCAR and Lake Norman Homebuilder's Association. The event raised money for the Habitat house Women of NASCAR hope to build in the near future.

The design competitors were Becky Charles (a library/study), Joan Inglis (a children's playroom), Rhonda Kramer (a dining room), Cindy Lazes (a potting shed), Michelle Lane (a home office), Jamie McNeilis (a living room) and Stephanie Welborne (a bathroom).

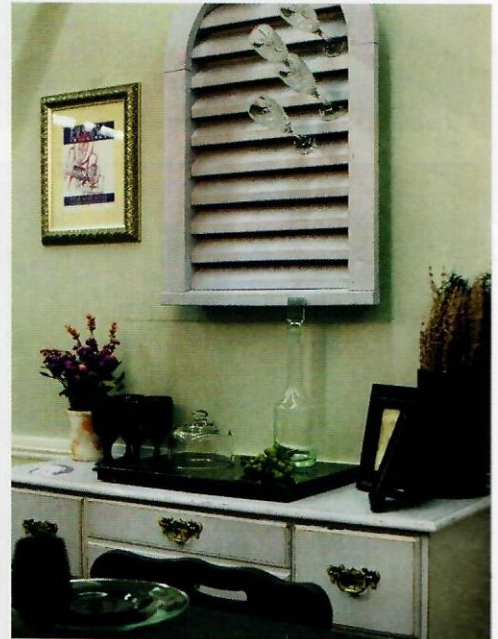
All the designers also were asked to incorporate one "mystery object" — the white glass globe of a light fixture — in their room; however, the glass item could not be used as a light. They had two days to shop for items at the ReStores and two days to convert their room-size cubicle into a room.

Kramer won both the Judge's Choice award and the Best Use of the Mystery Item award. Her black-and-silver chic dining room featured a table made from a wooden door and dressed up with black Plexiglas. The seating included a bench constructed from parts of a decorative wooden bed frame. Her flair for turning trash into treasure shone in how she transformed the glass globe and four old dinner plates into a stylish silver wall clock.

Inglis' young girl's playroom also was a crowd favorite, winning the People's Choice award. The



Top and above, whimsical details made the contest extra fun.



Rhonda Kramer's dining room won the Judge's Choice award.

Designers illustrated the methods to their madness.



ReStore ReStyle brings in a crowd and gets the creative juices flowing



Left: Rhonda Kramer's black and silver chic dining room featured a table made from a wooden door and dressed up with black Plexiglas.

Bottom Left: Fun accessories only added to the designs.

Below: Cindy Lazes' potting shed incorporated all sorts of items.



Pantone 2011 Color of the Year (honey-suckle pink), along with bamboo cream, purple and green, brought new life into a child-size table and chairs, a bookcase and a doll house. Inglis found a magazine holder to use as a babydoll crib.

"It was a really cute, doable room," says Inglis, noting everything was salvaged from inexpensive items found at the ReStores.



much the designers embraced the spirit of the competition and put countless hours into creatively fixing up and improving on the thrift

items they found.

"They proved anyone can stylishly furnish their home if they are willing to use their imagination," says DeCaron. "Besides seeing old items re-styled, the public also was inspired by the high-end look that was achieved. Stephanie Welbourne's bathroom turned a desk into

IMAGINATION AND ELBOW GREASE

Amy DeCaron, of Our Towns Habitat for Humanity, says she was impressed by how

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a contemporary vanity with two vessel sinks. Her floor was truly amazing — oak flooring cut into squares with white tile in the center of each wood square.”

Michelle Gilliland, wife of NASCAR driver David Gilliland, says she was amazed at what the designers accomplished. “I was completely blown away by their creativity.”

Michelle was part of the panel of judges, as were Brian McLeod, manager of pricing and



Stephanie Welbourne’s bathroom turned a desk into a contemporary vanity with two vessel sinks. The oak flooring was cut into squares with white tile in the center of each wood square.

compliance with Lowe’s Home Improvement; Jennifer Bradley, a Trend Strategy Specialist with Lowe’s; and Shawna Robinson, creator of the Happy Chair and a former NASCAR driver.

DeCaron says Our Towns Habitat intends to host the event again in 2012, but most likely it will be held in the spring. “The designers volunteered their time for this event and

probably underestimated how much work it would be,” says DeCaron. “Our Towns Habitat for Humanity is grateful for their dedication to this project.” **LNC**



Lee McCracken is a Charlotte-area freelance editor and writer who lives in Stanley and grew up spending summers on Cayuga Lake in upstate New York. Since moving to the Charlotte area in 1994, she has written about business, education, health care and real estate for various publications.



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