



# the LOCAL EXPERTS

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## The Kingston Design Connection

by: Amy Wallace, Marketing Director

Something really exciting is happening in Midtown Kingston - The Kingston Design Connection's Design Showhouse is nearly finished!

## What's the Kingston Design Showhouse?

In the early spring I had the pleasure of meeting Maryline Damour of design/build firm Damour Drake, the founder of Kingston Design Connection. Maryline is developing a Kingston Design Connection, in her words, "...to connect Hudson Valley designers to each other; to potential clients; and to the growing Kingston design scene." Designers and artisans who become involved are connecting with one another, and with all of us, through several different venues. First they've developed the Kingston Design Directory which will serve as a resource. It's a curated list of Kingston area professionals who are involved in the design/build industry and includes shops that are pertinent to home building and furnishing as well. There's an instagram channel @kingston.design.connection focused

on connecting designers and artisans. And last, but certainly not least, Maryline conceived of a very ambitious project as the real kickoff; to transform a Midtown Kingston Victorian, which was in need of a pretty hefty exterior facelift, into a gallery of local design work. By October. As we sat sipping our coffees at Monkey Joe's in Midtown I thought two things, "What a great way to celebrate the revival in Midtown," and, "how on earth will she put it all together in time?"

But she's done it!

If you're a close follower of local instagram accounts connected with Kingston design scene you may have already seen some sneak peaks...

## 139 Downs Street Kingston

I visited the Showhouse at 139 Downs Street a couple of weeks ago and it was nothing short of miraculous. Each room of the first floor, as well as the front and back porches, and the back garden, have been given over to a local designer who is furnishing it and incorporating items from local makers they've collaborated with. Four of the designers were there when I stopped by, squeezing past one another in the hallway carrying rolls of wallpaper, chairs and mirrors. It was like a party, where people work! There was an air of excitement and a spirit of camaraderie as each of them finessed their rooms.

Finishing touches were going on the front porch and the amazing front door (hence the scaffolding in the photo above.) The front garden was finished, and the back garden was just waiting for furniture to be delivered later in the day. Inside designers were at all different stages, Michael Van Nort and Charles Farrugio of Fred High Falls (who I interviewed about their part in the showhouse here) were finished with the wall treatment in the dining room and loading in their furniture that day. Micheal Carr was in the bathroom dealing with some flooring, Maryline herself was there, getting ready to tackle countertops in the kitchen (I was sorry to miss Megan Offner of NY Heartwoods who we've profiled in the past), and Kate Cummings was there working with some of the most daring wallpaper I've ever seen. Our photographer arrived, and while he's not a design groupie like me, he was equally excited. "This is SO. COOL!"

## Meet The Designers & Makers of Kingston Design Connection

If you're a local some of the contributors to the design showhouse will be familiar, or perhaps not. Many of the contributors find the bulk of their work in the city, designing Brooklyn Brownstones and selling their goods in city boutiques and on the web. Not all of them have local storefronts. That was really the impetus behind Kingston Design Connection, to burst the personal bubbles so many artists end up working in, bring all these talented people together and bring them to the attention of design lovers in the Hudson Valley and Catskills. Let's face it, lots of us need their help! Many of the participants moved here for the same reason so many of our clients do; to live a creative life at a pace that's comfortable in a place with beautiful natural surroundings and architecture. This video by Jay Teske of Jay Teske Leather Co., who's a Kingston Design Connection contributor, is a beauti-







ful portrait of an artist who's chosen to transplant himself in Kingston.

(Search Jay Teske Leather Co. on Vimeo)

While I have a few pictures of the interior of 139 Down Street, I don't want to spoil all the fun! Here are links to the instagram accounts and/or websites of many of the participants where you can explore, and see what they've chosen to reveal ahead of the opening. Click right below to see Kingston Design Collective's instagram where there are hints too!

### Interior and Landscape Designers

Scott Zimmer - Zimmer Gardens | Margie Verghese - South Manor | Maryline Damour - Damour Drake | Charles Farruggio and Michael Van Nort of Fred High Falls | Christina Edwards - Northern Dwelling | Kate Cummings - Freestyle Restyle | Michael Carr - Michael Carr Design | Sean Scherer - Kabinett and Kammer | Kat Hammill

### Artisans

Carla Rozman | Jay Teske - Jay Teske Leather Co | Kat Howard | New York Heartwoods | Kelli Galloway - Hops Petunia | Deborah Degraffenreid | Kathy Erteman | Jason O'Malley | Petra Nimtz | Marsha Massih | Nancy Cohen | Laianna Ferruggia | Juliet R. Harrison | Marybeth Wehrung - Stars of the Meadow Flower Farm | Tim Atkinson | L&M Studio | Pearl Street Alterations | Aronson Woodworks | Beth Bischoff | Danelle Manthey | Diane Ryan | Ed Photokar | Amie Erhman | Tyler Borchert | Perch | DBO Home | JT Mckay - Blue Cashew Kitchen Homestead

### Business Partners

Dozens of local businesses also donated plants, small decorative objects and their services to make this project happen. There's a full guide available at the showhouse, a sort of "Who's Who" of who's helpful in the Hudson Valley.

### When Can You See The Kingston Design Showhouse?

The Showhouse will be open Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in October. In addition there are two Discussion Events - Click to Buy Tickets:

### Kingston Design Showhouse and People's Place



The Kingston Design Connection is donating the proceeds from ticket sales of events and general admission to People's Place. People's Place has many amazing hunger relief programs that benefit the people of Ulster County focusing on the unemployed, physically and mentally challenged, working poor, youth and the elderly. Their impact on our area is both significant and consistent. To learn more about their mission and their programs visit the People's Place website here (you'll notice some Coldwell Banker Village Green elves in the Christmas photo!)

## Interested in Homes For Sale in Midtown Kingston?

Midtown Kingston is humming. There are lots of great coffee shops, some new restaurants, and the same great neighborhood feel it's always had. If being in the center of all of the action in Kingston is important to you Midtown is a great place to look for a home. You can enjoy where you live plus be just blocks from Uptown and the Rondout for variety. It's the best of all possible worlds. Go to [www.village-greenrealty.com/midtown-kingston](http://www.village-greenrealty.com/midtown-kingston) to search.



**KINGSTON DESIGN CONNECTION**

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# KINGSTON DESIGN SHOWHOUSE

**10** Hudson Valley Interior & Landscape Designers  
**12+** Kingston Artisans  
**20+** Local Businesses

Coming together to design indoor & outdoor spaces in an 1800s house in midtown Kingston.



**October 5–28, 2018**  
Mon & Thurs: 6 to 8 pm, Sat & Sun: noon to 6 pm

Admission is pay what you wish. Proceeds will benefit People's Place, a nonprofit in Kingston. Bring this flyer with you as your invitation to the Kingston Design Showhouse.

**139 Downs Street, Kingston, NY**

 [kingston.design.connection](https://www.instagram.com/kingston.design.connection)     [@kingston.design.connection](https://www.facebook.com/kingston.design.connection)  
[www.damourdrake.com/kingston-design-connection/](http://www.damourdrake.com/kingston-design-connection/)

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Kingston Design Connection is an independent art project developed by a Kingston interior designer to help connect Hudson Valley designers to each other; to potential clients; and to the growing Kingston design scene.

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