We present you with the final installment of our series of conversations with LN’s Show House designers. Don’t forget, the 2012 William Bernoudy Ladue News Show House opens next Friday, Oct. 5, and runs through Oct. 21.

**MAGGIE STIEVEN, MKS DESIGNS**

**LN:** What’s the best advice you ever received?
**MS:** My dad told me that there are about 13 simple words that will help you be successful in life and in business: Please, thank you, yes sir, no sir, yes mama, no mama, I’m sorry.

**LN:** What’s your most prized possession?

**MS:** A small oil of a rather large man and woman dancing together. I have it in my hallway. Whenever I pass by it, I smile.

**LN:** Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?

**MS:** Diane Von Furstenburg. (1)

**LN:** Where or when do you feel most inspired?

**MS:** It could be something as simple as going to the fresh floral market or just being out at our family farm in Hermann. (2) But I feel most inspired when I’m around my mom.

**LN:** Favorite architectural style?

**MS:** I’m drawn to the Greek Revival homes. (3) There’s something about the large columns, the painted plaster exterior walls, and the large porches. I also love French chateau architecture.

**LN:** If you could decorate any type of home, which would it be?

**MS:** An old farmhouse. I love restoring old things.

**LN:** What should no home be without?

**MS:** Bookshelves or a display cabinet where you can display your treasures and things you love.

**LN:** What’s your favorite fabric?
MS: I love Romo because of the bold graphic designs and rich textures. Madeline Weinrib fabric is awesome to give old furniture a new updated look. (4)

Ken Stuckenschneider, Stuckenschneider Decoration & Design

LN: What’s the best advice you ever received?

KS: A professor at New York City's Pratt Institute (where I earned my Master's) advised: *If you are going to draw attention to something, you better make it beautiful.* I took it to heart and have never stopped.

LN: Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?

KS: My work is a blend of Michael Smith's classic style, Billy Baldwin's relaxed, casual modernity, and incorporates details like those in the great work of Nancy Lancaster and John Fowler. I also adore the American glamour of Ralph Lauren and the modern traditionalism of my mentor, Robert A.M. Stern. (1)

LN: Where do you feel most inspired?

KS: I’m most relaxed and inspired at my family's 100-year-old farm on the plains in central Missouri--- the sunlight is incredible.

LN: What’s your favorite architectural style?

KS: Palladian--- anything derived from the great renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. (2) That could be an Italian villa, a Georgian townhouse, a Caribbean plantation great house, or a mansion on the bluffs of the Mississippi.

LN: What’s the most beautiful building in St. Louis?

KS: Cass Gilbert's Art Museum, of course.

LN: If you could decorate any home, which would it be?

KS: St. Louis is filled with beautiful, traditional, rambling English-style Georgian and Tudor houses that I adore updating so they are fresh and inviting for family life.
**LN:** What should no home be without?

**KS:** Fresh flowers, real fires, candlelight, dogs, children, and great food.

**LN:** Who’s the best designer in the world right now?

**KS:** I madly follow the work of Stephen Gambrel, a University of Virginia-trained architect with a delightful and irreverent eye for traditional and modern detail; as well as the exotic work of Muriel Brandolini, whose enchanting home I visited on the Upper East Side and which has had a lasting influence on the elegant and unusual architectural finishes I incorporate in my own work.

**LN:** What’s a perfect night out in St. Louis?

**KS:** Old-fashioned cocktails and exquisite appetizers at Taste with my wife, and then taking in an independent film at The Chase, Hi-Pointe, Tivoli, or Plaza Frontenac.

**LN:** What’s your favorite movie?

**KS:** The Merchant Ivory film, *Howard’s End,* about the enchantment of a small, English cottage and the spell it casts over all those who visit.

**TAMMY HARDESTY, LIFESTYLES UNLIMITED**

**LN:** What’s the best advice you’ve ever received?

**TH:** Love where you live, and enjoy the surroundings that you come home to every day.

**LN:** What’s the most prized possession in your home?

**TH:** The beautiful photographs of my children, Blake and Eric, as they were growing up...treasured moments in time.

**LN:** Which iconic designer best represents your own aesthetic?
TH: Laura Day. (1) Her sophisticated designs exude an easy elegance with personal touches to satisfy a client’s needs for function and beauty.

LN: Where or when do you feel most inspired?

TH: I feel a sense of excitement when I travel. The newness of a place inspires me to be creative.

LN: What’s your favorite architectural style?

TH: European. I love the Old World charm. (2)

LN: What’s the most beautiful building in St. Louis?

TH: The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. The Romanesque style possesses a majesty and magnificence that is unmatched.

LN: If you could decorate any type of home, which would it be?

TH: A castle in England. (3)

LN: What five things can’t you live without?

TH: Friendships, humor, creativity, books on my nightstand and my iPhone.

LN: What should no home be without?

TH: Photographs of family and friends and lots of comfy blankets!

LN: Who’s the best designer in the world right now?

TH: Charlotte Moss, because of her elegance, sophistication and classicism. (4)

LN: What’s a perfect St. Louis night out for you?

TH: Dinner at Jimmy’s on the Park and a show at The Muny.
Trish Muyco