

Liz Humphry Powder Room

When is a window treatment not a window treatment? Liz Humphry recently provided an eye-popping answer in her first-floor powder room at the Mansion in May Showhouse. The owner of Wallpaper Cottage Inc., a retail business in nearby Chatham offering fabrics, trimming, wallpaper, some furniture, and interior-design services, Humphry is a traditionalist with a flair for innovation. When faced with a ho-hum and tiny first-floor under-the-stairs bathroom, she channeled her creative muse, tempered it with a bit of playfulness, and combined both with her love of antiques.

The door to this jewel box opens to a “lav” worthy of Marie Antoinette: A Brunschwig & Fils gold-silk drapery treatment with handmade fabric rosettes in the corners frames a French china sink set into a marble-topped Régency console in mahogany. The scalloped sink is actually a tray; Humphry had a hole drilled into the bottom and then had that set into the marble. Over the sink is a gilt mirror from Louis Solomon, flanked by two antique French crystal sconces.

Humphry explains her ideas: “I had to create a focal point and make the space seem bigger.” She was working with a room that was 36 inches wide and 80 inches long. At the sink, the ceiling height was also 80 inches, then sloped downward. About her sink, Humphry says, “You can turn any piece—bowl, tray, whatever—into a sink with a drill.” A sink near silk? She points to the Lee Jofa tassel tiebacks at the rear of the console. “This is a place to primp,” she says. “You’re not going to use this space to clean up after several hours of work in the garden.”

As a backdrop for the design, Humphry followed through with a traditional Chinoiserie wallpaper, *La Danse*, also from Brunschwig & Fils. On the floor is a handpainted floor cloth by Judith Luke recalling black and white marble tiles. The ceiling is upholstered in a Clarence House cream silk.

Humphry drew a captive audience to her space and expanded her domain into the short hall with another eye-catching detail: She hung a scone on the outside of the door, trimming the pleated multicolored scone shades with braid-work from a French soldier’s uniform. **WF**



Above) This powder room under a stairwell measures a mere 36 inches by 80 inches. Liz Humphry, Allied ASID, owner of Wallpaper Cottage Inc., designed a gold-silk drapery treatment for the area over a sink. Drapery fabrication: Rosalie DeSilva. Wallpaper by Brunschwig & Fils; installation: Annand Prashad. Construction: Phoenix Solutions Group Inc. Photography by Patricia Rose Salazar.

Right) Brunshwig & Fils silk and Lee Jofa tassel tiebacks create a luxurious "place to primp."
Photography by Patricia Rose Salazar.

Below) Gilt mirror from Louis Solomon, with a pair of antique crystal sconces.
Photography by Patricia Rose Salazar.



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