



Matthew Patrick Smyth

KIPS BAY DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE | KIPS BAY, NEW YORK



Following service at the American embassy in China, the owner of this showhouse venue was presented with a hand-painted mural—and its installation—by the Chinese government. (With such provenance, chances are the mural isn't going anywhere.)

When Matthew Patrick Smyth agreed to re-envision the grand dining room for Kips Bay, the painting was part of the package. "The mural wrapped the entire room and couldn't be touched," says Smyth. "The purpose of a showhouse is to show all that you can do, so this mural really made the design a challenge."

But Smyth made magic. His theater background directed him to frame the mural, which

depicts a Chinese valley, with pleated panels of ivory and gray cotton. Gray fabric-covered buttons accent the panels with elegant dressmaker detail.

French chairs from the 1950s circle the round table draped with a silk celadon skirt and an embroidered linen topper. He updated the chairs with brown suede, providing happy contrast to the original white frames.

"A dining room is my favorite space to design," says Smyth. "It's a fantasy room, primarily used at night, when people want to be entertained visually. With all the beautiful elements, from china to crystal and silver, a dining room offers something for guests to remember." ▶

Photography by Tria Giovan

Produced by Bonnie Maharam