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(07 STETSON MANSION)

## ***WINTER PARK'S MASTERPIECE INTERIORS HELPS RESTORE DELAND'S HISTORIC STETSON MANSION***

WINTER PARK, FL – A historic but decrepit century-old DeLand mansion that barely avoided a date with the wrecking ball two years ago has been completely restored to its original grandeur thanks to a consortium of design professionals that included Winter Park's *Masterpiece Interiors*.

The award-winning, full-service design firm was one of a handful of selected design professionals who donated their time, expertise and creative talents in restoring the 8,500 square-foot *Stetson Mansion and Gardens* – the 121-year-old former winter residence of hatmaker *John B. Stetson* – to its rightful spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

Requiring months of planning and nearly two years to complete, the stately home located on 1031 Camphor Lane in DeLand, is now open for public tours through December 9, with proceeds benefiting the youth programs at the DeLand Museum of Florida Art for budding artists and architects.

Masterpiece Interiors had the responsibility of restoring of the home's massive dining room and sitting area.

"To help revitalize a home that is steeped in so much Florida history has been a truly a remarkable and enriching experience for our company and the designer who worked specifically on this project for us, *Michael Glazer*," says President and Chief Operating Officer *Christy Scanlon*. "And to think, this wonderful home was ever so close to being razed for new construction."

The goal of the group was to save the building and make it habitable.

Masterpiece Interiors, a 10-year-old design firm that specializes in model merchandising and resort design statewide, was the only local company involved in the project. The task of restoring the mansion's massive 14 x 18 foot dining room was challenging but very successful in employing all the original or refurbished materials in the extensive process, says Scanlon.

The room and adjoining sitting room, which were highlighted by a distinctive hand-painted gold leaf and stenciled ceiling and wood parquet floor, were rich in Victorian, Polynesian and Moroccan influences, providing the cues for design concepts and selections of furnishings and fabrics. Glazer purposely avoided using any window treatments as to not detract from the window's intricate detail work, which included dental moldings and ornate scrolling.

The estimated retail cost for the dining room alone is more than \$20,000.

"Borrowing a line from a popular commercial, there are some things that are priceless," says Scanlon. "And this room is definitely is in that category. Although the room embodies the elegance and ambience of its early history, it is very much a room designed for today."

Masterpiece Interiors has established itself as one of the premier full-service design firms in Florida, providing a broad scope of residential and commercial services for production and custom builders, resort communities and individual homeowners in Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville and Sarasota/Bradenton and has received numerous awards for its efforts.