

Don't forget Fido or FiFi in your home's interior design plans

When designing or re-decorating your home's interior spaces, don't forget to take the needs of the entire family into account – including the family pet.

“When I work with clients who have pets, I decorate with them in mind, too,” says Maria Barcelona, interior designer and owner of Maria Barcelona Interiors of New Orleans. “Clients are always surprised – they say they've thought about everyone else in the family but not their dog! Pets are the ‘forgotten people’ of design.”

At this year's New Orleans Home+Interior Design Show, the family pet has not been forgotten. Visitors to the show will have the chance to experience a new feature, called the Contemporary Canine.



In designing this special area of the show, Barcelona will demonstrate many of the elements pet owners should consider when designing with their dog or cat in mind – and will show special products that allow homeowners to make no compromises when incorporating a pet's needs into the family home's décor. Visitors will see the coolest in pet gear like bowls and beds to fit into any decorating scheme. Perhaps just as importantly, there will be products used to show homeowners and designers that necessities such as pet gates and crates can become unique decorative items rather than hidden from view like they may be now.



When Barcelona designs for a home that has a pet in the family, she considers everything from the right materials, such as dog-friendly fabrics, to the right use of space.

At the show, visitors will see

- stylish new pet beds featuring designs by a San Francisco artist. The beds of PetPlay.com are also eco-friendly.
- end tables for the living room that double as dog or cat homes.
- dog and cat bowls so artistic that homeowners will never hide them away when friends are visiting
- modish dog gates as stylish as any exotic room separator
- the right kind of fabric and flooring choices for living with dogs or cats
- an example of a room designed specifically with a family pet in mind that still suits the humans in the family's need for sophistication and décor
- products by local artists and artisans as well as products new to the local market
- cabinets made by a local artisan that are designed for your dog to press the doors open to get at his water or food bowl



About the New Orleans Home + Interior Design Show

From **Sept. 9-11, 2011, New Orleans Home + Interior Design Show** will be held at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Hall J. The show will feature hundreds of booths brimming with the latest ideas, products and services for both design industry professionals and homeowners. Vendors and craftsmen will come from across the country as well as the Gulf Coast area. Seminars for both professionals and homeowners will revolve around restoration, renovation, entertaining and design trends for both indoor and outdoor living spaces.

Dates/Times

- Noon – 8 pm Friday, Sept. 9
- 10 am – 8 pm Saturday, Sept. 10
- 10 am – 6 pm Sunday, Sept. 11

Ticket Price: \$9 adults (Military with ID - \$5)

Produced by Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans, who also produces the annual New Orleans Home & Garden Show in the Louisiana Superdome each spring.

Website www.NewOrleansHomeShows.com