

Designer Showcase to benefit symphony

BY PAM WITMER

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Inspiration and inside knowledge are what it takes for interior designers to pull together their showings for the Designer Showcase which opens Monday.

This is the 15th annual event, which benefits the Southwest Florida Symphony Society. This year's showcase will be at the International Design Center in Estero.

"We had less than four weeks to complete the showcase from concept to build out," said Kira Krumm, one of the eight designers whose work is featured.

She said her concept for the master bedroom suite came to her quickly. Then she started looking around design center showrooms for the materials she could find on hand to carry it out.

All the designers work independently, choosing their own themes, colors and design elements.

Krumm said the designers began their work in the third-floor space at the design center Jan. 21.

The opening night gala for the two-week showcase is Sunday. The public opening is Monday.

Marsha Klammer, publicity chairwoman for the symphony society, said the interior design event is very important to the volunteer group of about 400 members.

"This is the largest fund-raising event of the year for our organization," Klammer said.

The society provides money for the symphony's expenses.

In addition, members donate more than 100,000 volunteer hours annually to answer



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■ Kira Krumm is one of the eight designers whose work is featured at the event.

phones, usher people to their seats for performances, serve on committees and do other work needed to keep the professional orchestra running.

The event annually raises

more than \$100,000 for the symphony's programs. They include music education in schools, Young People's Concerts, scholarships and free concerts.

This year is the orchestra's 47th anniversary.