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Architectural Gem to Serve as Setting for 'Stately Homes' Designer Showhouse

A mansion from the heyday of country house architecture will have a starring role in a designer showcase set for the spring of 2009. "Sheep's Run," built in 1915 in the affluent Jersey Shore town of Rumson, will be the site of the Stately Homes By-the-Sea Designer Showhouse planned for April 28 – May 31, 2009 to benefit Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey.

"A spectacular showhouse requires a spectacular setting, and we have one," says Liz Thees, Rumson, who chairs the event with Deborah Ansell, Deal. The house and its grounds offer 46 spaces for interior designers and 16 spaces for landscape designers. Designers were offered the opportunity to tour the estate in late September and the names of those selected will be announced in late October.

"We have had inquiries from leading designers across the nation because Sheep's Run offers such a fabulous setting to showcase their work," notes Mrs. Ansell.

The house on Rumson Road was designed by renowned architect Harrie T. Lindeberg for Thomas and Elizabeth Vietor of New York. Lindeberg trained with the legendary Stanford White and learned from the master how to design country houses for captains of industry and finance, whose homes were emblematic of their success.

Noted for his historically resonant designs and the use of organic materials, Lindeberg created for the Vietors a home that evokes the style of a Cotswold Cottage. The original house was massive—more than 200 feet long with 27 rooms and 10 tiled baths. In 1952, a subsequent owner shortened the house by severing two sections and moving them to adjacent properties. Set on 6.5 acres, the structure today is nearly 11,000 square feet, with 25 rooms and 10 ½ baths.

A notable feature of the house is its intricate, ornamental metalwork designed by Oscar B. Bach, much of it with bird motifs. Bach's work is found in a number of Lindeberg houses.

The 2009 event will be the second "Stately Homes" showhouse in recent years to benefit Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. The first was held in May 2007 just across the road from Sheep's Run, at Scothigh Farm, the former Metcalf Estate, and drew more than 13,000 tour goers. Like the former Metcalf property, Sheep's Run was purchased by its current owner with the goal of preserving the estate intact.

Additional information on ticket sales and events associated with the showhouse will be available online at www.statelyhomesbythesea.com.

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey provides health care services to more than 100,000 people each year. Special events and charitable donations make it possible for the agency to provide care regardless of a family's ability to cover the cost. ###