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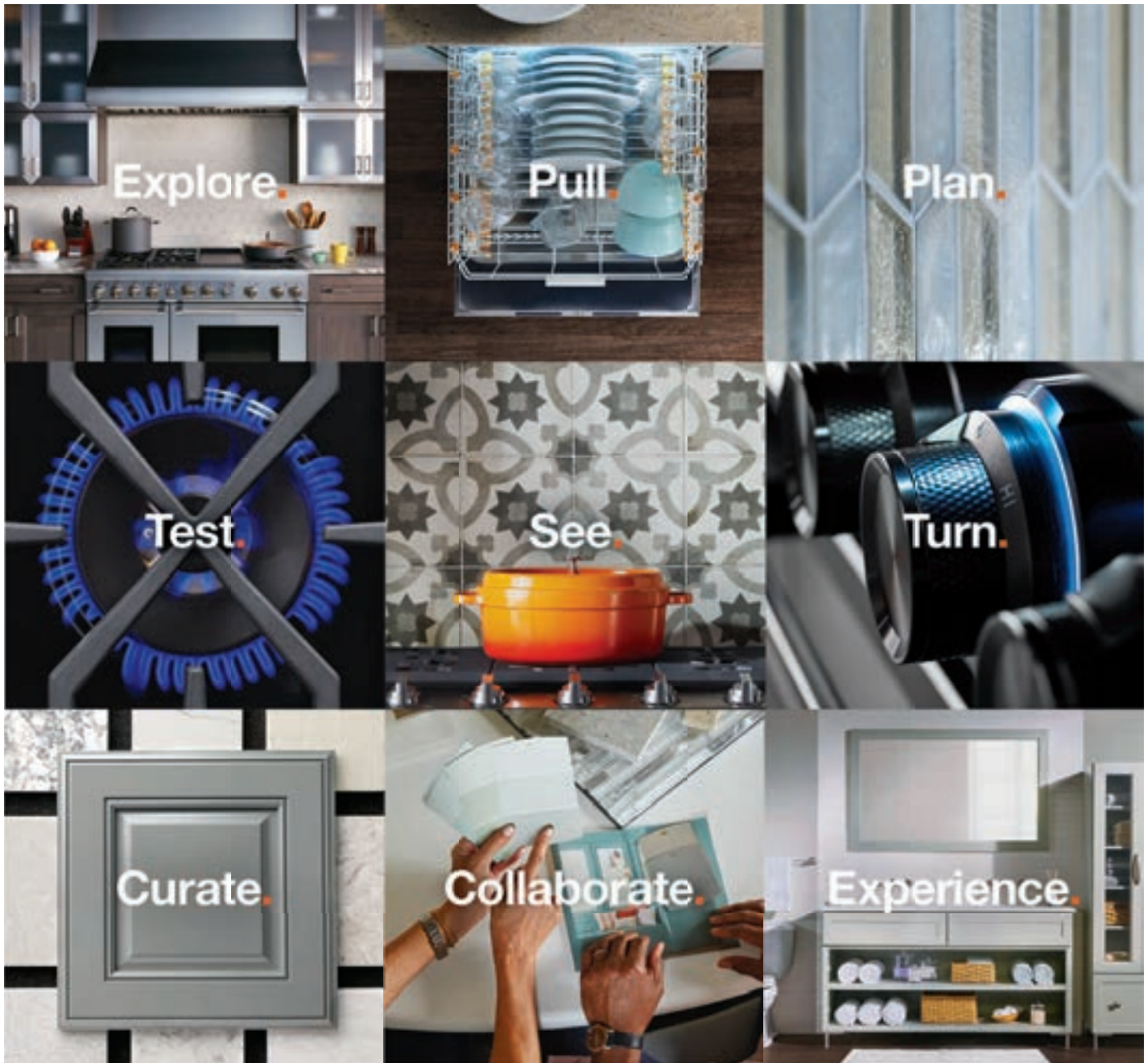


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**“We find the happiest outcome is when clients are willing to take risks and step out of their comfort zone.”**

—DANE AUSTIN



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**ON THE COVER**

*Faux-bois* cabinetry, Calacatta Gold marble and lime-plaster walls imbue the kitchen of a 1920s Baltimore home with understated elegance. Design: Patrick Sutton. Contractor: Pyramid Builders. Photo: Roger Davies.



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*I paid a visit to The Dupont Circle hotel's dreamy Penthouse Suite, designed by Clodagh, just before the property opened in October. See page 30. PHOTO: BOB NAROD.*

As we hunker down for what's expected to be a long winter, our kitchens have been called into duty like never before. My pared-down cookbook shelf is beginning to overflow anew, as my family and I simmer soups and stews to ward off the chill. My husband, who came late to the sourdough party, is catching up with impressive loaves, and our daughters are fermenting their first batch of homemade kimchi. Meanwhile, I'm obsessed with Stayman apples plucked from my local farmer's stand—divine when baked whole, heaped into pies or sieved into sauce.

These days, working overtime in the kitchen transcends simple nourishment. With covid limiting activities away from home, accomplishing everyday tasks yields a surprising level of comfort and control. Cooking and sharing meals fosters togetherness, albeit within our tiny pod; we extend the spirit to loved ones with drive-by care packages.

As home cooking skyrockets nationwide, our annual kitchen issue takes on renewed relevance. "Dream Kitchens" serves up a satisfying spread of newly minted kitchens, from Jonas Carnemark's makeover in the Watergate to Patrick Sutton's elegant Baltimore redo that graces our cover. To help you reimagine your own kitchen, "Cool & Collected" provides a rundown of the latest in appliances and other accoutrements.

Kitchens also play a starring role in the stunning homes we feature in the magazine. The sleek kitchen in a minimalist residence designed by architect David Jameson surveys Virginia's Blue Ridge through dramatic walls of glass. BarnesVanze Architects and designer Fabiola Martens put a glamorous spin on classicism in the kitchen of an 1820 row house they revived in Georgetown. And in his renovation of a Foxhall Colonial, architect David Benton transformed a mundane kitchen into a chic family hub.

Handling a crowd has long been a litmus test for a well-designed kitchen; after all, it's inevitably where party guests love to throng. But ringing in this new year will no doubt be a quieter, more humble affair.

I hope 2021 brings you and yours abundant joy, sustenance and health, with brighter days ahead. Peace,

SHARON JAFFE DAN  
*Editor in Chief*

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# front + center



JC Schaub of 5th Edition Design outfitted the interior at WineLAIR in DC's West End. Kichler pendants illuminate the wine bar, which opens to a dining area and event space beyond. PHOTO: JENNIFER HUGHES



GRAPEVINE

# GLASS ACT

*A posh European wine club opens an outpost in DC*

In 2008, Christian Ress, co-owner of a German wine estate, founded WineBANK, a members-only club for oenophiles. After expanding to seven locations in Germany and Austria, Ress and his partners decided to launch the concept across the pond—and homed in on Washington. The company's initial stateside club—dubbed WineLAIR—uncorked its first bottle last fall in DC's West End. "As a bustling capital city and international hub, we felt the fabric of Washington's community reflected our love of wine, hospitality and travel," says Ress.

JC Schaub of Virginia-based 5th Edition Design outfitted the 5,600-square-foot space in a palette of black and gold; bold lighting and contemporary furnishings set a sophisticated tone. A wine bar serves full bottles and pours by the glass. In addition, members are invited to store their own vintages in the club's climate-controlled lockers. Tables and seating areas offer inviting spots for wine-tasting and dining; light snacks and meals from the neighboring bistro, RIS, are on the menu. 1120 22nd Street; NW; 512-547-7787. [winelair.com](http://winelair.com)

—Sharon Jaffe Dan



TOP: JENNIFER HUGHES; BOTTOM: HAWKEYE JOHNSON



Clockwise from top: Members can sample wines fireside, seated on tufted sofas and lounge chairs by Jamie Stern Design. Charcuterie plates are on offer. WineLAIR's 358 climate-controlled lockers safeguard members' own bottles, to be enjoyed when they visit.



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MASS DESIGN GROUP

On view at the National Building Museum (clockwise from top, left): MASS Design Group conceived a Maternity Waiting Village in Malawi, where expectant mothers congregate. The Butaro District Hospital in Rwanda. A boldly modern structure houses a cholera treatment center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Gun Violence Memorial Project debuted in 2019 with an installation at the Chicago Architecture Biennial. The airy interior of the cholera-treatment center.

BUZZ-WORTHY

## JUSTICE IS BEAUTY

*Two DC exhibits explore design for change*

As the turbulent events of 2020 unfolded, ideals of activism and social justice moved to the forefront of our public discourse. In early 2021, The National Building Museum plans to continue the conversation with two exhibits conceived by Boston-based MASS Design Group (short for a Model of Architecture Serving Society), a nonprofit architecture firm committed to the belief that architecture can—and should—improve lives.

Located on the museum's second level, "Justice is Beauty: The Work of MASS Design Group" highlights the firm's remarkable portfolio. Photographs, videos, renderings and models of completed and proposed projects and research initiatives illustrate how good design can serve as a catalyst to promote healing and humanity.

On the museum's main level, the Gun Violence Memorial Project honors victims of gun violence in America. Four interactive houses, each comprising 700 glass bricks (the number of lives lost to gun violence each week in the U.S.), display objects, from photographs to baby shoes and graduation-cap tassels, contributed by victims' loved ones. Digitally produced stories by survivors of gun violence will be shown on site and online. [nbm.org](http://nbm.org) —*Julie Sanders*



PHOTOS: IWAN BAAH





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# WHAT'S AROUND TOWN

*Editor's note: At press time the following events were scheduled to take place, but please check websites in case of temporary covid-related closures. Some venues may require reservations or entry passes.*

## THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

### **Seeing Differently: The Phillips Collects for a New Century**

February 20 to September 12

▲ The Phillips Collection celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2021. This show commemorates the museum's legacy and launches its future, highlighting more than 200 works from The Phillips' permanent collection. Works on view (including *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Auguste Renoir, above) connect artists past and present and transcend boundaries of race, gender and nationality. [phillipscollection.org](http://phillipscollection.org)

## VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

### **The Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido Road: Japanese Landscape Prints by Hiroshige**

Through May 31

Built in the eighth century, the Tokaido Road connecting present-day Tokyo to Kyoto had become a well-traveled thoroughfare by the early 1600s. Artist Utagawa Hiroshige's woodblock prints depicting landmarks along this 320-mile passageway, first published in 1833, later became one of Japan's most iconic print series. Twelve of these prints are on view, providing viewers with a glimpse of the sights and landscapes travelers once encountered along this historic route. [vmfa.museum](http://vmfa.museum)

## BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

### **She Knew Where She Was Going: Gee's Bend Quilts and Civil Rights**

Mid-January to May 2

Since the mid-1800s, Black craftswomen in Gee's Bend, Alabama, have fashioned worn clothing, sacks and other fabric remnants into one-of-a-kind quilts. The Baltimore Museum of Art recently acquired five quilts by Gee's Bend artists; four of these will be on view in the American Wing's Berman Textile Gallery. [artbma.org](http://artbma.org)



### **Lisa Yuskavage: Wilderness**

February 28 to September 19

◀ This exhibit focuses on 15 large-scale landscapes by contemporary painter Lisa Yuskavage. Noted for their exuberant, ethereal flair, the works encourage viewers to immerse themselves in the mysterious worlds Yuskavage creates. [artbma.org](http://artbma.org)



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

**RECLAMATION: Recipes, Remedies, and Rituals** *January 18 to Dec 31*

▲ This virtual, participatory exhibit combines the work of nine artists with submissions from the public, all of which will examine women's role in providing sustenance and healing. The artists will share their own kitchen tables via photos, videos and stories that depict food as a creative medium; cooking-related submissions from the public will be layered with the artists' work, revealing the interconnectedness of food and the communal nature with which women nourish society. [nmwa.org](http://nmwa.org)

HILLWOOD MUSEUM

**The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir**

**Kanevsky** *February 13 to June 6*

Ukrainian-born artist Vladimir Kanevsky began his career as an architect before moving to the U.S. in 1989. After designing porcelain tableware for a project, he switched gears and wound up pursuing his fascination with botany as a flower sculptor. During winter's throes, a profusion of the artist's creations will bloom at Hillwood Museum. Each petal in Kanevsky's works is shaped, painted, fired and assembled by hand. [hillwoodmuseum.org](http://hillwoodmuseum.org)

THE WALTERS MUSEUM

**Translations and Transitions / Traducciones y Transiciones: A Celebration of Mexican and Central American Independence**

**(1821-2021)** *February 14 to August 8*

This exhibit commemorates Mexican and Central American independence from Spain while exploring cultural exchanges between indigenous and European peoples. Perusing 19 works of art including books, gold adornments and ceramic vessels, viewers can reflect on the vibrant societies that once flourished in what today are Mexico and Central America. [thewalters.org](http://thewalters.org) —*Sharon Jaffe Dan*





Architecture: Jones & Boer Architects, Photography: Maxwell MacKenzie



Architecture: Robert Gurney Architects, Photography: John Cole



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## COLD PLAY

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For the 12th year in a row, Canada Goose has partnered with the streetwear brand Concepts on a “heritage piece.” The latest collaboration recasts Canada Goose’s classic MacMillan Parka in a water-resistant, windproof and reflective fabric that is gray in daylight but turns fully reflective after dark. The unisex down jacket (\$1,050) features a down-filled hood and two fleece-lined pockets with zipper closures. [canadagoose.com](http://canadagoose.com); [cncpts.com](http://cncpts.com)



TRAVEL

# DUPONT DEBUT

## *Clodagh makes her mark in a long-awaited hotel*

The Doyle Collection recently opened The Dupont Circle hotel, its first property outside the U.K. Clodagh designed the expansive Penthouse Suite, which boasts (clockwise from top) a garden terrace complete with fire pit; a posh living room with bespoke furnishings; a writing desk; and a marble-clad bathroom with a heated floor. Doyle bar and The Pembroke restaurant lure locals and visitors alike. Standard rates at the 327-room property from \$245. [doylecollection.com/dupont](http://doylecollection.com/dupont)



PHOTOS: PHILLIP ENNIS PRODUCTIONS



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DINING

## FRESH CATCH

*Charm City welcomes a new seafood spot*

Chef Cindy Wolf of Charleston and Cinghiale fame opened a new outpost in October. Cindy Lou's Fish House puts a Southern spin on local fare, from Sweet Jesus Oysters (above, left) to Lobster Po' Boys and cocktails such as the Burns & Russel (above, right). Interiors conceived by BraytonHughes Design Studios (left and below) offer panoramic views of Baltimore Harbor. Cindy Lou's is located inside the Canopy by Hilton Baltimore Harbor Point at 1215 Wills Street; 443-960-8670. [cindylousfishhouse.com](http://cindylousfishhouse.com) —Sharon Jaffe Dan



PHOTOS: DURSTON SAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

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# LAYERED MIX

*Dane Austin instills a family's new Arlington home with color, personality and a carefree attitude*

Text by SHARON JAFFE DAN

Photography by STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG





With its Jonathan Adler Sputnik fixture and vintage mirror, the entry (opposite) strikes an eclectic note. In the adjacent dining room (above), Modloft chairs surround a table from France & Son.



Madison Homes customized the kitchen (above) with quartzite countertops and a reflective-tile backsplash. A coastal palette prevails in the dining room (below), from aqua Kravet window-treatment fabric to the Carpet Impressions rug.

Repeat clients expecting a second child called on designer Dane Austin to outfit their new, transitional-style home in Arlington. “With a toddler in tow and an infant on the way, the homeowners requested interiors that were sophisticated yet long-lasting and durable,” he explains. “Our clients envisioned a cozy, comfortable and playful environment for the children but also refined spaces where they could entertain.”

The builder, Madison Homes, had already customized interior finishes to the couple’s liking so no structural alterations were required. This freed Austin to focus on creating an eclectic, collected-over-time look throughout the four-bedroom home. He repurposed some of the owners’ existing furniture and designed a number of bespoke pieces, from seating to colorful rugs that were fabricated by a North Carolina workroom. Austin considered every detail—from the size and scale of furniture to trim and accessories—so his clients could relax and enjoy carefree interiors.

“My biggest joy is seeing photos of the family on social media actually using their home, playing on the rug in the living room, reading on the sofa,” he says. “Great design is about ease of use and peace of mind. We’re simply setting the stage for a life well-lived.”



Interior Design: **Dane Austin**, Dane Austin Design, Washington, DC, and Boston, Massachusetts. Builder: Madison Homes, Inc., Tysons Corner, Virginia.





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## ask dane

### HOW HAS COVID MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON DESIGN?

I see a greater focus on health and wellness. As much hardship as the pandemic has caused, it's been a necessary reset for how we use our built environments and how we spend time.

### NAME A DESIGN MISTAKE TO AVOID.

Most people want to paint first, thinking it will get the dirty work done. But then you're stuck selecting everything in your home based on one color.

### WHAT'S YOUR LITMUS TEST FOR CHOOSING FURNITURE OR MATERIALS?

I always ask: Is it special? Is it interesting? Is it unique?

### SHARE YOUR TOP SOURCE FOR VINTAGE FINDS.

My favorite haunt is GoodWood, where I've shopped for years. I always find pieces there to work into my designs.

### DESIGN PET PEEVE?

I'm not one for superfluous accessories; everything has to have a reason.



### Please share your inspiration for the project.

Classic American design is our starting point for most projects. The '30s, '40s and early '50s—that era is timeless. I enjoy mixing genres so rooms feel collected over time. For example, in the living room, the red lacquered coffee table is Asian in style and mingles seamlessly with Mid-Century Modern lamps, Art Deco side tables and a David Hicks-inspired rug.

### What's your secret to bold fabric pairings?

Don't overthink it. Style is about tapping into one's innate sensibility for mixing texture, color and pattern. My mantra is, "Fabrics don't have to match; they just need to go together."

### How do you weave in elements of surprise?

The most memorable rooms have a



wow factor. We find that the happiest outcome is when clients are willing to take risks and step out of their comfort zone. For example, the red-lacquer coffee table is unexpected. Generally, you can use a pop of color in a space as long as it's repeated three times. The red is echoed again in the trim on the club chair pillows and in the painting over the fireplace.

### **What's your take on mixing metals in décor?**

In the living room, there is brass on the floor lamp, the red lamp's base and the sabots on the coffee table legs. We see iron on the end table base and plant stands and chrome on the legs of the club chairs. It's far more interesting and dynamic to mix metals rather than match every piece; it feels less studied and more layered.

Austin mingled disparate styles in the living room, which faces the kitchen. He designed the sofa, Asian-style coffee table and club chairs covered in Kravet performance velvet. The vintage table lamps were discovered at GoodWood in DC.



With a ceiling painted in Benjamin Moore's Chesapeake Blue, the owners' bedroom is a picture of serenity. Phillip Jeffries wall covering provides a soothing backdrop for a bed and swivel chairs, all designed by Austin. Robert Allen trim on the chairs and Kravet trim on the lumbar pillows add a layer of luxury. The chandelier is from Currey & Co.

### **How do you protect interiors with little ones afoot?**

We were mindful of using durable fabrics that are all protected. The homeowners preferred a dining room where the children can sit at the table without concern for stains on the upholstery, so we covered the dining room chairs in vegan leather. They can simply wipe them clean. In the kitchen, we used aluminum chairs from their previous home. The iconic Eames counter stools with molded plastic seats are low-maintenance and easy to care for.

### **What are the advantages of custom furniture?**

Part of the value we bring as designers is creating one-of-a-kind spaces with furniture made just for you. Investing in custom furnishings on the front end means you won't be replacing them a few years down the road. Bespoke items can be repurposed in other homes and will become the antiques of tomorrow.

### **Do you worry about wear and tear on furnishings?**

I'm not one for "precious things" in a home. Good design should be easy to live with and unfussy. For instance, I love the unfinished-wood breakfast table that shows the living and loving that goes on in this home.

### **When it comes to color, do you think less is more?**

Yes. Instead of doing a whole room in your favorite hue, you will notice it more when the color is used as an accent while other finishes take a back seat.

### **How did the dining room palette evolve?**

The homeowners originally wanted a beachy vibe, but that didn't make sense for the home's location. In the end, it was the colors they were drawn to, so I suggested that we implement a coastal palette rather than make the space overtly beachy. There are subtle nods to

that idea, such as the organic Holland & Sherry grass-cloth wallpaper, the chandelier that resembles river stones, aqua-colored window treatments and the rug, which adds movement with the colors of sand, water and fallen leaves.

### **How does trim elevate drapery and upholstery?**

Luxury is in the details. Like a custom-tailored suit, a few thoughtful details will create visual interest, as they are memorable and elevate interiors. Adding tape trim to the dining room draperies immediately makes them feel more high-end—and makes them one-of-a-kind.

### **How do you instill a collected-over-time feel in a home?**

I think of a home as a 3-D installation that is experienced in real time. Great interiors are a mix of high and low, combining custom-made pieces, flea market finds and something bought off the showroom floor. ■

# DESIGN *referrals*

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEWS

**ADU, YOUR APPLIANCE SOURCE**

**BARBARA HAWTHORN INTERIORS, LTD**

**BARTOLOMEI & COMPANY**

**BONNIE AMMON INTERIORS**

**COLAO & PETER OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS**

**DOMINION LIGHTING**

**FINECRAFT CONTRACTORS, INC.**

**HOME ON CAMERON**

**INTERIOR MATTER**

**KNU DESIGN, LLC**

**M.S. VICAS INTERIORS**

**R.E. BEACH ARCHITECTS**

**SIGNATURE DESIGN INTERIORS**

**SKY NRG SOLAR INC.**

**TROUT DESIGN STUDIO**

**USA CABINET STORE**

**WALNUT HILL LANDSCAPE COMPANY**



## Bartolomei & Co.

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Lisa listens to what the client wants, advises on other options and then executes a plan that will achieve all the client’s goals.”*

—Robert Goodrich, WASHINGTON, DC

*The owner of a 1930s home turned to designer Lisa Bartolomei for help with a whole-house renovation and subsequent interior decoration.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

Her knowledge of different styles and how to integrate them cohesively.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

Having Lisa involved from the pre-construction phase, where her talent and training allowed for custom work at all levels.

**Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

The indoor-outdoor flow that allows a warm-weather lifestyle in a Northeastern city.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

Lisa intuitively grasps proportion, scale, color, texture and lighting to produce stellar results. She can work with everything from retail products to the most sophisticated custom designs, finishes and furnishings.



## Barbara Hawthorn Interiors, Ltd.

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Working with Barbara makes you smarter. She offers innovation and a deep knowledge of her profession.”*

*Clients hailing from Dallas hired Barbara Hawthorn to furnish a second home in Maryland. The designer layered art and custom pieces atop a neutral palette to create unique interiors.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

Barbara introduced us to a world of art that has expanded and enriched our lives. She has relationships with galleries and experts that gave us access we could not otherwise find.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

Barbara’s ability to find—and design—special, one-of-a-kind pieces.

**Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

We asked for a mirror to brighten a dark corner. Barbara found a selenite mirror and lamp that do more than brighten the corner—they almost glow in the dark. Our moods are lifted every time we look at them.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

When looking for design services in an unfamiliar city, you can feel adrift. We made no connection with other designers, but meeting Barbara was instant joy. We hoped for excellence but found a dear friend as well.



## USA Cabinet Store

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Gina helped us accomplish our vision—not hers—while guiding us in making the best choices.”*

—Will Martin, ALDIE VIRGINIA

*Gina Dayoub of USA Cabinet Store was asked to remodel a kitchen for homeowners who wanted a fresh, modern sensibility and space for gathering with guests.*

**What did you like about working with your designer??**

Gina had great ideas that suited our design aesthetic. She guided us and offered opinions and choices that got us to our goal.

**What was the secret to your project's success?**

Patience and accommodation, because our project was completed in the middle of the pandemic.

**Name some of your favorite aspects of the finished project.**

We love the island and the hood, which was handcrafted and truly makes the kitchen.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

Gina is patient, friendly and has an excellent eye for design and trends.





#### DESIGNER'S NOTE

Creating optimal spaces to increase functionality is the driving factor of my design philosophy. I am curious and passionate about new ideas and am interested in designs that narrate the homeowners' story and reflect their lifestyle, culture and personality—with a sprinkle of fun! I believe design is a language; in order to master it, we must keep learning the best ways to communicate.



*Clockwise from opposite: An expansive L-shaped island, is critical to this welcoming entertainment space. An eye-catching custom brass hood creates a focal point above the range. The view from the morning room contrasts crisp white countertops with deep-blue cabinetry.*



## FineCraft Contractors, Inc.

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“FineCraft’s work surpassed our expectations.”*

—Patricia Dalmasny & Luis De Lucio, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

*Homeowners in Bethesda contacted FineCraft Contractors for a whole-house renovation that included overhauling the kitchen and bathrooms and replacing the windows and doors. FineCraft’s design team also updated the home’s exterior, enhancing it with new hardscape in both the front and back yards.*

**What did you like about working with your contractor?**

FineCraft was great at giving us options and paying attention to details.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

We were able to collaborate with our contractor to make adaptations that upgraded and expanded some of the items on our list. These changes gave us more open spaces and created a cleaner look, which we love.

**Name some of your favorite aspects of the finished project?**

Inside, we love our new fireplace mantels and the open kitchen concept. Outside, we are very happy with the new path to the front door, with the stucco cladding the house and with the bronze gutters.



*George Papaheraklis*  
*FineCraft President*

**DESIGNER'S NOTE**

At FineCraft, we put a premium on functionality and beauty. Before beginning a project, we brainstorm with the homeowners to ascertain their way of life and aesthetic sensibility. When the time comes to create what has been envisioned, it is a collaborative process—and our clients are invariably thrilled with the outcome.



*Clockwise from opposite:*  
*FineCraft completed a whole-house renovation that features an expansive new patio and deck. The remodeled kitchen flows into the adjacent great room. The owners' suite has been reimagined as an airy, spa-like retreat.*



## Colao & Peter, Luxury Outdoor Living

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“As a design/build firm, Colao & Peter understood our parameters and exceeded our expectations. You can’t ask for more than that!”*

—Paul Battista, TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA

*Homeowners with a drab backyard turned to J.R. Peter of Colao & Peter for a deck and covered patio overlooking a landscaped yard. The goal was to create unique destinations for family and friends.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

They were easy to deal with and got our vision right away. We always felt they had our best interests, and those of the project, at heart.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

The execution of the vision combined with communication. Our changing requests were delivered in a timely manner with the same quality and attention to detail.

**Name some favorite aspects of the finished project.**

The whole project flows so well together. We love the garden spaces and the lighting for its dramatic effect at night.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

We loved working with the Colao & Peter team. In fact, we just bought another house and have already engaged them for that one as well.



*J.R. Peter*

#### **DESIGNER'S NOTE**

As a designer, I am fueled by the energy of my clients. I love collaborative design where the end result encapsulates the vision of the client—married with my years of experience in the industry.



*A backyard in Triangle, Virginia, started as a featureless blank slate (left). The transformation added an extensive deck and covered patio (top); the home's nondescript lower-level plaster wall is now clad in stone. A fire pit and surrounding hardscape (opposite) are softened by lush plantings and lawn.*



## R.E. Beach Architects

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Robert has clear vision and understanding. He is great to work with and made our renovation easy. It was a great experience!”*

—Doan Tran, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

*Robert Beach was tapped to renovate a dated rambler that didn't suit the needs of the homeowners, a family of six. They specified an open, modern home with privacy and a connection to the outdoors.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

We didn't have to micro-manage the process. Robert knew what we were looking for and he was easy to communicate with.

**What was the secret to your project's success?**

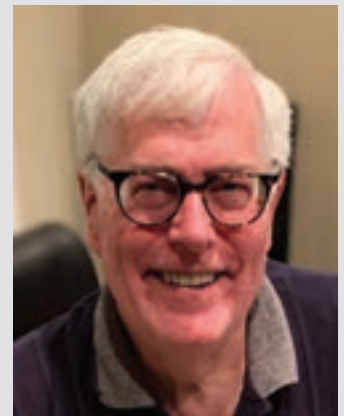
We were able to express our thoughts and vision — and Robert translated them into a great solution.

**Name some favorite aspects of the finished project.**

Our favorite is the main floor, with its open living, dining and kitchen spaces and large views to the outdoors. And we love the privacy of the owners' suite.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

Robert knew what he was doing — and we knew it would work for us. We had trust and faith that he would deliver a great design and he did.



*Robert E. Beach*

#### **DESIGNER'S NOTE**

With years of experience, I have developed a specialized design process that sets my work apart. Early on, I recognized that many designers and their clients seem to struggle with “getting it right.” Our process provides a deep and thorough understanding of our clients’ needs that allows us to find unique solutions, add value and create sensational designs that meet or exceed our clients’ expectations.



*Clockwise from opposite: Architect Robert Beach added a second story to a rambler in Fairfax. His plan opened up the main-floor kitchen to the surrounding rooms and out to the wooded backyard. The living room captures the view; a bridge above provides access to the owners’ suite.*



## Sky NRG Solar Inc.

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Sky NRG’s team of skilled installers planned, delivered and installed beautiful solar panels on our home.”*

—Robert & Babs Jackson, VIENNA, VIRGINIA

*Homowners wanting to reduce electricity consumption from the grid turned to Sky NRG Solar to install solar panels on their residence.*

**What did you like about working with Sky NRG Solar?**

Robert, the owner, met with us at our home to assess the project details, while other contractors only analyzed the house remotely.

**Name some of your favorite aspects of the finished project.**

In addition to the huge reduction in electric bills, our home is still beautiful with the black solar panels. We have an app that allows us to see our energy production and consumption.

**What was one secret to your project’s success?**

We wanted to make sure that our home did not take on an industrial look. Rob understood our concern and designed the system to complement the features of the house.

**Why would you recommend this company to other homeowners?**

Sky NRG Solar is thoughtful, responsive and competitive in terms of price and availability. They make solar look good!





## Knu Design, LLC

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Knu Design is big enough to be efficient but small enough to care and focus on your needs.”*

—David Gallagher, POTOMAC, MARYLAND

*Homeowners tapped Scott Knudson of Knu Design to create a patio, pergola and screened porch, complete with cedar beams and stone flooring. The outdoor spaces connect to the house without impeding backyard views.*

**What did you like about working with your architect?**

Good communication. Scott was very accessible as the project unfolded. He clearly explained design features, even using virtual-reality headsets to help us understand.

**What was the secret to your project's success?**

Two main factors: Overall management and coordination by the architect; and teamwork among the crews (masons, carpenters, electricians, etc.).

**Name some of your favorite aspects of the finished project.**

It is spectacularly beautiful. Every aspect, from the proportions to the way the sun hits the wood, creates a harmonious composition that redefines the existing house.

**Why would you recommend your architect to other homeowners?**

Based on our success, Scott is very good at what he does!



## Signature Design Interiors

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“I am grateful to everyone at Signature Design Interiors for being knowledgeable and responsive and having the highest level of attention to detail. I feel like I have my dream home.”*

—Clyde & Monique Robinson, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

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*A couple moving from a vintage home to a brand new, modern brownstone requested four defined zones within an open-concept space. Chic accessories complement classic furnishings.*

### **What did you like about working with your designer?**

Signature Design Interiors was wonderful to work with. The team listened to our goals and prepared coordinated options across multiple price points. This allowed us to select the pieces we loved from different collections.

### **What was the secret to your project's success?**

The design team made sure we were prepared and knowledgeable about budget and timelines. They completed the project to perfection.

### **Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

One of our favorite outcomes is the dining area, where floor-to-ceiling textured wallpaper is framed like art and the dining room chairs are exquisitely detailed.



## ADU, Your Appliance Source

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“The ADU team is skilled at listening to clients, envisioning their needs and guiding them through the decision-making process.”*

—Cathy Purple Cherry, AIA, LEED AP  
PRINCIPAL, PURPLE CHERRY ARCHITECTS

*Purple Cherry Architects designed this spectacular 10,000 square foot custom waterfront home to embrace views of a neighboring vineyard and Harness Creek.*

### **What did you like about working with ADU?**

ADU is incredible in their product knowledge and in the education they provide clients regarding the features and benefits of multiple appliance manufacturers, enabling them to make well-informed decisions.

### **What was the secret to the project's success?**

We surround ourselves with the best team we can—ADU in this case—while listening to and supporting our clients and respecting their budget.

### **Name some favorite aspects of the finished project.**

The three-story contemporary home incorporates an impressive selection of natural materials, including a three-story metal and wood floating staircase with glass rail, an interior lap pool visible through a glass wall to the corridor, a glass enclosed wine cellar, and a magnificent glass cube pool house with a fire element.

### **Why would you recommend ADU to other professionals?**

I have worked with ADU for over 35 years and can personally attest to their expertise in building a kitchen—mixing manufacturers if necessary—around a client's budget. They stand behind and wholly support their warranty.



## M.S. Vicas Interiors

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Martha’s team went above and beyond to create and deliver on the vision we had for this home.”*

—Audrey McCarthy, MCLEAN, VA

*A client embarking on a design/build project hired Martha Vicas to design the home’s modern interiors. Vicas joined the team early and was involved in every aspect of the process.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

I knew a project this big could add up in designer fees. Martha came up with a fair price from start to finish beforehand, so I knew we could stay on budget.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

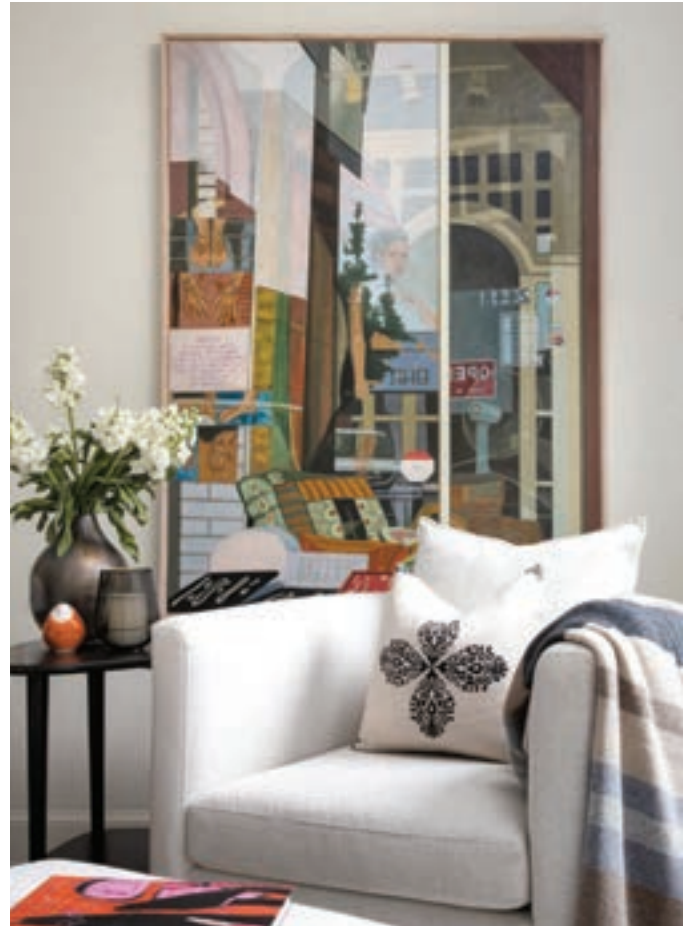
In any project, the key to success is communication, trust and sticking to a budget. Martha was a stickler when she needed to be, but her passion for design came through to everyone involved.

**Name some favorite aspects of the finished project.**

The lighting is exquisite—each piece reflects a different look and mood. The rugs mix color, design and pattern to give the white walls punch. Wallpaper adds individuality.

**Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

Martha has the ability to connect the dots between planning/design, contract, building and execution.



## Interior Matter

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Sarita and Jason are fun and incredibly nice, with a great sense of design and attention to detail. They don’t stop until you are satisfied!”*

—Jane E. West, CHEVY CHASE, MD

*A Chevy Chase homeowner contacted Sarita Simpson and Jason Claire of Interior Matter for a bedroom redo. She specified a modern oasis with great art, accessories and a muted palette.*

**What did you like about working with your designers?**

They offered options and if I rejected them, they were ready with more. They were very patient.

**What was the secret to your project’s success?**

Refining, re-envisioning, factoring in new ideas and looking at how the parts fit together to make the perfect whole.

**Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

The way it makes me feel embraced—like a cross between a museum and a spa.

**Why would you recommend your designers to other homeowners?**

They are excellent listeners who work great as a team. I knew each opinion came from both of them, which was affirming.



## Trout Design Studio

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Michael is very creative. He had wonderful ideas for creating space using every inch of the house.”*

—Roger & Susan Gendron, WASHINGTON, D.C.

*The owners of an 1870s row house in DC tapped Michael Lee Beidler of Trout Design Studio for an overhaul that would create dynamic, modern living spaces on five levels.*

**What did you like about working with your architect?**

Michael has strong ties to DC and the historic preservation community. He knows the best artisans and ensured everyone's work was of the highest standard.

**What was the secret to your project's success?**

Collaboration with a great team. We all worked really well together.

**Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

We love the roof deck! It's accessible by elevator and has a hot spa, pool and city views in all directions.

**Would you recommend your architect to other homeowners?**

Absolutely. He has given us a wonderful place to live.



## Bonnie Ammon Interiors

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Bonnie brought an abundance of creativity and new ideas. It’s been four years since we started this journey and she remains dedicated as she adds finishing touches to every corner of the house.”*

—John & Mia DeWitt, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

*During the renovation of their traditional McLean home, a couple turned to Bonnie Ammon to impart a modern sensibility while layering in luxurious touches usually found in an upscale hotel.*

### **What did you like about working with your designer?**

Bonnie understood our style and likes. She guided us and gave us enough options to make decisions.

### **What was the secret to your project’s success?**

Bonnie’s expertise, communication and team approach with our builder, Brush Arbor Homes, made it all possible.

### **Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

The house tells a story—including the ceiling design in the dining room.

### **Why would you recommend your designer to other homeowners?**

Bonnie displayed great integrity and responsibility throughout our project. You can tell she loves what she does.



## Walnut Hill Landscape Company

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“We highly recommend Mike and his team because they reliably completed our project on time and on budget.”*

—Phil & Meri Gibbs, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

*The owners of a home in Annapolis hired Mike Prokopchak of Walnut Hill Landscape Company to overhaul their front and rear yards. The new landscape plan features a renovated pool with a water feature as a focal point. It's surrounded by ipe decking; stone retaining walls, blue-stone walkways and a brick-paver driveway are softened by plantings.*

### **What did you like about working with your designer?**

We appreciated Mike's attention to detail and his professional approach. The Walnut Hill team always delivered on time.

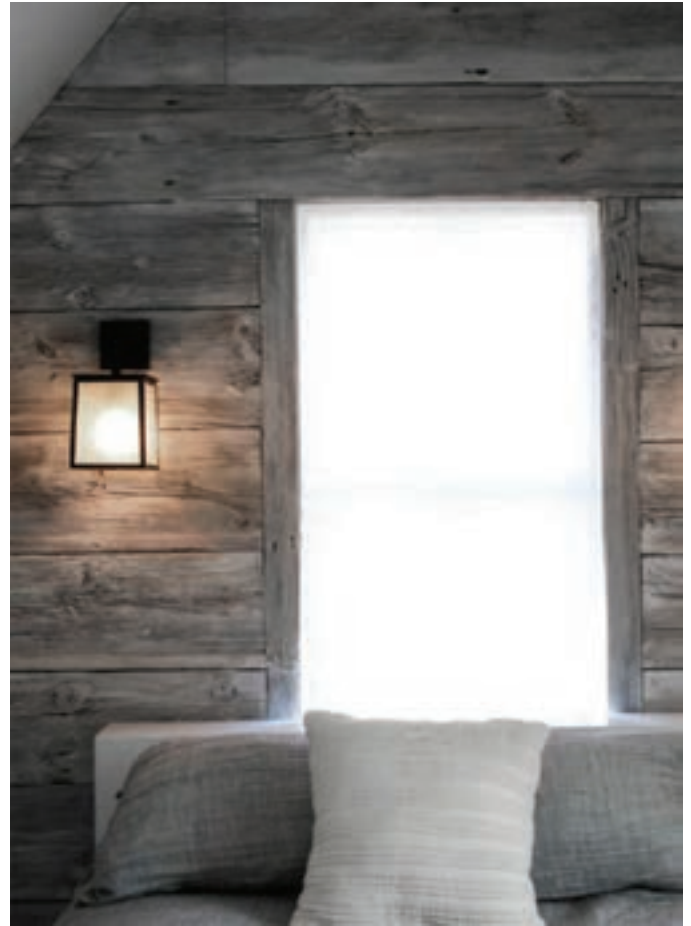
### **What was the secret to your project's success?**

We feel the project was successful because of Mike's methods of communication. His late-afternoon inspections allowed us time to discuss our project status.

### **Name some favorite aspects of the finished project.**

We really enjoy the pool area, especially the water feature. And the seasonal potted plants keep the yard interesting through the change of seasons.





## Dominion Lighting

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“Nicole treated my home as if it were her own. She spent time studying my blueprints to ensure that all lighting components worked beautifully together.”*

—Paige Coulam, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

*Arlington homeowner Paige Coulam turned to lighting consultant Nicole Brose, ALA, ASID, of Dominion Lighting to create a layered and innovative lighting plan for her modern home.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

Nicole respected my approach while educating me about lighting options that make my home one-of-a-kind.

**What was the secret to your project's success?**

Nicole's passion for lighting. She always had my best interests in mind and never rushed my decisions.

**Name a favorite aspect of the finished project.**

Despite how different my fixtures are, they create an overall look that's modern and fresh.

**Why would you recommend your designer?**

Home projects can be stressful. Nicole made the process fun.



## Home on Cameron

CLIENT PROJECT REVIEW

*“If you want deeply personalized service from someone at the top of his artistic game, Todd Martz is your designer!”*

—Susan Duffy, WASHINGTON, DC

*A client contacted Todd Martz of Home on Cameron to create her “forever” space: functional, livable, beautiful and indulgent. Martz renovated the home with new furnishings and lighting throughout.*

**What did you like about working with your designer?**

He orchestrated the perfect mix of checking in and moving ahead when he knew what I'd prefer.

**The secret to your project's success?**

Todd's ability to interpret design outcomes through my eyes and budget.

**Favorite aspect of the finished project.**

The slim slab fireplace beautifully unifies and optimizes the space. A faux front panel conceals a Murphy bed and looks like art.

**Would you recommend your designer?**

Absolutely! Todd listens, responds and pivots when appropriate. He handled everything. I am delighted with the entire living space.



1



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## CALL TO ORDER

Text by SHARON JAFFE DAN



2



### 1/ WORKING HIDEAWAY

Skip Sroka designed a study for two in a new McLean residence. It houses a pair of built-in desks with generous drawers and shelves above that can be hidden behind doors when not in use.

When planning this home office, Sroka allowed for adequate storage and lighting—important factors in any home-office project. “Also, ensure you have chases for wires, a hardwire connection for CAT6, electrical outlets and grommets to run plugs through,” he advises.

Millwork in his McLean project, fabricated in sapele and rift-cut cherry, meets these requirements with style. —*Architecture: Glenn Chen Fong, AIA. Interior & Millwork Design: Skip Sroka, CID, ASID. Sroka Design. Builder: Sandy Spring Builders. Photography: Geoffrey Hodgdon.*

### 2/ FASHION FORWARD

A homeowner with a keen fashion sense turned to Christine Philp to design her Chevy Chase abode. Philp took the dressing room in a bold direction with textured Duralee wallpaper animating the ceiling. Built-in wardrobes flank an island topped with marble while a Visual Comfort chandelier adds bling.

Philp recommends homeowners carefully consider their preferences when designing a closet. “Do you want to see everything or have it neatly hidden behind doors?” she queries. “Take the time to create the best environment you can.” —*Architecture: Aggregate Architecture + Design. Interior Design: Christine M. Philp, Palindrome Design, LLC. Builder: Sandy Spring Builders. Photography: Jenn Verrier.*



### 3/ LAP OF LUXURY

Designing a dressing room “is an opportunity to carve out a special sanctuary,” says Barbara Hawthorn. In this luxurious Bethesda retreat, she designed custom mahogany built-ins featuring interior lighting, glass-enclosed shelving and adjustable space for hangers; a center island conceals charging stations and outlets.

“Good space-planning and circulation are essential” to a successful design, Hawthorn notes. “If possible, access to natural daylight is beneficial. And be sure to create a comfortable place to sit for dressing tasks that are easiest accomplished seated. This is especially important as you age.”—*Interior & Millwork Design: Barbara Hawthorn, Barbara Hawthorn Interiors, Ltd. Millwork Design & Fabrication: Atrium Interiors. Photography: Kenneth M. Wyner.*

### 4/ KID-FRIENDLY RETREAT

Laura Fox was tapped to design a family’s Woodley Park home, which includes a room where their kids can study, practice music and relax. A custom cabinet stores books and toys; at one end, a flip-top table creates an instant desk.

“With virtual learning and technology taking over, it’s important for kids to have space to work and be creative,” says Fox. Whether or not it’s a dedicated kids’ room, she first considers how it will function and how to maximize every inch. “Making it pretty,” Fox insists, “is the easy part.”—*Interior Design: Laura Fox, Laura Fox Interior Design, LLC. Cabinet Fabricator: Bill Sapp. Photography: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.*





Bob Narrod, Photography, LLC

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► Manufactured in a workshop outside Paris, La Cornue's ranges are stars of the culinary world, known for their precision and iconic appearance. The Château Series is made by hand in a wide range of configurations, colors and finishes; the 120 Château Range is pictured. Available locally at Ferguson. [fergusonshowrooms.com](http://fergusonshowrooms.com); [lacornueusa.com](http://lacornueusa.com)



▲ Boffi's latest concept is Combine Evolution, an addition to architect and designer Piero Lissoni's Combine kitchen system. Evolution includes a wooden table that connects the system's modules, which are dedicated to food prep, cooking or washing up. Open metal shelving suspended above boasts a utensil rod and integrated LED lights. [boffi.com](http://boffi.com)

# KITCHEN KARMA

*Stylish innovations from appliances to cabinets*

Text by JULIE SANDERS



▲ Bath-fixture manufacturer Franz Viegener has made its first foray into the kitchen. The Franz Viegener Kitchen Collection features a pro-style faucet distinguished by a contemporary profile and a curved silhouette. It's available in chrome, nickel, gold, rose gold, satin black or unlacquered brass—in a polished or matte finish. [franzviegener.com](http://franzviegener.com)

## cool+collected

▼ Blanco's SOLENTA Semi-Professional faucet boasts a sleek design with a solid-brass body, dual spray mechanism and a flexible hose in easy-to-clean stainless steel. The SOLENTA Senso model combines these features with sensor technology that allows for hands-free use. Available at Poggenpohl in Georgetown and Chevy Chase. [poggenpohl.com](http://poggenpohl.com); [blanco.com/us](http://blanco.com/us)



▲ The Wolf Convection Steam Oven (on left) combines the best of both worlds: Convection mode cooks evenly and faster and keeps food moist, while steam retains nutrients and eliminates the need for oils. The oven features a climate sensor for reliable temperature control. Available in 24- and 36-inch widths at Appliance Distributors Unlimited. [subzero-wolf.com](http://subzero-wolf.com); [buyadu.com](http://buyadu.com)

▼ Interested in a made-to-order kitchen? Woodharbor Custom Cabinetry offers framed and frameless options in two collections. Pictured: A kitchen by designer Erin Fry of Kensington-based Cre8 Cabinetry Designs conjures an "updated traditional" vibe with Woodharbor cabinets in quarter-sawn, stained and glazed white oak and custom white. [woodharbor.com](http://woodharbor.com) PHOTO: PEAK VISUALS



▲ Designer Pietta Donovan's eponymous collection of handmade cement and ceramic tiles for Walker Zanger presents '70s-inspired patterns in seven colorways. The tiles, which can be mixed and matched, come in tessellated shapes defined by sharp edges and rounded corners. Available at Architectural Ceramics locations. [walkerzanger.com](http://walkerzanger.com); [architecturalceramics.com](http://architecturalceramics.com)



# Colorful Remodel in Washington, DC



I came to Sarah with a lengthy wish list and a tiny space to work with (8 feet cubed). Sarah literally thought outside the box and designed a magical kitchen that far exceeded what I thought was possible. Sarah's positive energy, innovative spirit, and vast expertise made the project successful and fun. Sarah optimized every inch of the room to perfection. Every time I enter this light-filled, colorful, and unique space, I feel joyful and inspired.

Sarah recommended contractor David Poggioli who brought her design to life spectacularly. David, too, used his creativity, extraordinary talent, and careful attention to detail to make the project a beautiful reality.

I am very grateful to Sarah and David!

Design by **Sarah Turner**  
Photography by Keiana Photography



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▲ Miele's G 7000 Dishwasher Series brings out all the bells and whistles with patented features such as AutoDos, which regulates when detergent is dispensed; an integrated PowerDisk that matches the amount of detergent to the selected wash cycle; and the QuickIntenseWash program, which cleans dishes in under an hour. [mieleusa.com](http://mieleusa.com)



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▲ Italian manufacturer Verona recently introduced its Designer Ventilation Collection, encompassing a classic chimney hood (pictured), a streamlined hood and a built-in hood insert. Each offers four fan speeds, LED lights, anti-grease filters, time-delay shut-off and a choice of filtration systems; hoods come in four colors and a range of sizes. [veronaappliances.com](http://veronaappliances.com)



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▲ Marble Systems' Antique Tile Collection comprises more than 35 vibrant decorative motifs inspired by a variety of sources, from traditional Portuguese and Spanish patterns to dynamic contemporary designs. The glazed terracotta tiles, available in six-by-six-inch squares, are not intended for high-traffic surfaces. The Batik pattern is pictured. [marblesystems.com](http://marblesystems.com)



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▲ Bold custom-color options are not the only eye-catching feature of True Residential's 30-inch-wide Glass Door Beverage Center, which can be paired with the company's other refrigerators, as pictured. Interiors boast antibacterial stainless steel, LED lighting and shelving designed for stability. An easy-to-use LCD display provides digital accuracy. [true-residential.com](http://true-residential.com) ■

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## SHOWCASE

# KITCHEN DESIGN



1/ Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd.



2/ Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens, Inc.



3/ Studio Snaidero DC Metro



4/ USA Cabinet Store

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### 1/ Vacation Style Living

- Air Hinges create tailored, narrow glass cabinet frames
- European white rift oak adds warmth/soft contrast
- Sliding door on island allows room for furniture

Contact: 301-657-2500  
gilmerkitchens.com

### 2/ Captivating Home Environments

- Custom designed kitchen
- Panda marble backsplash
- Coordinating waterfall island

Contact: 240-292-7121  
rosenkitchens.com

### 3/ Sleek Contemporary Living

- McLean craftsman featuring handle-less Snaidero cabinetry
- Snaidero design provides a streamlined consistent cabinet line
- Oslo Oak and Reflect White matte lacquer finishes

Contact: 703-683-1130  
snaiderodcmetro.com

### 4/ Beautiful Soothing Tones

- High-gloss frameless cabinetry and textured wood paneling creates contrast
- Horizontal contemporary backsplash emphasizes length of the space
- Waterfall island design with contemporary faucet

Contact: 703-204-3444  
usacabinetstore.com

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## SHOWCASE

# KITCHEN DESIGN



1/ TriVistaUSA Design + Build



2/ Marks-Woods Construction Services



3/ ABW Appliances



4/ Eisenbrandt Companies

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### 1/ Embracing the Charm

• Combined 1950's original brick, with trendy modern features • Added incredible amounts of natural light, embracing forest scenery • Opened and reorganized first floor • Added massive second level  
Contact: 703-243-3171  
[trivistausa.com](http://trivistausa.com)

### 2/ Envision Design Construct

• Custom cabinetry and oversized island provide ample storage • Custom, gold trim vent hood compliments hardware • True craftsmanship with hand painted terracotta backsplash tile  
Contact: 703-838-9788  
[markswoods.com](http://markswoods.com)

### 3/ No Ordinary Appliances

• An iconic range anchors this airy DC remodel • Extraordinary kitchens demand Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove • Extraordinary builders trust ABW as their appliance source  
Contact: 301-589-1445  
[abwappliances.com](http://abwappliances.com)

### 4/ Statuario Marble Kitchen

• Custom white overlay cabinets with mullion glass decor • Honed statuario marble white countertops • Polished gold Brizo Artesso faucet with champagne hardware  
Contact: 410-925-6749  
[eisenbrandtcompanies.com](http://eisenbrandtcompanies.com)



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Five inspiring projects  
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# dream kitchens

Text by JULIE SANDERS





## THE DETAILS

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CABINETS: [duncancabinetry.com](http://duncancabinetry.com).  
CABINET HARDWARE: [doorhardwareusa.com](http://doorhardwareusa.com).  
COUNTERTOPS & BACKSPLASH: [rocktopsfabrication.com](http://rocktopsfabrication.com).  
APPLIANCES: [subzero-wolf.com](http://subzero-wolf.com), [bosch.com](http://bosch.com) through [pyramid-builders.com](http://pyramid-builders.com).  
FAUCETS: [franke.com](http://franke.com), [grohe.us](http://grohe.us) through [pyramid-builders.com](http://pyramid-builders.com).  
SINKS: [kohler.com](http://kohler.com), [shawsofdarwen.com](http://shawsofdarwen.com).  
ISLAND PENDANTS: [urbanelectric.com](http://urbanelectric.com).  
DINING TABLE PENDANT: [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com).  
BAR STOOLS: [leeindustries.com](http://leeindustries.com).





## moment of zen

*Patrick Sutton conjures serenity and uncluttered elegance in a 1920s Baltimore abode*

Once their kids had grown up and moved out, a couple was ready to reimagine their vintage center-hall Colonial in Baltimore’s historic Guilford neighborhood; the home had become a little too lived-in over the years. They turned to Patrick Sutton for a whole-house renovation that would begin a new chapter. The mandate called for a more streamlined environment—and an airy new kitchen.

“The focus for the project was on clarity, simplicity and serenity,” Sutton says. “And they wanted the kitchen to reflect this new attitude with an uncluttered, calm and restful aesthetic.”

Working with Pyramid Builders, Sutton combined the existing compartmentalized kitchen and the adjacent dining room into one open-plan area with a central waterfall island and a comfortable breakfast nook that spills out through French doors into the yard. Once the space was opened up, original dark-wood finishes gave way to a lighter, brighter sensibility. To create the serene vibe the clients were after, Sutton employed a palette of light-colored, tactile materials—from *faux-bois* custom cabinetry and soft-white Calacatta Gold marble countertops and backsplash to creamy lime-plaster walls. Flanking the sink, open steel shelving displays the clients’ creamware collection and contributes to the room’s airy feel. The range hood, built by Pyramid and faux-finished to look like marble by Artstar Custom Paintworks, is both understated and elegant. The ceiling, combining cerused white-oak planks and beams, perfectly harmonizes with the room’s other elements.

*Kitchen Design: Patrick Sutton, Patrick Sutton, Baltimore, Maryland.  
Contractor: Pyramid Builders, Annapolis, Maryland. Photography:  
Roger Davies.*





## party pad

*A pied à terre at the Watergate is reimagined as a chic center for entertaining*

After purchasing a condo in the Watergate as a weekend getaway, a couple tapped Carnemark design+build to overhaul its dated interiors. They wanted a sleek, modern environment in which to entertain and enjoy stunning Potomac River views.

On their wish list was a functional new kitchen. Following the original footprint, Carnemark conjured a new, contemporary space, with a breakfast bar that opens to the main living area. “The clients loved SieMatic’s Classic cabinetry line, which has a luxe feel but is durable with lots of opportunities for storage,” recounts principal Jonas Carnemark, who also owns Konst SieMatic, an exclusive distributor of the German cabinetry brand. “We knew we’d need every centimeter for storing party items and for appliances like a wine fridge and freezer drawers.

“We built out around the cabinetry so it appears recessed,” Carnemark continues. “This can make rooms that are tight on space feel larger.” A niche in the adjacent foyer was appropriated for additional storage and a nondescript pantry cupboard gave way to a floor-to-ceiling wine fridge with a wall of storage beside it.

Engineered-wood cabinets in lacquered white and cerused walnut are enhanced by glossy nickel accents. The backsplash, walls and countertops are clad in sintered stone, an engineered surface with a thin-slab profile that offers a versatile alternative to quartz. Above the range, the marble-look surface also wraps clean-lined sliding doors concealing storage; panels above create a seamless look.

*Kitchen Design: Jonas Carnemark, CKD, CR, CLIPP, Konst SieMatic, Bethesda, Maryland. Contractor: Carnemark design+build, Bethesda, Maryland. Photography: Anice Hoachlander.*





## THE DETAILS

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CABINETS: siematic.com. COUNTERTOPS, BACKSPLASH & WALLS: sintered stone. APPLIANCES: bosch.com, subzero-wolf.com, futurofuturo.com. FIXTURES: dornbracht.com. SINK: blanco.com. All the above sourced through konstsiematic.com.





## THE DETAILS

.....  
 UPPER CABINETRY:  
 Custom through  
 janiemolster.com. LOWER  
 CABINETRY: ikea.com.  
 COUNTERTOPS: bbggranite.  
 com. BACKSPLASH:  
 morethanglass.com.  
 APPLIANCES: subzero-  
 wolf.com, mieleusa.com  
 through janiemolster.com.  
 REFRIGERATOR: subzero-wolf.  
 com through kdwhome.com.  
 WALLPAPER: thibautdesign.  
 com. CHANDELIER: Through  
 janiemolster.com. TABLE &  
 CHAIRS: Antique.





## color play

*Janie Molster fashions an airy, exuberant kitchen in her 1905 Richmond farmhouse*

When designer Janie Molster and her husband moved into their vintage Richmond farmhouse 20 years ago, they soon built an addition with bedrooms to accommodate their five children. It wasn't until about seven years ago that Molster decided the kitchen—then located in the home's center—would be more logical at the back of the house. "I love standing at my kitchen sink and enjoying the garden view," she says.

Molster conceived a larger, updated kitchen—a welcome change from the previous one last remodeled in the '80s. "The kitchen is a work-horse space—not just for show," explains the designer, who opted to forgo a typical center island in favor of an antique dining table. "The table was a fabulous idea," she enthuses. "It is a magnet for our large family. I sacrificed a bit of storage, but am never alone in the kitchen."

The space is an expression of Molster's distinctive oeuvre. "My aesthetic reflects my love of color and mixing genres and styles," she notes. "I eschew anything predictable." She combined clean-lined white cabinetry with Carrara marble countertops and an aqua back-painted, tempered-glass backsplash, while horizontally patterned grass cloth in rainbow hues clads the paneled fridge and walls. A meandering decorative motif adorns the floor, designed by Molster and painted by Richmond-based H.J. Holtz & Son. A brass-and-glass light fixture over the table adds a touch of glam.

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*Kitchen Design & Contracting: Janie Molster, Janie Molster Designs, Richmond, Virginia. Photography: Gordon Gregory.*



## bistro vibe

*Vintage style and fresh flair merge in the redo of a builder-grade kitchen*

After living with a run-of-the-mill kitchen for five years, a Fairfax couple decided it was time to revamp the space. They enlisted kitchen designer Tanya Smith-Shiflett of Unique Kitchens and interior designer Alison Giese to spearhead a renovation that would create better functionality and light with a fresh, vintage-chic aesthetic.

The designers retained the existing kitchen's footprint with its central island and L-shaped plan, enlarging a window and shifting its location to admit more light. The refrigerator, which dominated one wall, was relocated away from the L, allowing the range—which had been crammed in beside the fridge—to take center stage. The range hood is clad in lime-washed white plaster for a textured, airy effect.

The transitional-style cabinetry is part of Giese's AGI Collection. Smith-Shiflett and Giese collaborated on its design, and it was custom-built for the space by Smith-Shiflett's husband and business partner, David Shiflett. A bright, turquoise-painted island plays off the white cabinetry.

The island is topped with quartz in a marble look while peripheral countertops in dark quartz resembling soapstone add further contrast. "The clients wanted a café-style kitchen," Smith-Shiflett notes. "We used a four-by-four glazed subway tile on the walls and inside the upper cabinets to create that bistro look."

An updated lighting plan incorporates multiple ceiling fixtures in aged brass and frosted glass, which contribute to the vintage appeal. An antique bistro table in the breakfast nook completes the space.

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*Kitchen Design: Tanya Smith-Shiflett, Unique Kitchens & Baths, Great Falls, Virginia; Alison Giese, Alison Giese Interiors, San Antonio, Texas. Contractor: Unique Kitchens & Baths. Photography: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.*







## THE DETAILS

CABINETS: AGI Cabinet Collection through [uniquekitchensandbaths.net](http://uniquekitchensandbaths.net). COUNTERTOPS: [silestoneusa.com](http://silestoneusa.com) through [uniquekitchensandbaths.net](http://uniquekitchensandbaths.net). BACKSPLASH: [tilebar.com](http://tilebar.com) through [uniquekitchensandbaths.net](http://uniquekitchensandbaths.net). FAUCET & SINK: [kohler.com](http://kohler.com). LIGHTING: [etsy.com](http://etsy.com). KITCHEN TABLE: [lucetstore.com](http://lucetstore.com).





## THE DETAILS

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CABINERY: cabico.com through jackrosen.com. COUNTERTOPS: caesarstoneus.com through fernandosmarbleshop.com. APPLIANCES: subzero-wolf.com, bosch.com through buyadu.com. BACKSPLASH: Ceramic subway tile through architecturalceramics.com. FAUCETS: deltafaucet.com through fergusonshowrooms.com. COUNTER STOOLS: leeindustries.com. ISLAND PENDANTS: circalighting.com.





## right angles

*An expansive makeover marries clean lines, functionality and transitional style*

While renovating his circa-1990s home in Darnestown, Maryland, an insurance executive with a love of cooking tapped Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens to overhaul his dated kitchen, with its orange-hued cherry cabinetry and swirly granite countertops.

“A lot of kitchens from around that time were designed with odd angles everywhere,” relates designer Hedy Shashaani, who spearheaded the project. “Nowadays, we eliminate those angles. The goal here was to straighten as many of them as possible while creating better functionality.”

The original kitchen centered on an angled island dominated by a range and hood; it aligned with an angled wall housing a walk-in pantry. A peninsula separated the kitchen from an eating/sitting area.

Shashaani’s plan straightened the pantry wall, enlarging and repositioning the island. A new professional range is a focal point on the cabinetry wall, while the expanded island boasts a prep sink and abundant workspace. A second island with a waterfall countertop and room for six stools replaced the peninsula. A desk area opposite the cabinet wall is now a coffee bar.

Shashaani and South Carolina-based designer Ariel Spuzzillo helped create a transitional aesthetic with a masculine edge. White-painted cabinetry and white Caesarstone countertops are offset by glazed, dark-stained maple that crops up on the islands, clads the hood and houses a wine fridge flanked by refrigerator and freezer columns. In contrast to dark-wood flooring, a white, porcelain-tile “rug” now delineates the space.



*Kitchen Design: Hedy Shashaani, CKD, Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens, Inc., Rockville, Maryland. Interior Design: Ariel Spuzzillo, GDC Home, Charleston, South Carolina. Contractor: D.H. Veirs Contracting, Kensington, Maryland. Photography: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.*



Cast-bronze chairs from John Lyle (opposite) lend artistic flair to the front parlor. The team retained the existing marble-clad fireplaces in both adjacent parlors (these pages) during the renovation.

# *SUNNY DISPOSITION*



A design team instills a 200-year-old  
Georgetown gem with elegant  
style and a cheerful spirit

Text by CATHERINE FUNKHOUSER  
Photography by ANGIE SECKINGER



In the living space, Madeline Stuart sofas rest upon an antique rug from the Nazmiyal Collection. Window panels, combining two Rose Cumming silks, up the sunshine quotient.





The front parlor connects to the entrance hall through a preserved cased opening (opposite), which frames an Art Deco cabinet that designer Fabiola Martens uncovered at New York-based Karl Kemp Antiques. In a stroke of serendipity, the living space's complementary crystal-and-amber chandelier (this page) and its twin in the music room conveyed with the house.

A robust discovery phase yielded copious insights as Fabiola Martens set out to reimagine an 1820 Georgetown row house for its new owners. “I always like to get a lot of information in the beginning about my clients’ lifestyle, hopes and dreams—what they are looking for at this time in their lives,” the designer explains. As she recalls, a single nugget the wife shared with her established a framework for the entire project: “I want to smile when I walk in.”

The couple previously lived in a rambling Potomac home set on several acres. Having launched their two adult children, the empty-nesters were looking to downsize and move closer in, where they could enjoy Washington’s walkability. The 5,500-square-foot, Federal-style abode situated in the heart of the Georgetown Historic District, which they discovered in 2013, aligned with their vision. Its dreary, dated interiors, however, didn’t quite stack up.

Last renovated decades before, the house needed a refresh throughout—and a few spaces warranted complete overhauls. Martens recommended BarnesVanze Architects for the collaboration. “It was mostly an interiors project, bringing the house up in standard and finish,” reveals founding principal Ankie Barnes. “The owners wanted to be sure that the core of the lifestyle that they enjoyed [in their previous residence] could be delivered by a much smaller house. They wanted it to feel intimate, yet at the same time have room for the children to come back and to entertain at a very high level.”

As Barnes notes, the home’s “general arrangement was very strong,” so the team kept its existing layout intact. In that floor plan, a long entrance hall opens to double parlors (a living space followed by a piano room) on the right. Beyond the curved staircase are located the dining room, butler’s pantry, breakfast room and kitchen. The second floor comprises the owners’ suite, a study and a guest room; the top level boasts two additional bedrooms. A staff suite, media room and exercise zone populate the lower level.

The renovation plan focused on transforming three areas: the pantry/breakfast room/kitchen; the owners’ dressing area/bath; and the study. It also addressed the couple’s request for an elevator to accommodate their aging parents.

Before, the kitchen and breakfast room sat closed off from one another. According to architect Ellen Hatton, that outmoded design “didn’t fit the way the owners wanted to live.” The team retained the wall delineating the two spaces but strengthened their connection by widening the opening. Now, conversation carries from the breakfast banquette to the kitchen.

---

Architecture: **Ankie Barnes**, FAIA, LEED AP, founding principal; **Ellen Hatton**, AIA, project architect and principal, BarnesVanze Architects, Washington, DC. Interior Design: **Fabiola Martens**, Fabiola Martens Interior Design, Washington, DC. Renovation Contractor: Glass Construction Company, Washington, DC.





“It’s totally fine to mix and match as long as it works well together.” —FABIOLA MARTENS



The kitchen island’s etched-glass countertop (opposite) reflects light from patinated-nickel chandeliers, designed by Jonathan Browning, hanging above. In the breakfast room (above), a botanical print from Osborne & Little covers the custom banquette. A Stark carpet grounds the space, where a Caperton Collection armchair and Donghia side chairs surround the table. The chandelier is by Vaughan.

The expanded opening also invites more natural light into the kitchen, Barnes adds, “so you don’t feel like you’re buried in the bowels of the house.”

Martens’ design and selections amplified the kitchen’s glow. Lighted cabinets display decorative plates from the owners’ collection. As the designer notes, “When you dim the lights, the cabinets are so attractive and make the kitchen feel more homey.” Luminescent, back-painted glass tops the island.

Harkening back to the wife’s “I want to smile” edict, Martens wove a palette of lively yellows and calming grays throughout the house. To start, she scoured far-flung sources for antique rugs. A buying trip to New York unearthed an Agra rug in her ideal colors. That fortuitous find became the “cornerstone” of the front parlor’s scheme; its hues flow into the adjacent piano room. Window panels crafted of silk in a sun-kissed shade add verve and unite the two spaces without blocking the light. As the designer explains, her client “wanted a happy house, so we kept everything feeling warm and sunny.”

The goal, she adds, was to create “elegant but not formal” interiors for a couple who regularly host charitable events (or will resume doing so post-covid) yet crave a relaxed home life. Presented with a largely blank canvas on the main floor, Martens deftly mixed old and new across a spectrum of styles. An Art Deco cabinet, marrying ebonized wood with vellum panels, graces the entrance hall; a pair of sculptural, cast-bronze chairs sits companionably with two transitional-style sofas in the living space.

“It’s totally fine to mix and match as long as it works well together,” asserts the designer. “You don’t want everything to look alike. It’s more interesting to have a bit of surprise and a little tension between pieces. You want stopping points.”

To furnish the second-floor guest room, Martens pulled from the owners’ existing collection. A coat of soft-yellow paint on the walls and tonal Roman shades at the windows reinvigorate the beloved pieces.

With the final touches installed, the designer orchestrated a big reveal for her clients. As Martens reports, the wife’s reaction affirmed the project’s success: “She walked in and said, ‘I’m smiling.’” ■

#### SOURCES OF NOTE

Music Room Ottoman: ferrellmittman.com. Carpet in Breakfast Area & Guest Bedroom: starkcarpet.com. Refrigerator: subzero-wolf.com. Island Paint Color: Chelsea Gray through benjaminmoore.com. Home Automation: allaroundtech.com. For a complete list of resources, see [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com).



The guest bedroom's existing architectural details, from the intricate crown molding to the classical fireplace mantel, provided an elegant envelope for furnishings culled from the owners' former home. Custom Roman shades in a spirited damask print add energy.





A photograph of a modern, single-story residence with a long, continuous wall of floor-to-ceiling glass windows. The building is situated on a concrete platform overlooking a calm body of water. The water perfectly reflects the building and the surrounding landscape. In the background, a dense line of trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and brown stands against a clear, pale blue sky. The interior of the house is visible through the glass, showing a dining area with a table and chairs. The overall atmosphere is serene and architectural.

# SET IN STONE

Architect David Jameson brings a client's vision to life in a bold, modern residence overlooking Virginia's Blue Ridge

Text by LINDA HALES

Photography by PAUL WARCHOL





In a verdant patch of Fauquier County, life gallops along at the speed of a polo pony. So it seems incongruous that the clock would all but stop at a contemporary fortress on a mountainside in The Plains. Designed by architect David Jameson for a tech entrepreneur, this house hews to geological time. Locally quarried Carderock stone stacked in walls 11 feet high traces its origin to the collision of continents 200 million years ago that formed the Piedmont's ridges and valleys, creating the very slope on which the house stands.

To be sure, the structure exudes contemporary glamour, from the shimmering glass and sleek mahogany siding to a 105-foot-long lap pool flowing toward a view of the Blue Ridge. In fact, the expanse of glass and pool were inspired by the owner's childhood memory of a dream house sketched by his father but never built. The son's 11,980-square-foot

residence carries that vision forward, while the architect has anchored the dwelling to the ages.

"Earth, sky and water," quips Jameson from his Bethesda office, delighted to have achieved the old-is-new dichotomy of an "authentic modern house."

The site boasts acres of woodland overlooking a polo field. Jameson, who trained under the modernist Hugh Newell Jacobsen, has arranged four long, glass boxes or volumes pinwheel-style around a 1,600-square-foot atrium, which rises 25 feet to a clerestory, hiding mechanicals in its structure. Stone walls form a framework of corridors. An upper level is glassy, angular and intentionally askew. Exterior stone and glass read through to the interior, creating a seamless stage set.

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Architecture: **David Jameson**, FAIA, David Jameson Architect, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland. Contractor: PureForm Builders, Washington, DC. Landscape Contractor: Evergro, Glenn Dale, Maryland. Home Automation: Casaplex, Kensington, Maryland.





Previous spread and these pages: A glamorous glass-and-stone residence in The Plains, Virginia, drew inspiration from a childhood memory of a sketch the owner's father had made for a dream house with a wall of glass overlooking a swimming pool. Architect David Jameson adapted that cherished vision on a hilltop site, where a cluster of volumes offers wide-open living spaces focused on exceptional views, and a 105-foot-long, wet-edge lap pool that flows toward the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tradewood supplied the windows; sapele mahogany wraps the garage (below).





“Stone walls protect and cradle the intimate human spaces,” Jameson says. “The glazed walls you live in really act as lenses to the landscape. It’s a large house, yet each space, the way it’s situated, has a very intimate feel.”

The largest volume, at 26 by 72 feet, looks out onto the lap pool and polo field below. A formal sitting area furnished with a contemporary Italian sofa is set off from a 33-foot-long kitchen-dining space. A relaxed gathering corner filled with mid-century Scandinavian classics brings up the far end. A custom divider of stainless-steel bars incorporates a fireplace and large-screen TV.

The 21-by-72-foot bedroom suite shared by the owner and his wife, an attorney, includes a lounge with a fireplace. A third volume holds three 16-foot-square guest rooms. The fourth volume contains a garage, powder room and laundry.

The architect-designed interiors are spare and unified. Sapele mahogany lines corridors and frames the perfectly aligned windows and motorized sliding glass doors. Floor-to-ceiling walnut paneling disguises kitchen fixtures as well as the owners’ walk-in closet. Matte-bronze automotive paint was hand-rubbed onto the kitchen island and lends mystery to partition walls in the owners’ suite.





Stacked-stone walls define the entryway, interior corridors and a 1,600-square-foot atrium (these pages), which serves as a covered porch, occasional event space and working-from-home office. The clerestory design welcomes beams of sunlight, while glazed points of entry on four sides allow light and breezes to penetrate the heart of the house. Mechanical systems are embedded in the atrium structure, which rises 25 feet to a grid of welded steel holding up the roof.



Scandinavian Mid-Century Modern furniture creates a casual vibe in the main living volume. The leather-upholstered dining chairs, daybed and marble-topped table were designed by Poul Kjærholm; the shearling-upholstered chairs, sofa and low table are by Finn Juhl, all available through Furniture from Scandinavia by Annette Rachlin. The architect likens the flooring, made of end-cut blocks of Douglas fir, to a minimalist tatami mat.



Carderock stone walls shoulder the lap pool (right) and form a backdrop for the formal sitting area (below), where a custom fireplace warms a B&B Italia sofa and Hans Wegner Ox chair. Stone is also visible behind a module incorporating kitchen appliances and Boffi cabinetry (bottom) set in furniture-quality walnut paneling.







An Oda chair by Danish designer Nanna Ditzel exudes a 1950s vibe in the owners' suite (above), where a partition wall finished with hand-rubbed, matte-bronze automobile paint supports a Spark Modern fireplace. End-block Douglas fir flooring merges with honed bluestone in the corridors. For the shimmering surface underfoot in the upper-level aerie (opposite), epoxy resin used for cruise-ship decking was poured over concrete. Five limited-edition Arne Jacobsen Egg chairs take in 360-degree views.

Underfoot, corridors of honed bluestone lead to expanses of sturdy, end-cut blocks of Douglas fir. "Because these volumes are long and thin, I did not want to accentuate with linear flooring," Jameson explains. "The bleached blocks give the calming sense of a tatami mat. It's very quiet, minimal, non-directional flooring."

Concrete flooring upstairs is finished in cruise-ship decking epoxy. Both levels are warmed by geothermal wells, one of the home's many sustainable features that, along with green roofs, suggest a longer-term perspective. "The cost of building is one thing, the cost of maintaining is another," Jameson points out. "If you can build with sustainable components, that extends the life of the house. What do you have to do to those stone walls after 100 years? Not a lot."

At home during the pandemic, the owner reflected on the architecture from a sofa beneath the 30-foot-square clerestory. "This house has a great vibe," he says. "It's a center of gravity, a serene place to land

when you come home. That makes a huge difference in quality of life."

As for those walls, they are highly technical—as befits a client in the software business. Stones were cut to three precise heights, then stacked in a fixed pattern decreed by Jameson. "Literally every single wall, every single course is perfectly level, a mirror image," says Eddie Serra of Serra Stone, who managed the masonry. Every nine courses or so, the sequence repeats.

The cadence is so subtle that the owner likens it to "code with a hidden pattern."

In the end, a house is a vehicle for living. "I love that this house is clearly designed," the architect reflects, "but not precious." ■

#### SOURCES OF NOTE

Windows: tradewoodindustries.com. Pool: lewis-aquatech.com. Kitchen Countertops: marblesystems.com. Kitchen Cabinetry: boffi.com. Formal Seating Area Sofa: bebitalia.com. For a complete list of resources, see [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com).



“ Stone walls cradle and protect  
the intimate human spaces. ”

—DAVID JAMESON



# FINE LINES

Designer Breeze Giannasio puts  
a fresh spin on tradition in a  
vintage Palisades abode



Text by JULIE SANDERS  
Photography by STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG





Previous spread: The dining room greets guests in close proximity to the front door and staircase. Giannasio solved the issue with a round, entry hall-style table that can be extended; a Tech Lighting fixture from Circa Lighting hangs overhead. Antique panels from Pakistan repurposed from the owners' previous dwelling separate the sunroom and living room (these pages).



**T**he lure of a house with a yard can be powerful even for dedicated urbanites, once kids arrive on the scene. This was certainly the case for Amalie Weber and Michael Frantzinger, who finally tired of squeezing themselves and two boys into their beloved downtown DC apartment and decided to make a move. They gravitated to the Palisades neighborhood where the kids, then five and seven, were already enrolled in school. “It was as close to the suburbs as I was willing to get,” laughs Weber.

The couple, both attorneys, are modernists at heart—so Northwest DC’s traditional enclaves required an adjustment. What’s more, leaving behind light-filled contemporary living spaces didn’t make the transition any easier. “We were looking mostly for that ‘it’ factor,” reveals Weber. “Also, a lot of houses here are enormous, and I didn’t want that.” Eventually, they found a 4,250-square-foot brick 1940s Colonial that fit their needs—with a beautiful backyard that induced them to overlook the home’s traditional architecture.

Though the interiors were immaculate, they felt stodgy and dated. One of the couple’s favorite local haunts, the Line DC hotel in Adams Morgan, inspired a vision for what the house could be. “The hotel is in a former church so it’s a very traditional space, but they took it in a timeless-modern direction,” Weber says. “We didn’t want antiques and felt full-on modern would look jarring, so we decided to thread the needle—and I knew I couldn’t do it myself.”

Enter designer Breeze Giannasio, a longtime friend of Weber’s who had recently relocated to California (though she continues to work in the DC area). Giannasio helped outfit the couple’s previous abode and Weber never considered hiring anyone else. “Breeze sees a space and knows immediately what it’s missing and what it could be,” she enthuses. “She’s right every single time.”

While in town for an installation, Giannasio toured the Palisades property, then executed plans that she put in motion from her Malibu office. “We looked for streamlined ways to bring their sensibilities into the home while paying tribute to its classical bones and not changing anything structural,” she notes. “You see it a lot with urban infill in Europe where, for instance, Rococo paneling might be juxtaposed with something highly contemporary. This elevates both traditional and modern vernaculars, which act as foils to each other. We did a baby-steps version of that here.”

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Interior Design: **Breeze Giannasio**, Breeze Giannasio Interiors, Malibu, California.





Previous spread: Giannasio conjured a restrained-modern vibe in the living room, where a stone coffee table anchors a seating area with a Vladimir Kagan sofa and chairs from CFC. Graphic black-and-white prints sourced through Celadon Art contribute to the chic, sophisticated environment. Ivory RH drapes combine with darker-hued grass-cloth shades. Right: The sunroom's lustrous, wood-paneled ceiling contrasts with crisp-white walls and trim. A sofa sourced at DWR and Noir Furniture chairs covered in linen and burlap surround a vintage Chinese coffee table.

The designer began by painting walls, trim and architectural details in Benjamin Moore's Chantilly Lace—a transformative move that covered over a hodgepodge of wall colors. Against this fresh, bright backdrop, she introduced blacks, creams and natural hues through textiles, modern furniture and art. "Half the time that palette is how Amalie dresses," Giannasio observes. "She's very chic and I wanted the space to be a reflection of her."

Visitors enter directly into the dining room—which presented the project's first hurdle. "It needed to read like a dining room but also like the entry," Weber relates. "I had no idea how to do that." In their previous dwelling, the couple had enjoyed hosting as many as 12 for dinner; to enable that scale of entertaining here, Giannasio selected a round, light-stained ash table from Italy that doubles as an entry-hall table but can expand to seat 12. Cherner dining chairs set a Mid-Century Modern tone. A motif of circles softens the room's squared-off angles: An oversized round mirror from RH Modern hangs above a rectangular bench while a Tech Lighting fixture over the round table integrates lines and circles with delicate flair.

Rounded contours crop up again in the adjacent living room, where the family cuddles up on a curved, circa-1970s sofa to watch a TV that can be concealed behind artwork. The sofa shares space with curved, leather-clad chairs and a circular coffee table atop a cream-colored geometric tribal rug. Ivory drapes contrast with darker grass-cloth shades.

Just off the living room, the sunroom overlooks the back garden. An existing wood-paneled ceiling was resealed for added luster, and the room's strong architectural features are emphasized by the white paint; a coat on the existing shutters made them feel new. "We really wanted to forge a connection to the garden with the furniture and palette," explains Giannasio. "We went with organic materials like the sisal rug and woven poufs. And plants make it feel kind of magical." She purchased furniture with family in mind; the kid-friendly poufs from CB2 are the perfect height for games around the coffee table.

Giannasio deftly combined art and decorative items from the couple's travels with the graphic, black-and-white artwork that imparts continuity throughout. Ornate wood panels from Pakistan,







A low-slung RH bedstead sits atop a rug from Armadillo in the owners' bedroom (these pages), where a bamboo chair (below) creates a focal point. A mid-century-style chair from Roberta Schilling occupies another corner. Ivory drapes and pale-beige grass-cloth shades filter light into the room.



used in the family's former apartment to hide a Murphy bed, have been repurposed as doors between the living room and sunroom, while Indonesian carvings decorate Weber's home office. In the owners' suite upstairs, photography collected over the years hangs above an RH bed.

For Giannasio, the project's main challenge lay in implementing the plans long distance: She only saw the house once after her initial tour, and that was during installation. "One of the benefits of a restrained palette is that it's forgiving; that's what made it possible to make choices remotely," she comments. "It was so gratifying to see it come together." ■

#### SOURCES OF NOTE

Dining Room Chandelier & Sconces: [circalighting.com](http://circalighting.com). Dining Table: [bauline.it](http://bauline.it). Living Room & Owners' Bedroom Shades: [theshadestore.com](http://theshadestore.com). Sunroom Pillows: [fshumacher.com](http://fshumacher.com). For a complete list of resources, see [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com).

“The goal was to make the owners’ bedroom feel like an airy refuge.” —BREEZE GIANNASIO



# GROUND RULES



Bonnie Ammon Interiors combined polished black porcelain with Thassos and Marmara Equator marbles in a custom foyer floor. "Flooring is an important design element," says principal Bonnie Ammon. "I like to make it impactful. I think of it as art for the floor."

PHOTO: GEOFFREY HODGDON

## *Pros suggest their favorite finds in carpet and flooring*

We love how beautiful luxury vinyl-plank flooring has become. We design a lot of beach and pool houses, and this material withstands water, kids and pets. The advancements in design and texture now make it suitable for high-end homes.

—*Jamie Merida,*  
**JAMIE MERIDA INTERIORS**

Wood-look porcelain tile is versatile, durable and good-looking. It can mimic wood flooring or be added as an accent to a larger-scale porcelain design to create a diamond effect. We often install under-floor heating that expands ease of use.

—*Laura Hildebrandt, IFDA, NKBA,*  
**INTERIORS BY LH, LLC**

I cannot get enough of painted floors. They are a great way to create a super-customizable look with high impact.

—*Laura Fox,*  
**LAURA FOX INTERIOR DESIGN, LLC**

Natural jute is a beautiful option for area rugs and wall-to-wall carpet—eco-friendly, easy to clean and durable even in high-traffic areas. When using it as an area rug or runner, consider adding a wide leather border to give it a tailored, high-end look.

—*Barbara Hawthorn,*  
**BARBARA HAWTHORN INTERIORS, LTD.**

We recently renovated an Alexandria condo. Our client was drawn to the warmth of clear, French white-oak flooring by the Austrian company Mafi as a backdrop for an ultra-modern kitchen. A chemical-free, natural, oiled wood floor acts as a sponge to draw impurities out of the air.

—*Jason Claire & Sarita Simpson,*  
**INTERIOR MATTER**

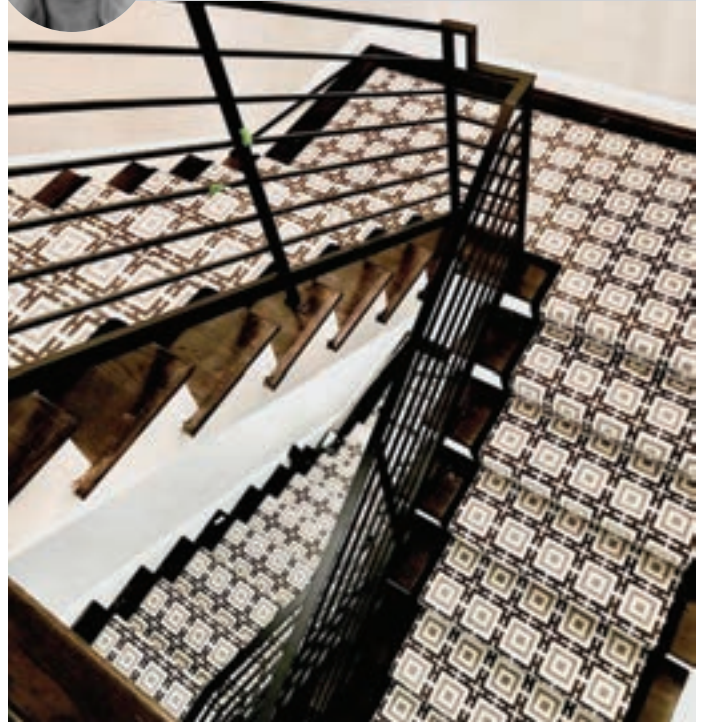
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**Jamie Merida, Jamie Merida Interiors**  
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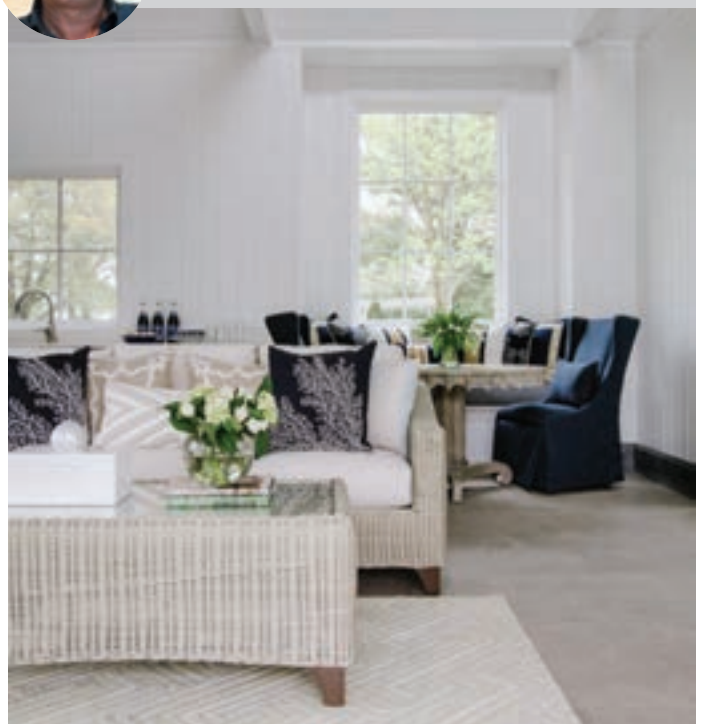


PHOTO: ROBERT RADIFERA

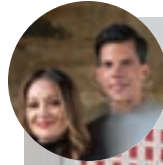
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**Melanie Whittington, Whittington Design Studio**  
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**Andrea Maaseide, Allied ASID, Studio 320 Interior Design**  
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Original brick paves the center-hall entry of a 1990s home recently renovated by Benton Architecture & Interiors. Where a wooden door once blocked the view, new French doors provide clear sight lines into the breakfast room.



# FOXHALL REDO

*Architect David Benton puts a fresh spin on a dated Colonial, creating chic interiors for a family of four*

Text by SHARON JAFFE DAN | Photography by STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**A**n older house is like a broken-in pair of boots—so comfortable that it’s easy to overlook the scuffs and worn spots until suddenly you grasp that it’s time for an upgrade.

Such an epiphany struck the owners of a center-hall Colonial in DC’s Foxhall neighborhood. “It was on Thanksgiving in 2018 that I realized for the first time there was nowhere comfortable for people to be,” the wife says, describing the home she and her husband and their two children had shared for six years. “Even though everything was ‘fine,’ the house wasn’t suiting our family dynamic. We decided to elevate it, to make the spaces warmer and more our style.”

Though endowed with high ceilings and generous proportions, the 1990s abode’s layout left much to be desired. Standard, builder-grade doors and closed walls separated the main-level living spaces, limiting circulation. And the finishes, fixtures and windows were outdated.

Renovation Architecture & Interior Design: **David Benton**, AIA, Benton Architecture & Interiors, Washington, DC. Renovation Contractor: Impact Construction, Washington, DC.





The renovation revived the dated kitchen and opened up a dead end in the living room (before photos, opposite, bottom). In the revamped kitchen (this page and opposite, top), Circa Lighting fixtures make a bold statement. Benton designed a new natural-wood island with a prep sink; open shelves and sconces flank a new French casement window. The porcelain backsplash tile is from Architectural Ceramics; porcelain flooring from The Tile Shop delineates the breakfast area.



## drawing board

### What guides your renovation-design process?

*David Benton:* It's so easy to get distracted and fall for the next big trend. I tell clients to find a half-dozen inspiration images that they really love so we always have a clear vision of what they like.

### How do you integrate color into a makeover?

I like the backdrop to be neutral, then integrate hints of color throughout a house. As long as the colors are something you'd see in nature, they definitely work in doses.

### Are most homes worth renovating?

Most homes have potential. There are ways to improve a house without having to completely start over. It's a matter of rethinking the interiors so they function better for today.

### How has covid affected clients' priorities?

Home is much more important to them now because it's where they're spending their time. Since people aren't traveling, they have a little extra money and are focused on investing in their homes.



The breakfast room flows into the family room (these pages), where David Benton designed a built-in media area. A Crate & Barrel sectional fosters family time by the fire. All window treatments were sourced at The Shade Store.



The owners invited architect David Benton to assess the situation. "The house was getting a bit tired and the flow was off," Benton opines. "The living, dining and family rooms were all dead ends. It needed a contemporary refresh."

He was hired to remedy these flaws on the main level and recast the staid interiors with what the wife refers to as "a modern take on classic style." Benton

forged stronger connections between the foyer and living and dining rooms in the front of the house and the kitchen, breakfast and family rooms that span the back. New double French doors replaced a single wooden one in the foyer, opening up sight lines to the breakfast room. Where there was once a solid wall of bookshelves, two glass pocket doors now link the living and family rooms. "Before,



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In the living room (above), a Room & Board sofa in moss-green velvet and gray side chairs are grouped under a Circa Lighting pendant; new pocket doors connect to the family room. Matching doors open from the kitchen to the dining room (opposite); during the makeover, its walls were painted in Farrow & Ball's Sulking Room Pink.

it almost felt like the back of the house was an addition because it was really cut off from the rest," the architect explains. "Now, you can actually circle the whole first floor."

Black muntins on the new interior doors and Andersen replacement windows installed throughout the four-bedroom home instill an industrial vibe. Existing hardwood floors, previously stained an inky black, were sanded and coated in a warm, natural finish, brightening the material palette.

Another deft move took place in the transition from the living room to the family room. By extending the walls between the new pocket doors, Benton created a niche for floating shelves and a flat-screen TV. As he explains, "We made it look like it was part of the room, as opposed to a tacked-on built-in."

Upgrades to the better-connected fam-

ily room and adjacent kitchen and breakfast area created the relaxed gathering space the owners craved. Benton bumped up the kitchen's style quotient in practical, family-friendly ways. He retained existing cabinet frames, updating them with new door and drawer fronts and hardware. He and his clients selected durable, stain-resistant Caesarstone countertops in two material looks—marble on the island and slate on the perimeter. The porcelain-tile backsplash also mimics marble. "It's a cost-effective way to add luxury to a space," says Benton. "They used to have a microwave-range hood, which was very apartment-looking. We put a stand-alone microwave into an existing pantry and installed a nice new hood over the range, making it a focal point from the family room."

The architect replaced the old island with a larger one equipped with a second

sink for food prep. It also serves as a wet bar for entertaining and a spot for easy family meals. Pendants and a chandelier in the kitchen and breakfast room, all from Circa Lighting, make bold statements. "It's a joy to be in the kitchen now," says the wife. "It's so much more functional."

She and Benton collaborated on refurbishing all main-floor interiors except the dining room. "She wanted a non-fussy, traditional look that leans toward contemporary," the architect says. They landed on a mix of retail finds that blends warmth, texture and a natural palette to chic effect.

"We don't want our kids to think any room is off-limits," the wife reflects. "David understood that we're not a formal family, but we like a polished look. Working together, we went beyond the old-fashioned idea of spaces being too precious."

She and her family are thrilled with the results. "We pinch ourselves that we did this before covid," she marvels. "The house has completely transformed our dynamic. We can be together without being in each other's way." ■



# BEFORE + AFTER

*Ruth Gamarra relies on the power of color to remake a stodgy kitchen with fresh flair*

It turns out it's possible to completely transform a kitchen with little more than a few coats of paint—a fact illustrated by Unique by Ruth, a custom furniture and cabinetry refinishing company that recently worked its magic in an Ashton, Maryland, home. "The house was built in 2005; the kitchen was designed well, and my clients didn't want to get involved in a construction project," recounts principal Ruth Gamarra. "They wanted to refresh the kitchen without having to trash the cabinets, which were in perfect condition."

"We envisioned a relaxed atmosphere, brightened and lightened," says the wife, "so we would feel uplifted walking in after a long day at work." She and Gamarra selected Benjamin Moore hues in a satin sheen: Cloud Nine for the cabinetry and Kensington Blue on the island; Gamarra applied the colors using an industrial paint designed and engineered for spraying on wood. The two shades create bright, crisp contrast and a modern vibe. New matte-black hardware complements industrial-style pendants. A backsplash of handmade ceramic tile and marble-look quartz countertops complete the look.



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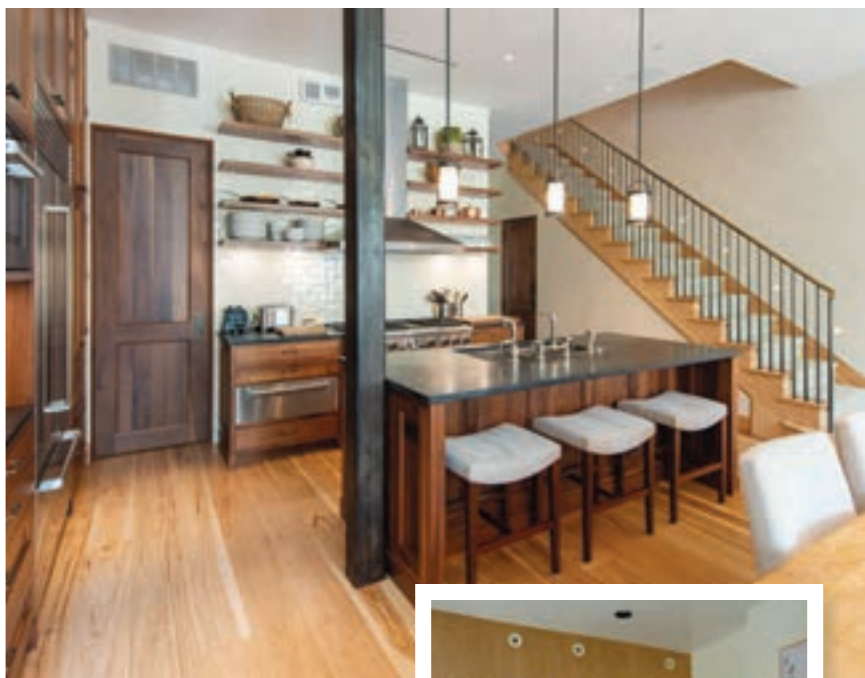


*Kitchen Cabinet Refinishing: Ruth Gamarra, Unique by Ruth, Rockville, Maryland. Text: Julie Sanders. Photography: Daniel Pinto.*





THEN +  
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BEFORE

### *Trout Design Studio enhances a vintage row house in DC with a modern kitchen warmed by wood*

After buying an 1892 row house in Dupont Circle, the owners anticipated a simple facelift—but as often happens, the project snowballed. Architect Michael Lee Beidler of Trout Design Studio masterminded a whole-house renovation that instilled a modern sensibility throughout, with an emphasis on wood. “The husband comes from a lumber family,” he explains, “and the presence of wood is very important to him.”

Case in point: the remodeled kitchen, which is distinguished by solid-walnut cabinetry and shelving fabricated by Gaston & Wyatt. Soapstone tops the counters and a handmade ceramic-tile backsplash continues into the pantry, located behind a walnut door to the left of the range.

Beidler’s plan removed a wall to create a living/dining/kitchen area at the back of the house that spills outside via a wall of glass. A steel column connects to a 24-inch steel ceiling beam that supports the home’s weight. Beidler appropriated the adjacent dogleg court to enlarge the kitchen; light pours into this single-story addition through a skylight above. A new stair is bordered by a hand-wrought, steel-and-brass railing.

*Renovation Architecture: Michael Lee Beidler, principal, Trout Design Studio, Inc., Washington, DC. Interior Design: Michael Hampton, Inc., Washington, DC. Contractor: ILEX, Washington, DC. Text: Julie Sanders. Photography: Gordon Beall.*

*Elegant flooring options will enhance your next project*

# CUTTING EDGE

Text by JULIE SANDERS



◀ **MIRROR IMAGE**  
Reflections, an Italian-made porcelain tile sold locally at Best Tile, captures the smoky look of antique mirrored glass. The rectangular tiles come in two sizes, four colors (Zaffiro, a cobalt blue, is pictured) and a matte or polished finish. Trim pieces and matte mosaics are also available. [besttile.com](http://besttile.com)



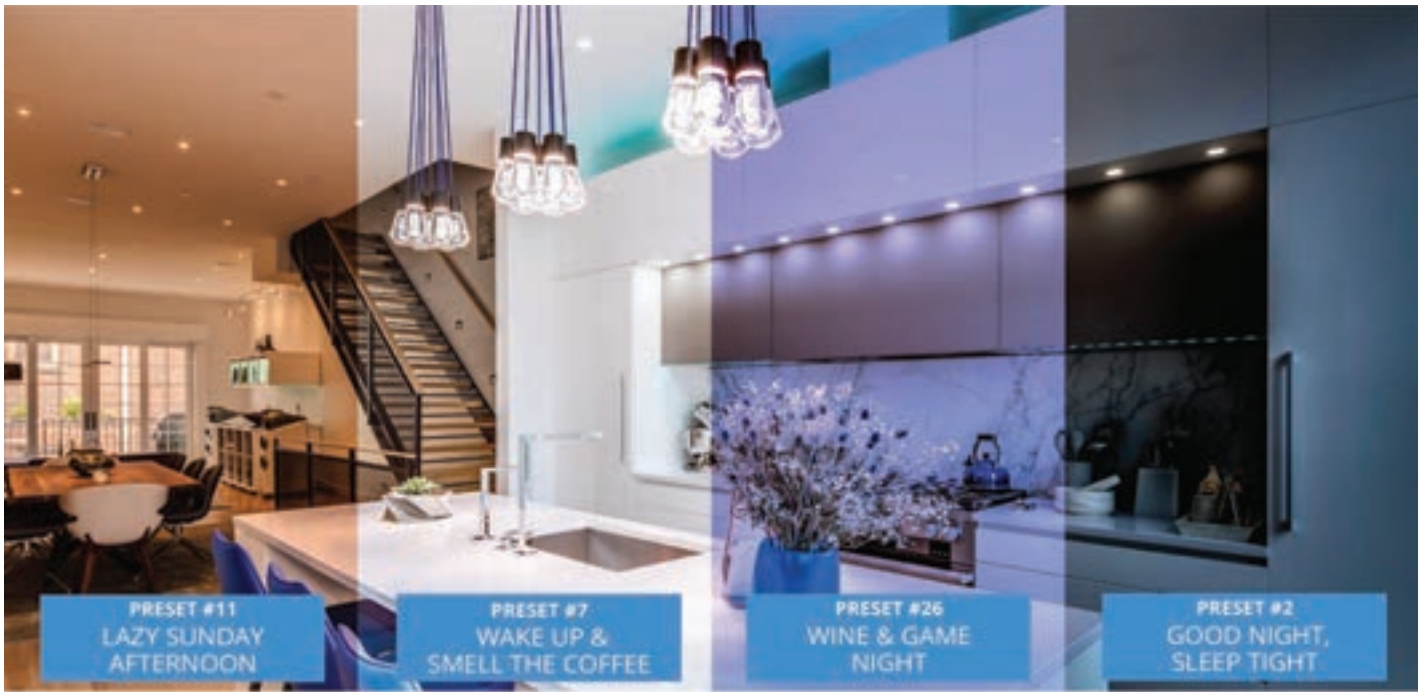
◀ **RUSTIC TOUCH**  
With its knots, cracks and surfaces distressed by light-wire brushing and random saw marks, DuChateau's wide-plank Strata Collection conjures rugged wood floors of the past. Made of engineered European oak finished in hard-wax oil, the line comes in six hues; Flint is pictured.  [Duchateau.com](http://duchateau.com)  
PHOTO: RYAN GARVIN



▲ **AGAINST THE GRAIN**  
Weekend Cottage, a line of hardwood flooring from Carlisle Wide Plank Floors' Casual Collection, is made of brushed white oak with a strong wood grain, a matte finish and tongue-and-groove edges. The eight-inch-wide planks come in a solid (pictured) or engineered version. [wideplankflooring.com](http://wideplankflooring.com)

▶ **ROCK SOLID**  
Cali's durable GeoWood flooring layers a veneer of bamboo atop a waterproof, limestone-composite core. The click-lock planks are easy to install and boast a 10-coat, scratch-resistant, low-VOC finish. Pictured: wide-plank Antique Iron, a warm, taupe-gray hue with a lightly distressed surface. [calibamboo.com](http://calibamboo.com)





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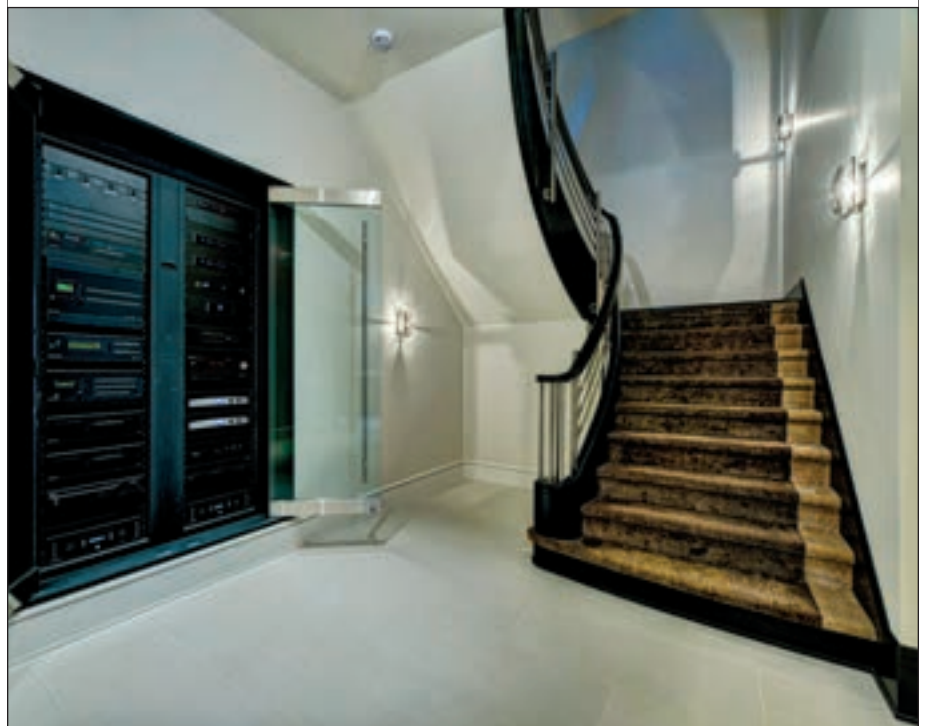


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# best of show

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## AIA EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS 2020

A number of regional chapters of the American Institute of Architects honored the best in local architecture during the 2020 AIA Excellence in Design Awards. The following pages list residential winners in AIA's Northern Virginia, Maryland, Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore and Potomac Valley chapters; a sampling of award-winning projects is pictured.

For a complete list of chapter winners, visit [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com). Projects are also on view at [aianova.org/DA20](http://aianova.org/DA20) and [mdaiaawards.secure-platform.com](http://mdaiaawards.secure-platform.com).



**Excellence Award for Renovation 1662: Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect.** PHOTO: ANICE HOACHLANDER



**Merit Award for 3347 Sheffield Court: Cook Architecture.** PHOTO: JOHN COLE

## AIA NORTHERN VIRGINIA

### EXCELLENCE

- Dual Modern: KUBE architecture
- Renovation 1662: Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect

### MERIT

- 3347 Sheffield Court: Cook Architecture
- AUTO-Haus: KUBE architecture
- Crooked Bow Tie House: Reader & Swartz Architects, PC
- Franzen House: Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect

### JURORS' CITATION

- St. Michaels Retreat: Jones & Boer Architects
- studio.MP2: Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect



**Excellence Award for Dual Modern: KUBE architecture.** PHOTO: ANICE HOACHLANDER



**Residential Honor Award for Old Hopkins Road House: Miche Booz Architect.** PHOTO: JEFF WOLFRAM

## **AIA MARYLAND**

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### RESIDENTIAL

#### **MERIT AWARD**

- House, Pool, Garden: McInturff Architects

#### **HONOR AWARD**

- Old Hopkins Road House: Miche Booz Architect

#### **JURORS' CITATION**

- Wye River Barn House: Kimmel Studio, LLC
- Franzen House: Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect
- A Virginia Farmhouse: Muse Architects
- Rocky Knob Sauna: GriD Architects

### INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

#### **MERIT AWARD**

- Smoky Quartz Residence: KUBE architecture



**Residential Jurors' Citation for Wye River Barn House: Kimmel Studio, LLC.** PHOTO: PETE ALBERT





**Residential Merit Award for House, Pool, Garden: McInturf Architects.** PHOTO: ANICE HOACHLANDER



**Excellence in Design Award for D.512: PI.KL Studio.** PHOTO: STEPHEN NORRIS



**Honorable Mention Award for Greenspring Valley Residence: Marren Architects.** PHOTO: ALAN GILBERT

**Right: Honorable Mention Award for Addition and Renovation to Baltimore City Residence: Susan Frasier, FAIA, NOMA, ASID, CID, CPHC; Wright & Robinson Architects.** PHOTO: GREG DOGLER



## **AIA BALTIMORE**

---

### **2020 EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN**

- D.512: PI.KL Studio
- E.1507: PI.KL Studio
- The Light House: PI.KL Studio

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

- Greenspring Valley Residence: Marren Architects
- D.512: PI.KL Studio
- Addition and Renovation to Baltimore City Residence: Suzanne Frasier, FAIA, NOMA, ASID, CID, CPHC; Wright & Robinson Architects
- The Light House: PI.KL Studio



**Residential Merit Award for Rambler Redux: StudioMB.** PHOTO: PAUL WARCHOL



**Residential Merit Award for City-House Renovation: Donald Lococo Architects.**  
PHOTO: GORDON BEALL



**Residential Honor Award for A Virginia Farmhouse: Muse Architects.** PHOTO: ERIK KVALSVIK

## AIA POTOMAC VALLEY

### RESIDENTIAL

#### GOLD AWARD

■ House, Pool, Garden: McInturff Architects

#### MERIT AWARD

■ City-House Renovation: Donald Lococo Architects

■ Rambler Redux: StudioMB

■ Backyard Retreat: MCDStudio

#### HONOR AWARD

■ A Virginia Farmhouse: Muse Architects



**Residential Revovation/Addition, Jurors' Citation for Eastern Bay Escape: Becker Morgan Group.** PHOTO: GEOFFREY HODGDON



**Residential New Construction, Merit Award (Historic Preservation & Sustainability) for Waterfront Farm: Wiedemann Architects.** PHOTO: ANICE HOACHLANDER



**Residential New Construction, Jurors' Citation for Broadwater Cottage: Alt Breeding Schwarz.**

PHOTO: DAVID BURROUGHS

## AIA CHESAPEAKE BAY

### RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION

#### **MERIT AWARD**

(HISTORIC PRESERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY)

- Waterfront Farm: Wiedemann Architects

#### **HONOR AWARD**

- North Point Residence: Martins Grehl Architects, PLLC

#### **JURORS' CITATION**

- Broadwater Cottage: Alt Breeding Schwarz

### RESIDENTIAL RENOVATION/ADDITION

#### **JURORS' CITATION**

- Eastern Bay Escape: Becker Morgan Group

*by James McDonald Associate Architects*



***Form and function combine in a transitional custom home in Arlington.***

Clients hired James McDonald Associate Architects to design a custom home for them in Arlington. McDonald and his team conceived a transitional cottage aesthetic with stucco siding and a variety of massing and gables. “It’s a clean, modern take on the cottage architecture of the surrounding Arlington community,” McDonald notes. “It fits into the fabric of the neighborhood.” Inside, clean lines and a warm material palette prevail, with an open plan that incorporates the outdoors via expansive glass walls that speak to today’s indoor-outdoor lifestyle. “The challenge was how to develop a home that has dimension and scale from the street, a side-load three-car garage and a connection to the rear yard,” McDonald recounts. “We came up with some unique solutions and provided great opportunities for the look of the home.”

10135 Colvin Run Road, Suite 200, Great Falls VA 22066 • 703-757-0036  
jamesmcdonaldarchitects.com



James McDonald designed a cottage-style white-stucco abode with transitional interior spaces. The open-plan living room spills out through black-framed doors to the backyard and a covered outdoor lounge area centers on a linear gas fireplace.

great  
DESIGNS

*by Studio MB*



***A custom home in DC combines sleek, modern architecture with family-friendly interiors.***

After years of living in a small townhome with their three children, a couple turned to Studio MB to design a spacious custom home for them with a modern, streamlined aesthetic. The design team conceived a plan incorporating open, backyard-facing main-floor spaces with lots of glass. The kitchen/living area constitutes the heart of the home, with a fireplace wall as a focal point. A sculptural central stair connects the main floor with the second-floor bedrooms and lower-level family room, which opens out to the backyard.

A south-facing, double-height window connects the primary interior spaces with the back garden, where a stone patio flows into the family room. Throughout the house, window placement was key, providing abundant natural light while also allowing for privacy and protection from the damaging summer sun.

2031 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009 • 202-506-7344 • [studiombdc.com](http://studiombdc.com)





Clockwise from opposite, top: Studio MB conceived a two-story contemporary abode that doesn't overwhelm the neighboring houses. The kitchen in back spills out onto a raised deck for alfresco dining, while expanses of windows boast overhangs and vertical and horizontal fins that protect against the summer heat and channel the sun in winter. An open stair borders the welcoming living area.

**great**  
DESIGNS

**honor award-winner**

AIA CHESAPEAKE BAY

*by Martins Grehl Architects*



***A dynamic custom retreat by Martins Grehl Architects embraces its waterfront setting.***

A client hired Martins Grehl Architects to design a contemporary vacation home on the Tred Avon River that would celebrate the water views and provide plenty of indoor and outdoor spaces for gathering. The design team conceived a cedar-clad structure emphasizing clean, horizontal lines and organic materials that integrate seamlessly with the surrounding landscape.

The four-bedroom abode's interiors center on a grand, two-story living room featuring a central fireplace, Douglas fir rafter tails and expansive sliding-glass doors that bring the outdoors in. A spacious deck links the indoor spaces with a pool and patio. Courtyards and terraces, both covered and uncovered, provide various qualities of outdoor space. In addition to the architecture, Martins Grehl also designed the interiors and oversaw construction and landscaping work for the project.

347-903-7035 • [martinsgrehl.com](http://martinsgrehl.com)



Clockwise from opposite, top: Cedar siding and weathering steel clad the home, which employs intersecting rectangular forms to create a sophisticated, modern silhouette. Light-wood surfaces and greenery-filled glass courts keep the interior spaces airy. The owner's suite features a luxe bathroom and a bedroom with a vaulted ceiling. The home's front façade reveals clean lines and expanses of glass.

**great**  
DESIGNS

**award of merit—winner**  
AIA POTOMAC VALLEY

*by MCDStudio*



***MCDStudio transforms a dilapidated stand-alone garage into a welcoming backyard retreat.***

A ramshackle backyard garage in Cleveland Park got a new lease on life when the homeowners tapped Matthew McDonald and Jennifer Verbeke of MCDStudio to turn the tiny, 10-by-14-foot space into a serene yoga studio/home office. Working with Simon Ley of Ley Ltd., the design team retained the 1925 structure's original framework but replaced the garage door facing the driveway with custom carriage-style doors; folding-glass doors open out from the back onto a diminutive deck and park trail behind the house.

The interior was gutted to create a rustic-modern space with skylights illuminating crisp-white walls and reclaimed antique heart-pine elements—including built-in storage, a fold-up table and a daybed that has been incorporated into one wall. Says McDonald, “We consider this project a great example of adaptive reuse on a residential scale.”

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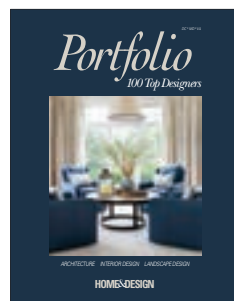
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# SOURCE OF PRIDE

*Expertise and versatility give Sandy Spring Builders its edge in the custom-building industry*

Photography by STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**S**andy Spring Builders has been in business for 38 years. Partners Phil Leibovitz, CEO, and Mimi Brodsky Kress, COO, and Ray Sobrino, president, spearhead a staff of 25 building custom homes and tackling large-scale renovations mainly in Montgomery County, DC, Northern Virginia and, recently, Annapolis. “We like to get involved early in the process,” Leibovitz says. “We take pride in working towards our clients’ goals with them—that means finances and budget as well as aesthetics and livability.”

Meeting clients’ goals requires flexibility. Sandy Spring Builders is a full-service firm that wears every hat, guiding the process from start to turnkey finish. The company is frequently the first stop for clients on the market for a custom home. Leibovitz and his team help find, analyze and







Clockwise from opposite, top: Sandy Spring Builders collaborated with Mark Kaufman, AIA, LEED AP, of GTM Architects on a contemporary abode in Bethesda's Edgemoor neighborhood. Clad in stone, red cedar, stucco and Alucobond metal panels, the home spills from the back out to a terraced landscape and pool designed by Fine Earth Landscape. The open-plan main level features a kitchen with rift-walnut cabinetry and quartz countertops. Walnut also clads a wall of built-ins in the sitting area. The dining room boasts treetop views.



Clockwise from left: Clad in painted fibreboard (MDF), a central core in the owners' bedroom houses a TV and linear gas fireplace. The owners' bath combines wood- and stone-look porcelain wall tiles for a spa-like effect. Three stories are connected by a rift-white-oak-and-steel stair with open risers that conveys a light, airy feel.



purchase the right lot—which, in DC's populous environs, is often a tear-down. They collaborate with clients' architecture and design teams and can also recommend an architect who will best fit their clients' needs and vision. Staff members with design certification or expertise are available to help with material selections or can work with an outside designer if clients prefer. And two of the team, with architecture degrees, prefer to build homes rather than just design.

Clients may also choose to implement an existing plan. "We've been in

**INQUIRIES—Sandy Spring Builders**

4705 West Virginia Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
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business so long, we have a war chest of prior projects to tap into," Leibovitz explains. "It's a great way to save on costs. We like to say we work for the client, not the architect or designer. We work towards the clients' budget, whether it's \$1 million or \$5 million."

Recent projects by Sandy Spring have included architecturally designed custom homes and houses with existing floor

plans customized to the client's needs. The company builds in every style, from contemporary to traditional, and executes historic restorations and gut renovations that take a structure down to its shell.

Despite the challenges of covid, business at Sandy Spring Builders is thriving. Says Leibovitz, "I think people have realized that home is a much more important place than they might have thought. Our hundreds of homes and happy homeowners are proof that we are a reputable builder they can trust. They're ready to invest in their homes with us." ■

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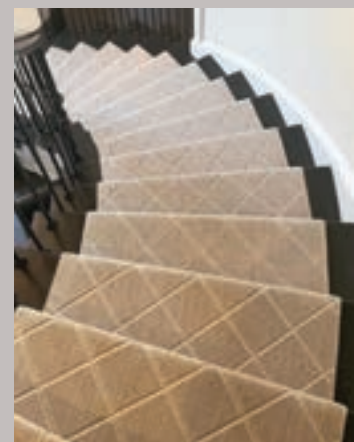


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# HISTORY REVIVED

*Artist Peter Waddell's masterful, meticulous paintings open windows onto the past*

Text by TINA COPLAN



In the mood to escape the current moment without leaving the nation's capital? Ready to return to a reimagined past studded with grand architecture, intimate interludes and a glorious bird's-eye view across the 19th-century city? If so, then Peter Waddell—the maestro history-painter of Washington, DC—can illustriously lead you there.

To sample the artist's visual enchantment, take a stroll south of Dupont Circle where a vivid mural fills the wall of a townhouse on Sunderland Place, NW. This public artwork shows the first two mansions built at Dupont Circle—the British Legation and Stewart's Castle—as scenery on the stage of a colossal toy theater. The 60-by-60-foot painting is easy to see; its stage emerges from behind elegantly tasseled, trompe l'oeil drapes.



Waddell's *The Village Monumental* (top), depicts Washington in 1825. The artist (above, in his studio at Tudor Place) carefully documents historical details, such as the cows shown grazing where the Mall is today in this five-by-six-foot panorama.

“I love the idea of pulling back the curtain on history,” Waddell says with gusto and in the broad accent of his native New Zealand. His smaller vignettes depicting local history and architecture can be found around town on the fronts of cast-iron call boxes once used to summon police and the fire department. In Kalorama, one of several call-box paintings by Waddell illustrates the six former presidents who have lived in the neighborhood, including Barack Obama, with their homes as a backdrop. Waddell likes creating public artwork, he says, “mostly out of love and my desire to amuse the public—and to help people think about the past. Knowing history is so important.”

The painter sets about recreating the past from his picturesque garret studio, located atop a stucco garage on the grounds of Tudor Place in Georgetown. As its artist-in-residence, Waddell has drawn and painted many views of the historic landmark. At the same time, he has fulfilled commissions for, among others, Mount Vernon, the U.S. Capitol and the White House Historical Association.

His series of 14 paintings for the latter illustrates views of the White House over its first century. Each scene and architectural rendering demonstrates the artist’s virtuoso handling of oil paint to capture subtleties of light and meticulous details. In one painting, Waddell portrayed the splendor of the Red Room at dusk during Chester A. Arthur’s presidency; the soft glow of gaslight delineates deep folds in the velvet curtains, burnishes the gilding on fireplace candelabras and gently highlights the fashionable flounces and trains of ladies’ gowns. The cumulative effect of these details, rich in color and texture, produces a dramatic hyper-reality, crystalizing commemorative views and narratives.

“I put tremendous effort into the actual craft of painting, so I’ll be able to do what I set out to do,” says the artist, who started out painting in a modern Expressionist style after attending art school in New Zealand. “It never occurred to me that I would end up painting with minute brushes. But as



***The Grand Illumination* (top) visits the White House in 1891, when a glass Tiffany screen graced the Entrance Hall. One of Waddell’s call-box paintings (above) assembles the U.S. presidents who have lived in Kalorama.**

I went on, there were more and more details I wanted to include in the paintings, and they required smaller brushes,” he remarks. “Even on very large canvases, I’m working on a minute scale.”

In the White House paintings, Waddell imagines views that were never definitively drawn, painted or photographed in their own time. “People often ask for pictures of things that don’t exist,” he

notes. “They want some time or place in history recreated.” To achieve that goal, Waddell may examine diaries, drawings, household inventories and invoices, or explore the buildings themselves if they’re still there. “I think of my paintings as historical documents,” he says, “but that doesn’t stand in the way of making things beautiful.”

The painter’s representation of gaps in historical imagery may have reached a pinnacle in two ambitious paintings for patron Albert H. Small and his permanent Washingtoniana Collection at The George Washington University Museum. For the first, *The Indispensable Plan*, Waddell notes, “I set about to show what DC would have looked like if Pierre L’Enfant’s plan had been fully realized.”

Jackie Strecker, his research assistant for the project and now the collection’s assistant curator, adds, “It was groundbreaking—the first time anyone has tried to visualize L’Enfant’s city as more than just a map.”

Together, Waddell and Strecker examined the original 1791 plan at the Library of Congress. “It was full of fantastic details,” recalls the artist. L’Enfant’s vision for canals, public spaces, military installations and government buildings found their proper places in the artist’s panoramic view across the imagined city.

It took Waddell a year and a half



**The Indispensable Plan** reveals what Washington would have looked like had Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 plan been fully realized. Waddell's large-scale oil painting includes minuscule details of L'Enfant's proposed canals, fountains, military installations and a palatial President's House.

to create this and a companion piece, *The Village Monumental*, which shows how the city had developed by 1825, the year of L'Enfant's death. Viewers will be able to see both works at The George Washington University Museum whenever it reopens.

From his first visit to Washington while on vacation with his father, the artist was drawn to the city and its history. His father, a cabinetmaker and American Civil War buff, and his mother, a theatrical costumer and librarian, passed on their respect for art and culture. When barely more than a toddler, Peter first

accompanied them to the impressive municipal theater in their small coastal town of Hastings, New Zealand. "I was absolutely transfixed," he remembers. Not long after, he appeared on that stage as a child actor—and also witnessed scenery painting for the first time.

Waddell immigrated to Washington in 1992. Once here, he was inspired to transition from the fine art of painting landscapes to historical views. Reflecting on the direction his art has taken, the painter observes, "I like to say art is about the physical—the external world—and the internal world of imagi-

nation and dreams and memory. It's also about other art; there's a long tradition of architectural and history painting."

Asked about another practitioner in that great tradition, Piranesi—the Italian artist and architect who reimagined views of classical Rome—Waddell replies modestly, without making comparisons: "He was so good. That idea of being able to create a whole world out of a blank piece of paper. It's magical." ■

.....  
For more information on the artist, visit [peterwaddell.com](http://peterwaddell.com). To see Waddell's restored call boxes in Kalorama, go to [sheridankaloramacallbox.org](http://sheridankaloramacallbox.org).



## NOTABLE LISTING

A Romanesque Revival residence in Kalorama just hit the market. Priced at \$8.9 million, the 7,500-square-foot, 1905 mansion has been updated but retains classic elements such as moldings, pocket doors and its original arched-front vestibule. Modern touches include a marble-slab fireplace in the family room and a marble-clad owners' bath with a frameless-glass shower. The all-white kitchen features custom cabinetry. The six-bedroom, eight-bath home encompasses three levels, plus a finished basement housing a media room, gym, in-law suite and wine cellar. The terraced property boasts a fire pit, built-in grilling station, pergola and fountain. 1823 Phelps Place, NW. INQUIRIES: Michael Rankin, TTR Sotheby's; 202-271-3344. michaelrankin.ttrsir.com PHOTOS: ERIC ANGELUS

The asking price for Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer's recently listed McLean residence.

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## TOP TEN HOME SALES

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\$4,600,000	1688 31st Street, NW	Washington, DC
\$4,400,000	149 Lockport Court	Moneta, VA
\$4,000,000	3512 P Street, NW	Washington, DC
\$3,750,000	33024 Sunken Lane	Upperville, VA
\$3,750,000	428 N Washington Street	Alexandria, VA
\$3,500,000	8105 Spring Hill Farm Drive	McLean, VA
\$3,425,000	3301 Highland Place, NW	Washington, DC
\$3,400,000	4784 Ferry Neck Road	Royal Oak, MD



## VERSE

Located in The Boro—a green and a walkable mixed-use development in Tysons—Verse condominiums comprises 140 one- and two-bedroom units. The 25-story building was designed by DC firm Shalom Baranes Associates Architects, with interior spaces by Canadian design firm Ceconni Simone. Sleek residences boast window walls; 10-foot living room ceilings; marble-look porcelain baths; and kitchens outfitted with Italian cabinetry, concealed appliances and waterfall engineered-stone countertops. Some units feature expansive balconies.

Residents enjoy a club room, gym and grand, wood-and-stone lobby with a fireplace. Private terraces are available for entertaining, with a central area offering gas grills, fire pits and a bar. Prices start at \$500,000. versecondos.com



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1626 N Rhodes St, Arlington, VA 22209	\$1,180,000
1600 N Oak St #1419, Arlington, VA 22209	\$1,149,000
1228 N Lincoln St, Arlington, VA 22201	\$779,000
1203 Portner Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314	\$739,900
1530 Key Blvd #1217, Arlington, VA 22209	\$445,000
1530 Key Blvd #129, Arlington, VA 22209	\$439,000
432 N Armistead St #303, Alexandria, VA 22312	\$225,000
10169 Mosby Woods Dr #205, Fairfax, VA 22030	\$205,000

### Under Contract

1011 N Kensington St, Arlington, VA 22205	\$997,500
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1530 Key Blvd #920, Arlington, VA 22209	\$699,900
1530 Key Blvd #527, Arlington, VA 22209	\$529,000
1530 Key Blvd #319, Arlington, VA 22209	\$399,000

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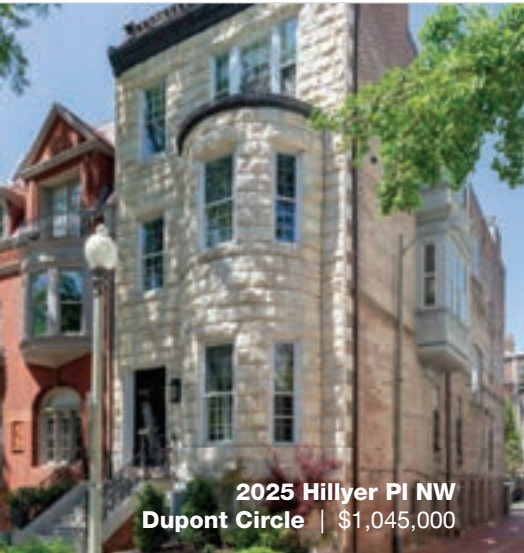
**2965 38th St NW**  
**Observatory Circle** | \$2,095,000



**2101 Connecticut Ave NW**  
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## FIDELIO

### THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Prime Fauquier County location minutes from Middleburg | Unbelievable finishes throughout | Antique floors and mantels, vaulted ceilings | 6 BR, 5 full BA, 2 half BA | 6 FP, gourmet kitchen | Improvements include office/studio, stone cottage with office, spa, guest house, pool and lighted tennis court | Landscaped grounds with stream, waterfalls, boxwood and special plantings | 61 acres

\$8,750,000

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## CATESBY FARM

### MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Gracious Georgian Manor home, 11,000 sf, built in 1930 | Updated and suitable for large scale entertaining | 7 BR, 7 1/2 BA, 7 FP | High ceilings, formal gardens & private setting | Belmont style stable w/30 stalls and 2 apartments | 4 BR guest house/entertainment complex, 4-car garage w/office | 4 restored tenant houses, skeet range, pool & tennis court | 167.59 acres mostly open & rolling with bold mountain views and large spring-fed pond | Also available with 241 acres for \$8,500,000

\$6,500,000

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## ARLINGTON FARM

### MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

296 acres of farmland off the Atoka Road | Working farm in crops and hay and improved with multiple large farm buildings and 3 cottages | Beautiful building site for a main house if desired | Conservation easement allows for 1 division and permits construction of an indoor area and additional equestrian and farm buildings | Mix of open land, creeks, pond, woods, pasture, crops and rolling topography

\$4,950,000

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## DEERFIELD

### UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

181 acres | Brick manor house c. 1844 | 4 bedrooms, lovely kitchen, multiple porches, pine floors, 7 fireplaces, original mantels, large windows, detailed millwork | c. 1810 log cabin/pool house, guest house with theater, 2 tenant houses, 5-bay garage and workshop | Sizable pond

\$4,500,000

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## CREST HILL

### HUME, VIRGINIA

Experience unparalleled privacy on this exceptional Fauquier property along the Rappahannock River | 203 immaculately maintained acres w/approximately 1 mile river frontage | 1 acre stocked pond | Elegant stone & clapboard house | 5 BR, 4 full & 3 half baths, gourmet kitchen, spacious great room | Gunnite pool w/stunning views of Blue Ridge Mountains | Old Dominion Hunt | 5 stall Jim-Fletcher built barn | Residence set back 1/2 mile from road | VOF easement

\$3,600,000

ALIX COOLIDGE 703.625.1724



## PHEASANT'S EYE

### MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Solid stone home c. 1790 expanded to 5 BR | First floor master suite and large family room additions | 9 fireplaces, antique floors and millwork | Extensive outdoor living spaces, large pool and terrace, multiple outbuildings | 2 car barns used to garage 20+ cars | Accommodates large scale entertaining

\$3,200,000

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## DIXONS MILL ROAD

### MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

Lovely brick home on hilltop setting, completely redone by current owners | Wood floors, high ceilings, lots of light | 6 BR, 5 1/2 BA, 5 FP, sweeping stair case in foyer | Basement level finished for family enjoyment w/ media room, office, gym, billiard room, full bar w/ kitchenette, full bath & outside entrance leading to pool and spa | Improvements include 3-car garage, heated 4-car garage w/car lift | Potting shed/studio w/ attached heated green house | 20 car barn for serious collector | Swimming pool with spa | 5-stall barn | Property fenced and cross fenced | 68.23 acres

\$2,375,000

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## HILLCREST

### UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Spectacular hilltop setting, bold mountain views and Paris valley views | Home updated in 2017 | 4 BRs, 4 BA, 3 FP, gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, skylights, lovely gardens, walkways and terrace | Improvements include in ground pool with spa | 2 stall barn with tack room, room for horses, spring fed pond | 13.37 acres next to parkland surrounded by large estates

\$1,425,000

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## TWIN CREEK FARM

### ALDIE, VIRGINIA

Quiet country living on 33 acres with great proximity to the conveniences of nearby shopping, restaurants, schools & hospital | Rare find to get this acreage and have FIOS - work from home while enjoying the privacy of your own farm | Rolling acreage, stable, fencing & bold creek | 5 BR home has been well maintained | Southern exposure with great light & lovely views | Main floor master suite & 2-car garage

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# Find your Haven along Maryland's Eastern Shore



**CUSTOM EASTERN SHORE WATERFRONT:** Beautiful, custom built 3 bedroom home overlooking Madison Bay offering fabulous sunset views. Privately located on 8 acres with private circular driveway, large garage with 3 bays (attic storage above) and heated/cooled outbuilding with kennels, and fenced area. Large front porch, open foyer, top of the line gourmet kitchen with large center island, spacious living room with pellet stove & beautiful views, and open dining/sitting area. Main level office with small deck and separate entrance offers many possibilities. Main level owner's suite with private bathroom and large walk in closet. The second floor offers two bedrooms and full hall bathroom. Screened porch and deck overlooking the Bay. \$685,000



**TALBOT COUNTY WATERFRONT RETREAT:** Located in Talbot County near St. Michaels, MD and in proximity of the Chesapeake Bay. The six bedroom main residence with first floor master bedroom dates to 1720 and is surrounded by mature shade trees and lawns which sweep to the water's edge. There are over 11,000' of stable and rip rapped shoreline. A dock with covered slip boasts 5' MLW. Additionally, there is a two bedroom guest house, and a four bedroom caretakers residence. An in ground pool, patio, hot tub and tennis court compliment the residence. The property has been managed to protect and promote wildlife. Numerous shallow water impoundments have been created to attract wintering waterfowl and wading birds. The fields are planted and managed to support upland bird species and the woodland habitat boasts WhiteTail deer and Wild Turkeys. \$2,750,000



**HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS:** Prime location in St. Michaels, Maryland offering beautiful renovation inside and out by Washington Design. New heating/ac, crown moldings, beadboard, all new bathrooms (marble floors, cabinet, lighting, countertops, glass shower door). Kitchen w/granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, new light fixtures & recessed lighting. Fenced private backyard oasis. Off-street parking. \$550,000

**TURN KEY HUNTING FARM:** Highly elevated 93+/- acres with 30+/- tillable acreage, 55+/- woodland/early successional habitat. Corn, soybeans, sunflowers, two sheds, camper and is home to tons of wildlife. The property offers a small rifle/pistol range, shotgun pattern board, knife throwing area, wood duck boxes, 2 dams, and shallow well. Perc approved site. Build your own home and enjoy peace and tranquility. \$485,000



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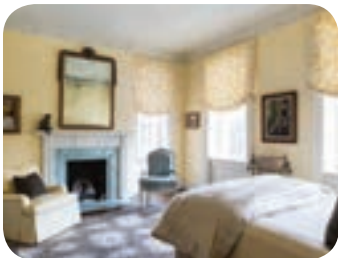
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A design team reimagines a drab 1820 row house in Georgetown



#### SET IN STONE

Architect David Jameson masterminds a dynamic, minimalist residence in Virginia's Piedmont out of stone, glass and wood

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**ENDURING LEGACY** Born into bondage on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in 1849 via the Underground Railroad, returning to the region again and again to guide others out. To commemorate the heroic abolitionist's connection to the area, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park was carved out of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in 2013—and in 2017, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center was erected on park grounds.

Designed by Baltimore firm GWWO Architects, "the center aims to engage and educate visitors and encourages them to leave with a fuller appreciation of Harriet Tubman's legacy," says lead designer and GWWO president Alan Reed. The 15,000-square-foot structure consists of four linked, barn-like volumes. An administrative building is clad in wood, while three exhibition spaces boast zinc siding that will weather yet withstand the elements—symbolizing the endurance of enslaved peoples. "The zinc volumes memorialize their fates," Reed observes. "Be sold, stay in fear of being sold or run away."

Entering from the south, visitors experience narrow spaces with low ceilings, reflecting the confines of slavery. As they proceed north through the galleries, the rooms become larger and lighter. Exhibits focus on the area's history, Tubman's life and family and the Underground Railroad. A memorial garden combines tailored lawns, knee-high meadows and waist-high woodland, all representing the conditions of concealment—or lack thereof—which Tubman and her escapees faced.

A past winner of AIA awards from the Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay chapters, the LEED Silver-certified center was recently named the 2020 AIA Maryland Public Building of the Year.

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Architecture: GWWO Architects, Baltimore, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: W.M. Schlosser Company, Inc., Hyattsville, Maryland. Landscape Architecture: Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. Text: Julie Sanders. Photography: Robert Creamer and Tom Holdsworth, GWWO Architects.



  
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