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HOME & DESIGN

Spring Style

EASY LIVING ON THE
Eastern Shore

AWARD-WINNING
Landscapes



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PRIVATE TOUR

WORLDS *away*

Far from the clamor of Washington, former U.S. senator William Brock and his wife Sandy create a waterfront haven in Annapolis

BY JULIE SANDERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BURROUGHS





Dining al fresco is easy on the porch (opposite), where comfortable woven furniture by JANUS et Cie and unimpeded views of the Chesapeake Bay beckon. Scarlett Breeding designed a graceful floating staircase (this page) as a focal point. Wide-plank, bleached-walnut floors make the narrow house feel larger.

PRIVATE TOUR



For 30 years, Senator William Brock and his wife, Sandy, have gravitated to Annapolis for its welcoming brand of casual warmth. When they began going there in the mid-1980s, Brock—a Republican who served as both a congressman and senator from Tennessee—was at the height of an important Washington career. The charming waterfront town represented a much-needed escape. “It’s a different kind of place from Washington, quiet and friendly,” he says. “It’s very special.”

Fast-forward to 2013, when the couple—who have owned several boats and five homes in the area over the years—purchased a decrepit property sandwiched between other houses on a narrow lot in Eastport, an historic community on the Chesapeake. The circa-1880 house was literally falling down, but Sandy Brock, an interior designer by trade, could see its potential. “I have roots in Maryland,” says the Silver Spring native. “I loved that it was a waterman’s house. The challenge was exactly what I wanted.”

The couple hired Annapolis architect Scarlett Breeding to overhaul the home.

ARCHITECTURE: SCARLETT BREEDING, AIA, and ANGELA PHELAN, RA, Alt, Breeding Schwarz, Annapolis, Maryland. INTERIOR DESIGN: SANDY BROCK, Sandy Mitchell Designs, Annapolis Maryland. CONTRACTOR: DAVID CARLISLE, BayView Builders, Annapolis, Maryland. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: KEVIN CAMPION, ASLA, Campion Hruby Landscape Architects, Annapolis, Maryland.



When the weather allows, Bill and Sandy Brock (above, left) retract the wall of windows to extend their living area (right and top) onto the porch. Sandy designed a tufted banquette in the dining area (above) with a mirror above it to make the room feel larger.



The home's quaint, historic front façade (above) is a stark contrast to the modern rear elevation (left), which incorporates windows on every level to take in the view. Stairs from the porch flank the pool below.



They wanted to retain its sense of history while introducing modern elements: an open plan, lots of light and easy access to the backyard, which overlooks the bay. Breeding, project manager Angela Phelan and Sandy embarked on the project together. “The house is in a historic overlay district, which required that we save 50 percent of the existing structure,” Breeding explains. “We basically took down everything but the front façade and one wall, jacked them up to build a new foundation that would give them a basement level, and started from scratch.”

“We had a great partnership with total trust,” Sandy says. “I knew exactly what I wanted. I sketched designs and Scarlett made them sing.” Modern and historic elements blend seamlessly, inside and out. For example, while the front façade retained its 19th-century appearance—Breeding even recreated a porch, long gone, that had been original to the house—expansive windows in back opened the whole rear façade up to the water.



The welcoming kitchen (above, left, and top) combines historic and modern sensibilities with a rustic stone wall, crisp custom cabinetry and clean-lined poured-concrete countertops. A pot rack above the island is part of a collection designed by homeowner Sandy Brock, who requested a small bar area near the front door that she painted bold peacock blue (above, right).



Landscaping EXCELLENCE

The Excellence in Landscape Awards, sponsored by the Landscape Contractors Association (LCA) of Maryland, DC and Virginia, recognize exceptional garden design throughout the region. This annual competition is judged by industry experts who vote in more than a dozen residential and commercial categories. The winners of the LCA's 2015 residential awards are listed on these pages; three winning projects are covered in-depth starting on page 110.

DECADE AWARDS

■ **McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; mchalelandscape.com
Primavera Estate, Front Residential Planting & Entranceway; West River Residence, Residential Maintenance; Alexandria Residence, Total Residential Contracting; Evermore Farm, Total Residential Contracting.

HERITAGE AWARDS

■ **CHAPEL VALLEY LANDSCAPE COMPANY**; chapelvalley.com
Private Residence in Potomac, MD, Residential Maintenance; Private Residences in Potomac, MD (1 and 2), Residential Maintenance.
■ **D & A DUNLEVY LANDSCAPERS, INC.**; dadunlevy.com
Nordheimer Residence, Total Residential Contracting.
■ **McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; mchalelandscape.com
Benoni Point Residence, Residential Maintenance; Oxford Residence, Residential Maintenance.



LEFT © MICHAEL WILKINSON; OPPOSITE, BOTTOM © MASON SUMMERS

This page, clockwise from top, left: Award-winning projects by Botanical Decorators, Professional Grounds and GardenWise, Inc., invite homeowners and guests outdoors.

GRAND AWARDS

■ **BOTANICAL DECORATORS**; botdec.com
Magnolia Manor Front Entry, Front Residential Planting & Entranceway (Design/Build); Magnolia Manor Outdoor Living Area, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build); Oasis on Rosemont, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).
■ **CHAPEL VALLEY LANDSCAPE COMPANY**; chapelvalley.com
Private Residence in Montgomery County, Residential Maintenance.
■ **GARDENWISE, INC.**; gardenwiseinc.com
Chantilly - Entertaining Terrace, Craftsmanship (Design/Build); Old Town - Classic Courtyard, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).



TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT © ROGER FOLEY; © GEORGE BROWN; © ROGER FOLEY



- **JENNIFER CONNOLEY LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; jcl-landscapedesign.com
Giles Residence, Outdoor Living Area.
- **JOHN SHORB LANDSCAPING**; jsli.com
Residential Maintenance in Georgetown DC, Residential Maintenance.
- **McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; mchalelandscape.com
Chesapeake Residence, Craftsmanship; Falcon Ridge Residence, Craftsmanship;
River Watch Residence, Craftsmanship; Avenel Residence, Outdoor Living
Area; Fredericksburg Residence, Outdoor Living Area; Roland Park Residence,
Outdoor Living Area; Vienna Residence, Outdoor Living Area; Easton Residence,
Total Residential Contracting; Quarter Landing Residence, Total Residential
Contracting.
- **PLANTED EARTH LANDSCAPING, INC.**; plantedearthlandscaping.com
Baltimore Rooftop Terrace, Outdoor Living Area.
- **ROLLING ACRES LANDSCAPE/NURSERY**; rollingacreslandscaping.com
The Payne Residence, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).
- **SCOTT BRINITZER DESIGN ASSOCIATES**; brinitzer.com
Divjak Residence, Total Residential Contracting (Design/Build).
- **WALNUT HILL LANDSCAPE COMPANY**; walnuthilllandscape.com
Aqua Terra, Craftsmanship; Osprey Point, Total Residential Contracting.

DISTINCTION AWARDS

- **BOTANICAL DECORATORS**; botdec.com
A Perfect Little Bungalow, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).
- **FINE EARTH LANDSCAPE**; fineearth.com
Potomac Residence, Maintenance.
- **GARDENWISE, INC.**; gardenwiseinc.com
Cathedral Heights Residence, Total Residential Contracting (Design/Build).
- **GROW LANDSCAPES**; growlandscapes.com
Chesner Residence, Front Residential Planting & Entranceway (Design/Build).
- **McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; mchalelandscape.com
Reserve Residence, Front Residential Planting & Entranceway.
- **OUTDOOR SPACES, LLC**; outdoorspacesdesign.com
Firestone Residence, Front Residential Planting & Entranceway (Design/Build);
Rottmann Residence, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).
- **PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS, INC.**; progrounds.com
Clifton Retreat, Craftsmanship.
- **SCAPES, INC.**; scapesinc.net Annapolis Residence, Craftsmanship.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

- **GARDENWISE, INC.**; gardenwiseinc.com
Capitol Hill - Contemporary Courtyard, Outdoor Living Area
(Design/Build).
- **JOHN SHORB LANDSCAPING**; jsli.com
AU Park, Northwest DC, Total Residential Contracting (Design/Build).
- **KANE LANDSCAPES, INC.**; kanelandscapes.com
Hillside Wooded Retreat, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).
- **McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN**; mchalelandscape.com
Fort Hunt Residence, Outdoor Living Area.
- **SCAPES, INC.**; scapesinc.net
Edgewater Residence, Outdoor Living Area.
- **THROUGH THE GARDEN, INC.**; throughthegardeninc.com
Nature Preserve Backyard Haven, Outdoor Living Area (Design/Build).



Award-winning projects by Scott Brinitzer Design Associates (top, right) and D & A Dunlevy (above) combine finely crafted stone work and carefully selected plant palettes.

GardenWise, Inc.

Grand Award for Craftmanship Design/Build



Located in the backyard of a new home in Chantilly, an elevated terrace was virtually a blank slate. It now boasts a custom built-in outdoor kitchen and fire table.

As part of an elevated backyard terrace, GardenWise designed and installed a built-in outdoor kitchen, complete with gas grill, storage and refrigerator. Faced in locally sourced chocolate-gray stone and topped with a counter of honed Virginia Mist granite, the kitchen unit boasts cabinetry and appliances of low-maintenance stainless steel. In the nearby dining area and lounge space, guests can gather around a built-in gas fire table made of the same stone and granite as the kitchen unit. A custom hammered-metal and tempered-glass railing system permits open views of the woods, and landscape lighting below stone pier caps in the walls provides a warm glow while also highlighting the stonework.

OUTSTANDING FEATURES

- An elevated terrace leads to existing French doors.
- A unique glass and hammered-metal railing provides views of the woods.
- A custom fire table creates a centerpiece.
- A built-in outdoor kitchen provides counter space for entertaining purposes.



PHOTOS © MICHAEL K. WILKINSON

GARDENWISE, INC.

4111 18th Road North, Arlington, Virginia 22207
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Outdoor Furnishings
SELECT & SUPPLY

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Example **N° 6** *in our*

D E S I G N S E R I E S









The back garden is an oasis in the city. Wisteria climbs the brick wall and planters provide summer color. Drysdale designed the wooden deck in a basketweave pattern, then custom-stained it to match the woven furniture by JANUS et Cie. Throw pillows are from DeLany & Long.

ing rooms would be updated with a warm, sophisticated sensibility. A backyard makeover would create space to relax and entertain.

The designer and client tackled the upper-level renovation first. “There were three rooms on the second floor and that hasn’t changed,” says Drysdale. “But I took the walls down to the brick and started over.” The two spare bedrooms would be used as a dressing room and study, respectively, so she incorporated storage into both, and lined one wall of the study with bookshelves. The hall bath was moved and lavishly updated with gleaming Thassos marble tile, a Philippe Starck sink and fixtures from Waterworks.

In the master bedroom, a custom, hand-tufted headboard is built into a wall of architectural paneling that adds visual depth. Drysdale designed a walk-in custom closet and carved space out of one wall for a shallow cupboard dedicated to shoes and handbags. Sleek, glazed white-oak millwork, a Patterson Flynn Martin rug and Duralee cotton drapes with an embroidered border by Michael Savoia contribute further notes of glamour.

The original master bath was only five by seven feet—but Drysdale had big plans for it. To gain square footage, she incorporated part of the master bedroom on one side and the former hall bath on the other, adding a custom double vanity and a sculptural soaking tub by Kohler. On a mirrored wall behind the tub, she centered a sunburst mirror by Baker. A walk-in shower and W.C. are tucked into an adjoining space. Like the hall bath, the master bath is clad entirely in sparkling Thassos marble, to sumptuous effect.

On the first floor, Drysdale and her client created drama and interest with unexpected color palettes. The homeowner chose a deep brownish-red hue for the dining room that reminded Drysdale of two abstract paintings by Tati Kaupp she’d seen at Cross MacKenzie Gallery. She brought them to the house, and her client loved them. An existing walnut table and sideboard were paired with leather stools that Drysdale found online. Vibrant Robert Allen drapes add green and eggplant hues to the mix.

By contrast, a monochromatic, pale-gray scheme prevailed in the living room, where elegant John Saladino sofas were customized for the narrow space. Drysdale designed a Parsons coffee table and added ottomans by Lee Industries. A sleek limestone fireplace replaced a traditional one of wood. And after much lobbying, Drysdale convinced the homeowner to strip the orange-tinted floors and stain them a pale matte gray, which unified the living and dining rooms. Baltimore decorative painter Tom Hickey glazed the walls, then sealed them with a matte finish that adds subtle depth. “People think a faux finish has to be dramatic, but that isn’t the case,” Drysdale says.

Above the fireplace, an abstract painting by Julie Wolfe draws the eye. It’s flanked by platforms that Drysdale designs in different sizes for displaying art on walls; here, they hold artisanal ceramics from the Schaller Gallery in St. Joseph, Michigan. “This is a great way to display real ceramic art rather than a print of a piece of artwork,” she comments. “They also become architectural elements,

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