

DC • MD • VA

# HOME & DESIGN

## designer

### ISSUE

NEW COLLECTIONS  
FABULOUS FINDS  
HOT TALENT





In the open-plan living area, existing sofas have been reupholstered in pristine white Kravet fabric. An airy back porch beckons.



A reimagined fireplace wall anchors the living room where Jomo Tariku's modern interpretation of a traditional Ashanti stool from Ghana sits beside a Lee Industries swivel chair. A diptych painting of an abstract urban landscape by Baltimore-based Ruri Yi hangs over stairs leading to the lower level. In the entrance hall (opposite), a Steven Cushner work greets guests.



A Loloï rug (opposite) sounds a tribal note in the dazzling all-white kitchen; the casual dining area (left) marries a chandelier from Regina Andrew with artwork from the owners' collection. JANUS et Cie furniture populates the porch (below, left), while mounted ceramic cubes by Kaiser Suidan add interest.

That simple scheme allows the creativity of numerous artists and artisans to shine. And it dovetails nicely with the wife's affinity for elements that express a tribal quality. Take the dining room, for instance, where a graphic rug woven in Afghanistan lays the foundation. Black-and-white pottery by Oregon-based ceramist Sam Scott graces the tabletop. Drysdale notes, "The primitive, the handmade are a strong subtext in the story that's being told here."

Bold artwork also delivers a resounding message; it was part of the plan from the get-go. "Exploring the house, I felt immediately that colorful modern art on a grand scale would bring enormous interest and excitement to the experience of each room and the views from room to room," says the designer. A trip with her clients to Washington's Hemphill Artworks yielded the first three pieces in what is now a goodly trove.

Those selections received prominent placements. A painting by DC artist Steven Cushner commands the wide hall linking the front and back of the house. An abstract work by the late Jacob Kainen adds verve to the dining room and offers the wife an inspiring vista from her office across the foyer. Likewise, dinner guests enjoy a clear sightline to the vibrant, multi-media creation of another local artist, Julie Wolfe, positioned behind the desk.

Later additions include photographs by Anna Beeke and John Cole, which animate the main-floor primary bedroom. "I feel that one of the great obligations of a home is to delight and engage the viewer," Drysdale offers. "Everywhere you turn or sit or gaze, there's something interesting to see in this house. It's a living museum, a stimulating—but not over-stimulating—visual experience that is comfortable."

Not only do the well-appointed spaces please the eye, they also support the couple's relaxed yet social lifestyle. For example, the main hall is no longer just a utilitarian passageway; it now functions as "another beautiful room where they entertain," says Drysdale. "They're using their house in better and more complete ways."

The wife concurs, sharing that the covered porch off the living room has become a destination too. "This area was nothing more than a transition to the backyard. With Mary's redesign, the space is now used for intimate dinners with friends, as a gathering spot when hosting large groups—or merely for having a cool drink on a hot summer afternoon." ■

#### SOURCES OF NOTE

Living Room Side Tables, Porch Table & Settee: [janusetcie.com](http://janusetcie.com). Office & Bedroom Carpets: [carpetcreationsandflooring.com](http://carpetcreationsandflooring.com). Paint in Hall, Living Room, Bedroom & Office: [sherwin-williams.com](http://sherwin-williams.com). Work by Steven Cushner, Julie Wolfe & Jacob Kainen: [hemphillfinearts.com](http://hemphillfinearts.com). For a complete list of resources, see [homeanddesign.com](http://homeanddesign.com).

