

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

# HOME & DESIGN

Luxury Homes • Interior Design • Fine Furnishings WINTER 2005

## SPECIAL KITCHEN & BATH ISSUE

### Celebrity Chefs at Home

Michel Richard, Nora Pouillon,  
Ris Lacoste and more

Adamstein & Demetriou's  
Inspiring New Home

Luxury  
Home Finder

SEE PAGE 267

[www.HomeandDesign.com](http://www.HomeandDesign.com)







# LOFTY IDEAS

Condominiums  
reach new heights at the  
2004 Richmond Symphony  
Orchestra League Designer House

*By Heather C. Jackson  
Photography by Thomas Kojcsich*

The Old Manchester Lofts—a former bakery warehouse recently converted into luxury condos—set the stage for Richmond-area designers to work their magic on spaces noted for high ceilings, exposed brick and heady views of the city's skyline. From a modern-day "man cave" to a classic retreat, their work is an inspiration to anyone trying to evoke beauty in small spaces.





*With room for party spillover, the upstairs balcony is perfectly set for cocktails.*

### MODERN SOPHISTICATION

Coby Forbes and David Crow  
Forbes Design Group

It was a quirk of fate that water features prominently in the art of unit 408, given the massive flood that hit much of downtown Richmond just two weeks before the scheduled opening. And the irony isn't lost on designer David Crow, who says the theme of the artwork "was purely an accident."

The most prominent of the three paintings, a commissioned portrait of Richmond icon and eccentric Dika Newlin, was in fact the jumping off point for the colors throughout the space. Reds and pinks in the painting by Jennifer Holloway, based on a newspaper photograph of Newlin, were used as accent colors throughout the apartment, with more neutral colors prevalent in such details as the woven paper rug and Lucite and glass furniture.

From the entry, a single wide red stripe carries visitors down the hall into the living room. The stripe breaks up the wall and adds visual interest with a series of small paintings.

The designers altered little of the structure, letting simple, clean lines accentuate the unique architecture. "Our main idea was to work with what was there," says Crow, who juxtaposed the modern furnishings with parts of his own, more classical collection, such as a bust of Julius Caesar and the head of Zeus overlooking the main living area.

Upstairs in the loft, clean architectural furniture accents the existing details in a home office. Artist Tom McKee created the series of panels depicting a river specifically for the space over the sofa.

Sophistication and clean lines contribute to the overall flow of the condo, the perfect setting where a busy professional can relax and entertain.







## A MODERN MAN-CAVE

Chris McCray

Chris McCray Designs

Designer Chris McCray fit the profile of a potential resident of the Manchester Lofts. So in designing his space he chose himself as the imaginary client. Living in a similar industrial loft a few blocks away, he fit the criteria that most of the designers had set for their spaces: a young, single, urban professional.

The second inspiration behind the design, once the "client" was selected, was the building itself. Industrial

materials and only one window to speak of led McCray to his design concept for the Modern-Man Cave.

Emphasizing the cave feeling and playing off the details in the building, he made use of a variety of natural materials. The entrance hall became the master bedroom, with a platform bed custom built out of old barn doors and highlighted by landscaping lights. Stones line the hallway to the back living space,

where the building's existing brick was left exposed.

Brown and white stripes on the bedroom wall follow the neutral colors throughout, spiced up with the occasional splash of leaf green. McCray also pulled from his frequent travels to Asia with Japanese influences.

Shaggy, skin-like rugs on the floors and stairs add another hint of the primitive male while softening the quantity of wood and stone. The designer partnered with contemporary furniture store La Difference for the furnishings and accessories, including the curved leather sofa that contrasts with

sharper edges in the living room—a modern take on the traditional hunting lodge. McCray determined that a man's cave needed a “trophy” of sorts, but sought out a way to create one without using a real animal. Artist Jamie Pocklington came in to create the three-dimensional moose head mounted above a faux fireplace designed by metalworker Joel Eddy from laser-cut steel.

Through stone, wood and other natural materials, McCray has successfully created an edgy retreat for the thoroughly modern man.







## WELL-TRAVELED LUXURY

Janet Brown

Janet Brown Interiors

An eclectic mix of luxurious fabrics, antiques and collections make up the main living spaces of the unit tackled by Janet Brown, who approached her design as she does the homes of her real-life clients—as a way to highlight personal style.

With an imaginary client “who loves antiques, travel and collecting things,” Brown gave the space a personalized feeling through borrowed collections of

china and pottery and fine antiques such as the dining table and chairs. She worked with faux finish artist Bonnie Thomas to turn a custom dish shelf between the two long windows into an appropriately “aged” piece. It creates a vertical focal point to complement the sheer height of the room, framed by elegant linen draperies with delicate beaded banding.

Taking into consideration the neutrals already in



place in the exposed beams and brick, Brown selected a color palette based on rich natural shades. To add some cooler colors, she chose a Stark carpet tinged with blue, and added more blue in the kitchen space.

The natural colors were carried through to the upstairs, a comfortable library area. Antique Kuba cloth hangings were the starting inspiration for the space. A custom-designed wool rug in rich gold, reds and greens complements the tribal masks and arti-

facts in the room, and a bookshelf overflows with colorful volumes on art and travel.

Noting that lofts are a relatively new concept to architecture in Richmond, Brown said she enjoyed the flexibility of the space: "There are so many avenues you can go with."

Whether designed for a young professional or as a home base for traveling empty nesters, Brown's condo was one of warmth and personality.

