



Washington, D.C., designer Mary Douglas Drysdale epitomizes the interior designer ideal, with longtime clients returning to her for every transition in their lives. For a recent project, the 11th for a sophisticated and well-traveled couple, Drysdale crafted a glamorous condominium in a Bethesda, Maryland, high-rise. “My first project for them, a single-style house in Maine, was more than 20 years ago,” says Drysdale. “That was followed by a Colonial-style house in Potomac and other historic grand houses in Maryland. I have seen their family expand and then their children leave home and begin their own lives. This wonderful condominium represents the empty nester phase of their story.”

The pair tasked Drysdale with a redesign of the layout to take advantage of the 10th-floor views of downtown Bethesda. “My aim was to create a more modern plan in this very new luxury property and to strongly engage the inside with the outside,” she says. “The terrace serves as a second living room for eight months of the year.” The living room’s seating arrangement is streamlined and low, leading the eye to the terrace and the treetops beyond. Drysdale kept the scheme monochromatic, with fabrics and carpet in complementary shades of blue. “It’s the wife’s favorite color,” says Drysdale. “It worked well in the strongly sunlit space. The blue holds the center of activity together, while the cabinetry and walls are white. It’s a rich center with a perimeter that fades into the clouds.”

Previous pages: Designer Mary Douglas Drysdale connected indoors to out with glass doors. This page: A graphic artwork creates a strong focal point in a niche behind the dining room table. Opposite: A large unframed blue canvas by Linn Meyers is set into a custom-built niche to greet visitors in the entry. A series of smaller works by Wendy Concannon perches on shelves at the end of the structural column Drysdale used to divide the space. In the entry, a Jansen chest sits beneath a series of works by Donald Sultan.

