



Mary Douglas Drysdale Associates

ASPIRE HOUSE, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

Completed 2020
800 square feet

Clockwise from top left: The bedroom entry and sitting area includes, on the left, a Steven Cushner canvas above a low shelf for ceramics and objets d'art. The creamy, sunlit bedroom is vivified by contrasting black accents, such as the handmade quilt and curtains. The circular pink artwork is by Linling Lu. Upholstered stools pick up on the rosy color. A wall of geometric art surveys plush seating.

PROJECT TEAM MARY DOUGLAS DRYSDALE; JANE DUNNING; MIKE LIDWIN
KEY CONSULTANTS HEMPHILL ARTWORKS; STARK CARPET; B&B ITALIA; LEE INDUSTRIES; MY ATELIER; SCHALLER GALLERY; TWIN DIAMONDS STUDIOS DECORATIVE PAINTING
PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN COLE
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When Mary Douglas Drysdale was asked to design a room from scratch for the Aspire House show home in McLean, Virginia, she decided on the master bedroom. "My goal was to provide a comfortable room with seating, overlooking the garden landscape, for imaginary art collectors," the Mary Douglas Drysdale Associates principal says. "Show houses can be great fun to do," she continues. "Normally, we design for others, with all that assignment implies. In a show house, we can do what we might do for ourselves."

The master bedroom, with its 10-foot-high ceiling, now has elegant trim and millwork detailed by Drysdale. She sourced or commissioned handmade quilts and curtains for warmth and texture, contrasting blocky black accents against nubby neutral textiles. For a splash of enlivening color, pink stools pick up on the same saturated hue in a stunning Linling Lu canvas. Plenty of shelves for displaying accessories, books, and other treasures dress the room without being overly fussy. In all, it's a project that showcases Drysdale's unique design philosophy: "For a complete expression of interior design, detail the architecture, place the art, and select furnishings that express both elegance and utility." And she did.

