

HOME & DESIGN

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An Intimate Look Back

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Mary Douglas Drysdale conjures a sense of home for
longtime clients in a chic Bethesda penthouse

Next Chapter



TEXT BY JULIE SANDERS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN COLE



In the original plans, the kitchen was closed off and poorly laid out. Drysdale designed a new plan with a working island for food prep and one for gathering and casual meals. The kitchen flows into the living area, but concealed wall panels pull out to create a Dutch door-style barrier that contains the owners' dogs when necessary. Decorative painter Tom Hickey complemented deep-gray custom cabinetry and gray quartz countertops with vertical gray-on-gray stripes of varying widths on the walls—a signature Drysdale decorative element that has cropped up in more than one of this couple's homes.

A short hallway off the entry leads to the laundry and powder rooms, guest room and master suite, which was reconfigured to accommodate spacious his-and-her baths, closets and a home office. Drysdale designed glazed-maple panels that clad the walls of the master bedroom and deftly conceal storage, as well as matching, built-in glazed-maple nightstands. The room is an uncluttered study in restful neutrals, with the light wood tones offset by cream-colored bedding and Colefax & Fowler drapes. "It's designed to be sort of quiet," she explains. "It's not a big room, but the light colors make it feel larger."

The apartment offers vistas on three sides; roofs, softened by treetops, frame a wide expanse of sky. Balconies off the kitchen





One side of the architectural divider (opposite, top) displays a series of bold, geometric photographs by Wendy Concannon. On an opposite wall, a Stephen Cushner painting is paired with a demi-lune table. The living area opens through glass doors to the terrace (opposite, bottom). Spare, modern furnishings include a cabana by JANUS et Cie (above) and Restoration Hardware seating around a gas fireplace (left).