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Home Life Style



NOVEMBER 2008 ♦ McLEAN CONNECTION

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Revisionist History

Arlington couple nearly doubles their house but preserves their home's character.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ

The reasons Joanne and Kevin Sweeney decided to renovate their Arlington home are fairly typical.

The couple had four young children and needed more space. But they loved their 1910 four-square in the Ashton Heights neighborhood and didn't want to move to the outer suburbs.

So the Sweeneys decided to build a 1,500-square-foot addition to their 3,350-square-foot house. However, instead of building another level or tearing up their front lawn, they built their addition in their back yard.

"One of our big concerns was that it would still fit in the neighborhood," said Joanne Sweeney, currently a stay-at-home mom who used to work at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington. "It was important that our renovation respect our neighborhood because we've seen a lot of things being built that don't respect our neighborhood."

The Sweeneys worked with an architect and a historical preservation consultant to make sure that their home kept its character through the renovation. They



The front parlor of the original foursquare, with Wilson the house rabbit.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Joanne Sweeney.

Painted the second story of the house a different color than the first story to make it appear smaller. They also put the 1,500-square-foot addition in the back so that it would be difficult to

"It was important that our renovation respect our neighborhood because we've seen a lot of things being built that don't respect our neighborhood."

— Joanne Sweeney



Lanterns from California light up the garden in the evening.

SEE SWEENEY, PAGE 6

Help Available for Holidays

BY MIKE SALMON

After Sharon Mill's husband died last year, decorating the house for the holidays was low on her priority list. But after talking to Sun Lee at Washingtonian Interiors, Mill found a way to get her house decorated without adding any more stress or bringing back memories.

Lee came in with a crew, and with a combination of



Sun Lee and Will Knicely

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

Mill's ornaments and some new ribbons and garland for the tree, mantle and railings, she created a festive look in Mill's Arlington home.

"It was very nice," said Mill. "I honestly didn't feel like doing it myself."

For many in the area, whether it's a family situation or just the fear of teetering on a stepladder to hang ornaments and lights, there are services that take holiday decorating to the next level.

"So many people are nesting, SEE DECKING THE HALLS. PAGE 5



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Help in Decking the Halls

FROM PAGE 4

we take it very personal and do it to fit their needs," said Will Knicely, the manager at Washingtonian, in McLean.

Safety is just one of the reasons Washingtonian Interiors starts getting busy in the fall.

"I would advise, if you're older and don't need to get on a ladder, it's dangerous," said Lee. Beginning in October, when the leaves start turning color, the phones start ringing from households in the area that need a little help decorating, or want a complete interior re-do for the holidays.

Washingtonian does everything from garland around stairways and the family tree, to painting, wallpaper and new furniture. Mill really liked "the warmth of the presentation, it was more of a polished finish," she said.

Washingtonian can either bring a whole new package, with new ornaments, artificial tree and ribbons of all sorts, or they can come into the house and use the owners existing decorations and arrange them to fit in the given space.

Lee makes a floor plan and then makes a list of materials needed, and it takes off from

there. "When we do trees, we like it a certain way," she said. This year, metallic ribbons are in, she said.

Lee is seeing more households holding back to see what the economy does. She thinks many will be decorating their trees themselves, cutting costs.

Knicely agreed. "People are being very frugal, they're doing a lot of their own holiday decorating," he said.

ALTHOUGH the teetering ladder or the tree toppling over in the living room is a staple on

SEE ELEGANT CHRISTMAS, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT



'Magical winged Santa Fairies' by Mark Roberts at the showroom of Washingtonian Interiors in McLean.

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- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Bathrooms

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

Windows

- Clean entry window, one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink



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6 Renovation Maintains Historical Character

FROM PAGE 3

tell from the street that their house had been altered.

And they took pains to build the addition around a 100-year-old oak tree in their back yard. "In order to do the renovation we had to work around that," Sweeney said. "We started by talking to an arborist and he gave us information on how to save the tree. We had five 100-year-old oak trees [and] one of them died long before renovation. We did not want to lose any more trees."

Creating the addition to their house was an expensive and protracted process. While the construction took only 18

months, the planning process began almost as soon as the Sweeneys bought the house in 1989. They knew they would eventually be having children, Sweeney said, and they knew they didn't want to leave Arlington. Adding an addition was the only option they had to get the most out of their dream home.

"When we bought the house we thought that it had potential," Sweeney said. "We're happy that we made the decision that we did. ... We have room to move and to kind of get lost. We're not on top of each other. We've got lots of room to entertain kids friends but we also have quiet parts of the house."

Ideas? E-mail HomeLifeStyle@ConnectionNewspapers.com

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The exterior of the original foursquare. When the Sweeneys moved in they repainted the veranda columns a sage green in keeping with the landscape.



In the new addition of the home, a stone fireplace was added to the family room beyond the open kitchen.

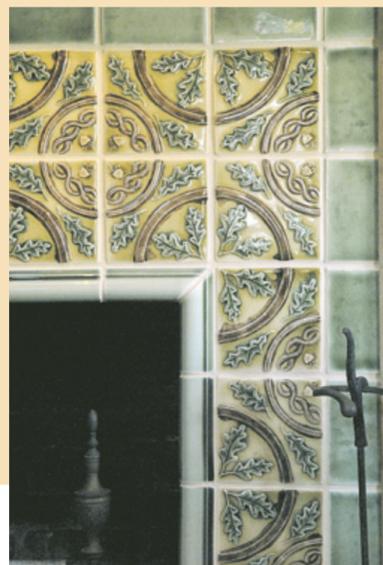
"We have room to move and to kind of get lost. We're not on top of each other."

— Joanne Sweeney

Preservation Renovation



Wilson, the house rabbit hops through the parlor.



The Sweeneys replaced the original stone around the fireplace with tiles.



A dining nook overlooks the garden. The table, originally a library table was found at an antique shop and fit the space perfectly.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT CONNECTION



Keeping the existing roofline but alternating the size of the siding in the center, the integrity of the original house is maintained even with the large addition.



A flagstone walkway leading in to the side garden and the new addition.

Preservation Renovation



Black Riffles Road, Great Falls, \$4,300,000

Built on a parcel once known as the Black Riffles Equestrian Farm, this home sits on five acres just west of Great Falls and River Bend parks, deep in the Great Falls woodlands near the Potomac River. The European Porte-cochere marks the entrance to a flagstone motor court which accesses four of the eight garage bays set within a stacked two-story wing.

Towering windows surround the main level, where formal rooms are dressed in Brazilian Cherry and Travertine. The master wing is luxurious with a bath fit for royalty. Surrounding an upper level library-study area, the bedroom offers world-class luxury. There is an upper level party room, a fully finished open-space lower level, an in-law's wing, swimming pool, and a fully equipped home gym. Six-plus bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, five fireplaces, Web-enabled security monitoring, geothermal system, an emergency backup generator.

Contact Said Zangeneh, Weichert Realtors, Great Falls, 703-855-1819.



Kirby Road, McLean, \$2,999,000

This custom home by Georgetown Construction includes every amenity throughout four finished levels. Dramatic two story foyer, high ceilings, stone and brick facade and faux slate roof. Formal living and dining rooms, paneled library with private terrace, family room off the breakfast area with two-sided stone fireplace. Gourmet kitchen by Lobkovich spares no expense. Upstairs master suite with sitting room, a luxurious master bath with heated floors and closets galore. There are three additional guest suites and a laundry room followed by a second upper level bonus room and full bath. The lower level has a full wet bar, guest suite, billiard, recreation and exercise rooms. Close-in location next to GW Parkway.

Contact Mark McFadden, Coldwell Banker, 703-216-1333.



Luvie Court, Potomac, \$3,395,000

Wrapped in seclusion by mature trees, gardens and 1.61 acres of grounds with views of the Potomac River, this home exhibits Old World influence, and the masterful imprint of architect Bobby McAlpine. Detailed with paneled ceilings and designer flooring, the interior features a grand salon, a magnificent kitchen and dining room, a Mahogany-paneled porch, and first-floor owner's suite. The grounds include flagstone terraces and a secluded infinity pool. Situated on Merry-Go-Round-Farm, an equestrian community, an adjacent .73-acre lot is offered separately for \$795,000.

Contact Nancy Itteilag at 202.905.7762 or itteilag@aol.com for more information.



Beall Mountain Road, Potomac, \$3,450,000

This Beall Mountain Road home offers a stunning setting and the luxury of privacy. Sited on six acres with a meandering stream and gorgeous woodlands. Only the best materials have been used and all with a designer's eye. Go outside and relax at the serene rock outcropping overlooking the stream, frolic in the pool or crank up the competition in the barn-styled sportsplex with a full-court indoor basketball court and batting and golf cages.

Contact Anne Killeen, Washington Fine Properties, cell 301-706-0067, Office 301-983-6400

An East–West fusion of interior design.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

'Kyoto Calm' – A Restful, Reading Space by Tracy L. Morris.

Beyond Dragons

From the drawing table to the showcase floor, ten local designers' ideas and expertise were on display at the NSO Designer Showcase at the Chevy Chase Women's Club. Proceeds from the NSO Women's Committee event benefits the education activities of the National Symphony Orchestra that include the NSO Young People's Concerts, Summer Music Institute and NSO Welcome Center. For more information on the Women's Committee call 202-416-8150



— LOUISE KRAFFT

Washington Sitting Room by Laura Mackey.

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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER

8322 WOODLEA MILL RD (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Woodlea Mill sold for \$2,500,000 on Sept. 12, 2008

In the area, 56 homes sold for \$1 million or more, eight are in MCLEAN.

- ❖ 8322 WOODLEA MILL RD (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Woodlea Mill sold for \$2,500,000 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 1511 SPRING VALE AVE (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008
- ❖ 1324 WOODSIDE DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Woodside Estates sold for \$1,487,500 on Sept. 11, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,475,000 on Sept. 15, 2008
- ❖ 1432 WAGGAMAN CIR (4 BR, 3 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,395,000 on Sept. 4, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (4 BR, 3 FB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 1, 2008
- ❖ 6529 SOTHORON RD (6 BR, 5 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 1450 EMERSON AVE #502 (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Palladium At Mclean sold for \$1,050,000 on Sept. 23, 2008

Five are in GREAT FALLS.

- ❖ 853 NICHOLAS RUN DR (5 BR, 6 FB, 2 HB) in Grovemont sold for \$2,600,000 on Sept. 16, 2008
- ❖ 11553 TRALEE DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tralee Estates sold for \$1,950,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 9708 MILL RUN DR (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Mill Run Acres sold for \$1,600,000 on Sept. 10, 2008
- ❖ 9020 BELCOURT CASTLE PL (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Cheshire sold for \$1,400,000 on Sept. 29, 2008
- ❖ 974 MILLWOOD LN (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Offutt Home Tract sold for \$1,150,000 on Sept. 26, 2008

Twelve are in ARLINGTON.

- ❖ 1111 19TH ST N #2601 (3 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Waterview sold for \$2,451,300 on Sept. 5, 2008
- ❖ 3507 POTOMAC ST N (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Minor Hill sold for \$1,650,000 on Sept. 19, 2008
- ❖ 1313 14TH ST N (3 BR, 2 FB, 3 HB) in Monument Place sold for \$1,525,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 3367 DICKERSON ST N (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Country Club Manors sold for \$1,450,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 2720 QUINCY ST N (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Dover Balmoral Riverwood sold for \$1,400,000 on Sept. 9, 2008
- ❖ 6212 31ST ST N (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Berkshire Oakwood sold for \$1,400,000 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 1922 QUANTICO ST N (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Over Lee Knolls sold for \$1,325,000 on Sept. 16, 2008
- ❖ 5320 37TH ST N (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Williamsburg Village sold for \$1,250,000 on Sept. 22, 2008
- ❖ 1610 DANVILLE ST N (5 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Lyon Village sold for \$1,184,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 5515 18TH RD N (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tara sold for \$1,100,000 on Sept. 8, 2008
- ❖ 3708 WOODSTOCK ST N (5 BR, 3 FB) in Country Club Hills sold for \$1,075,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 2210 SCOTT ST (3 BR, 3 FB, 2 HB) in Palisades Park sold for \$1,050,000 on Sept. 2, 2008

Three are in VIENNA.

- ❖ 315 LEWIS ST NW (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Windover Heights sold for \$1,350,000 on Sept. 23, 2008
- ❖ 9510 FRANCIS YOUNG LN (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Francis Young Estates sold for \$1,325,000 on Sept. 22, 2008
- ❖ 200 TALAHY RD SE (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Onondio sold for \$1,115,000 on Sept. 2, 2008



1324 WOODSIDE DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Woodside Estates sold for \$1,487,500 on Sept. 11, 2008



1511 SPRING VALE AVE (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008



1313 14TH ST N (3 BR, 2 FB, 3 HB) in Monument Place sold for \$1,525,000 on Sept. 26, 2008



9708 MILL RUN DR (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Mill Run Acres sold for \$1,600,000 on Sept. 10, 2008

Elegant Christmas

FROM PAGE 5

the holiday television specials, it is no joking matter. According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, 8,700 people per year are treated in emergency rooms for injuries, such as cuts, shock or falls, that are related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees.

Jeremy Fish at Christmas Décor in Chantilly will come out and do everything the homeowner wants, especially the tree lighting and the roofline decorations. "It's a big job, there's a comfort level there," Fish said.

It's not only homeowners at

Christmas Décor either. Patriot Harley, a motorcycle dealer in Fairfax, is a big customer, and the Santa Claus on the motorcycle is a must, Fish said.

Other clients of Fish's include the City of Fairfax and Belfort Furniture. The city has been a customer for the past five or six years, and go all out with the white lights, that Fish calls a "real classic design."

Holiday decorating is not part of the regular routine at Decorium Home in Alexandria, but last year a few current customers requested it and they found room on the schedule.



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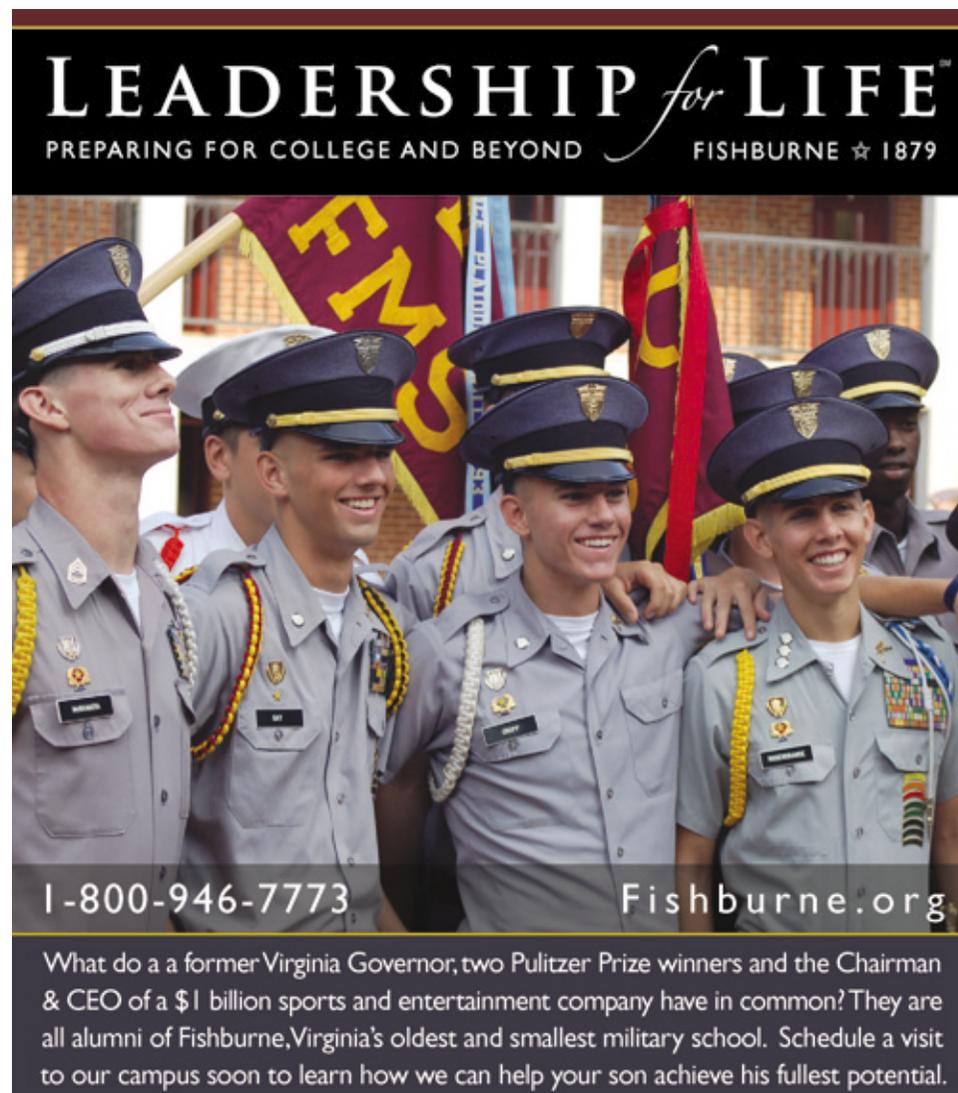
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