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Home Life Style



MARCH 2009 ♦ ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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Painter transforms household walls into travel windows.

A Moment in Time

BY AMBER HEALY

Sharon Sheehy was surrounded by white walls and needed an escape. After spending her days in a hospital caring for her father after a stroke, she'd return to her newly purchased home, distressed about the white walls and the garden she didn't have time or energy to nurture.

"I kept thinking, if someone could put me into the Secret Garden, like in the book, that was all I wanted," Sheehy said. "Everyone is healed in the Secret Garden."

Enter Kari Cannistraro.

Sheehy had picked up Cannistraro's card at the Rose Cottage in Great Falls. Cannistraro was patient, compassionate and easy to talk to, Sheehy said, and after a few conversations, she let

Cannistraro go to work on her foyer and hallway.

Was Cannistraro able to make her dream come true?

"It's so beautiful," Sheehy said of the finished work. In fact, Sheehy said her husband now hires Cannistraro every year, as a Christmas present.

"I love coming home now."

For Cannistraro, transforming rooms into landscapes has become a career almost by accident.

She started painting scenes onto furniture and moved to a much larger canvas when a woman fell in love with a waterfall scene she'd painted on a chair and asked Cannistraro to paint it on her



Faux stone stairwell in a McLean Home.



The Italian Escape bath.



DONATED PHOTO

Kari Cannistraro of Burke paints a Greek landscape.

See More

For more information on Kari Cannistraro and her murals, go to www.ovidart.com.

bathroom wall.

"She wanted it to look like the waterfall was flowing into her bathtub," Cannistraro said. "That idea changed my life."

From there, Cannistraro started playing in her own house, com-

binning her love of painting with her love of travel, especially to the dramatic images of Italy.

From a dining room with columns looking out into the ruins of Pompeii to rooms for children inspired by the "Lord of the Rings" books and movies, Cannistraro said there's not much she won't try to tackle in her painting. In her home, it's Italy that surrounds her.

The Man Who Wants to Make Arlington Modern

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA

In his day job, architect Bob Braddock works for custom homebuilder Mickey Simpson Ltd. in Arlington.

One day in late 2006 he bought a vacant plot of land that was languishing in the hands of his employer. Braddock saw in the small lot the perfect canvas for his work.

"I knew there was a skinny lot that they were just sitting on, and I

thought I could do something beautiful with a skinny." On the 30-by-120-foot lot, Braddock erected his own design, a skinny house just 12-by-60 in footprint, inspired by years of sketches he had been collecting.

The modern home on N. Barton Street is the fourth single-family home Braddock designed, but his first chance to express his lifelong love of modern architecture.

Braddock explains how modern architecture developed as a reaction to heavy corners and small windows of traditional masonry homes. Modern architecture is most often associated with innova-

tive use of new building materials that can allow for an interior support structure providing trade-marks such as glass corners.

"I love the openness and the light, airy feel of modern architecture," says Braddock.

"The Skinny House" of Arlington as it is affectionately known is 12 feet wide, and three stories high. It has 2,800 square feet on four levels, four bedrooms, and three-and-a-half bathrooms. There are polished oak floors throughout, and a carpeted finished basement.

Braddock was grew up in Alexandria, and now lives in Arlington with his wife Erika and children, Lucia, 8, and Theodore, 5. Erika Braddock owns Clarendon LandDesign and is responsible for the landscaping work on the house.

"I knew I needed the third floor to get the square footage that would make it feasible for family, and to make it comparable to other housing in the area."

Braddock also designed the large bungalow next door and notes it is

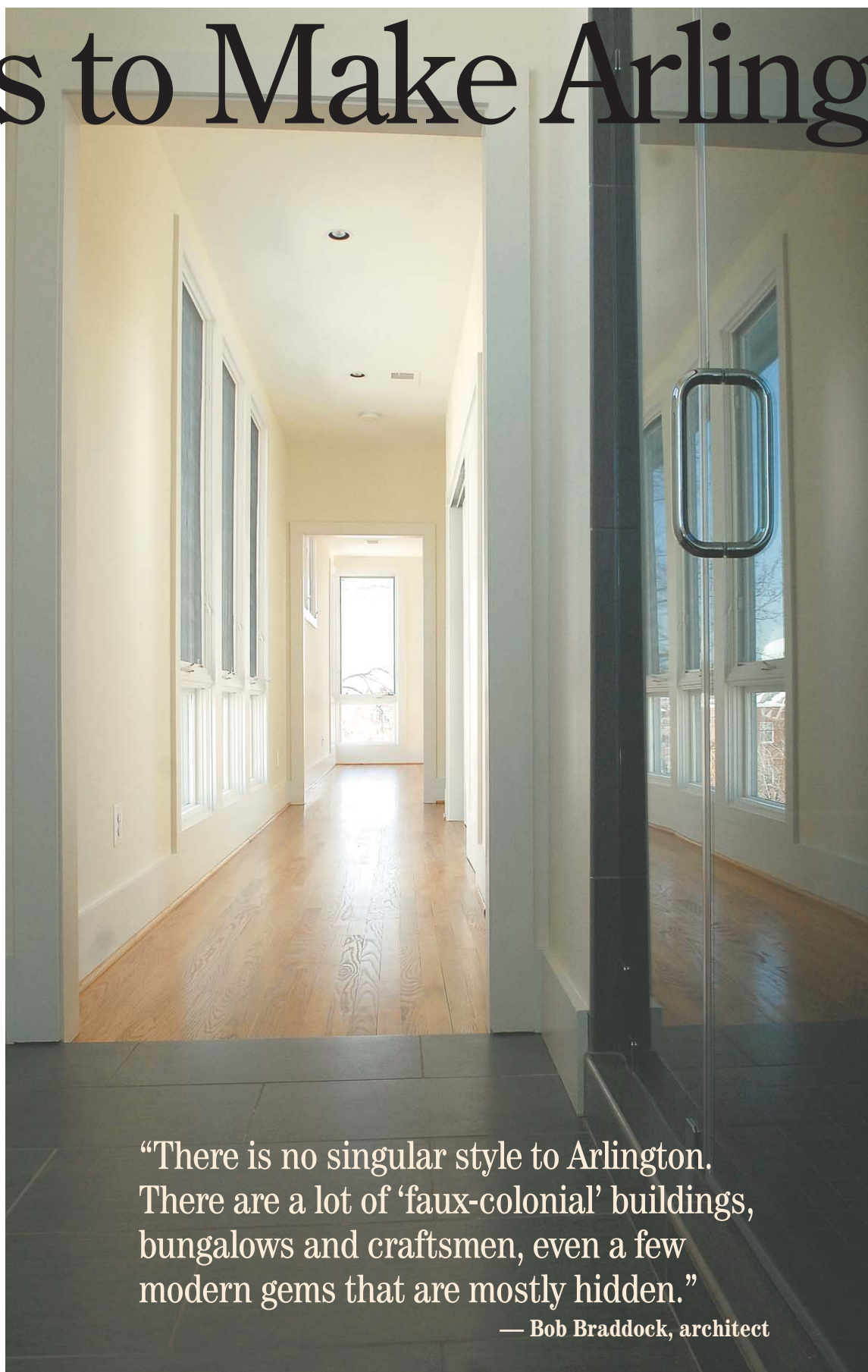
actually taller than the skinny, but the skinny steals the show with its dramatic presentation.

"There is a historical precedent for an architectural concept built around rooms that are only 12 feet wide, especially in the D.C. area. Twelve feet is only one dimension, I

knew if I could

"Some people grow up knowing they have a book inside them they need to write. That's the way I feel about houses — they're inside me and waiting for the right opportunity."

— Bob Braddock, architect



"There is no singular style to Arlington. There are a lot of 'faux-colonial' buildings, bungalows and craftsmen, even a few modern gems that are mostly hidden."

— Bob Braddock, architect

Looking east from the master bath to the master bedroom on the third floor.

extend the other dimensions of the room I could make those rooms comfortable and livable." The home may be as wide as a tradi-

tional row house, but the surrounding open space allows light in from all sides and the skinny dimension disappears from view



The master bath is set between two disappearing corners.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

once inside.

It is exactly Arlington's eclectic composition that made Braddock's inspiration come to life. "There is no traditional precedent for something so tall, and so skinny, so it had to be modern. If I tried to make it traditional in some way, it wouldn't have been authentic."

Guests enter through the side, along the deck that runs the entire length of the house.

There are three sets of sliding glass doors along the entrance side of the house, and Braddock comments that this feature is there

The Skinny House

711 N. Barton St. Arlington, VA
Offered at \$1,125,000
Contact American Realty Group
703-338-2277
Architect: Bob Braddock
Developer: Mickey Simpson, Ltd.
Completed: October 2008

to extend the interior space.

"I consider the deck an extension of the first floor," he says, envisioning a living environment which seamlessly flows from inside to out. The deck is also skinny, 9-feet-by-50. The kitchen counters are made of recycled glass, which adds a distinct sparkle to the room.

The exterior of the building is as important to Braddock's vision as the interior's livability. Braddock

stresses the artistry in the placement of the windows — both in how the light plays on the inside, and the overall effect from the outside.

"The way a house presents itself to you it can be either gentle or brutal," said Braddock when speaking about this classical architectural theme of base, body and head.

"Some people grow up knowing they have a book inside them they need to write. That's the way I feel about houses — they're inside me and waiting for the right opportunity," said Braddock.



711 North Barton Street.



Architect Bob Braddock.

Woodlawn's 46th annual Needlework Exhibition

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HomeLifeStyle
Arlington Connection
March 2009

6 To the Point

Woodlawn's annual needlework features over 600 works from around the country. The exhibit also includes work done by Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis Lewis, the first mistress of the mansion.

Nelly was the granddaughter of Martha Washington. She grew up at Mount Vernon with her brother George Washington Parke Custis as part of George and Martha Washington's family. Nelly married a nephew of George Washington's, Major Lawrence Lewis. Washington as a wedding gift gave the land on what was known as Gray's Hill to the Lewises and arranged with the architect Dr. William Thornton to design the mansion.

The show continues until March 31. For more information on Woodlawn visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000.

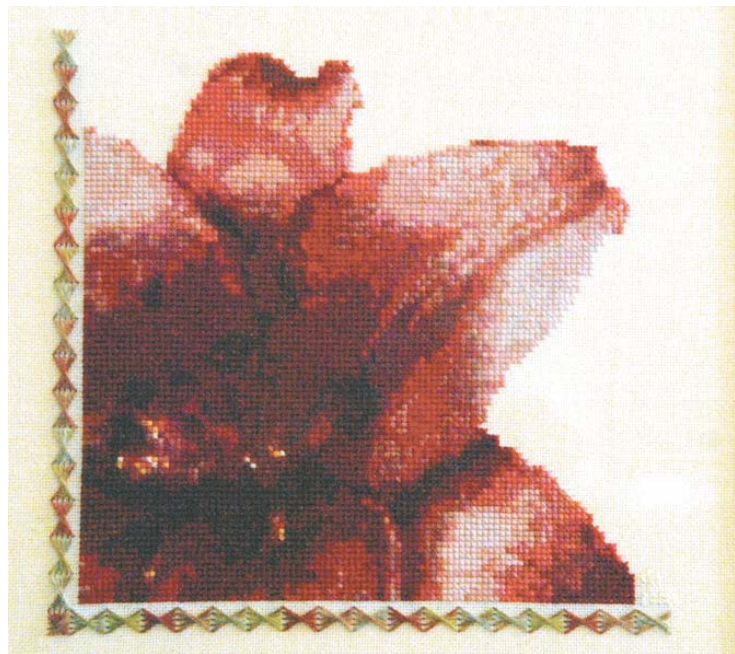


A small footstool by Lori Mazza received a second prize.

PHOTO BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
CONNECTION



Lori Mazza, owner of Waste Knot Needlepoint on Lee Highway in Arlington, took a first place for a needlepoint pillow in this year's show.



Sara Leigh Merry, owner of the Scarlet Thread Needlework Shop on Walker Road in Great Falls, entered this piece of cross stitch.



Woodlawn's annual needlework exhibition opened March 1.

Sold: Million-dollar Homes

In January, 26 houses sold for \$1 million or more in the area.



HomeLifeStyle ❖ Arlington Connection ❖ March 2009

Arlington

- ❖ 4014 25th St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 0.17 acres) in Lee Heights sold for \$1,441,000 on Jan. 16, 2009
- ❖ 3650 South Glebe Road #1048 (a 3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB Hi-Rise Unit — 9+ floors) in The Eclipse On Center Park sold for \$1,250,000 on Jan. 30, 2009
- ❖ 419 Lincoln St (a 4 BR, 3 FB Detached Home on 0.36 acres) in Ashton Heights sold for \$1,132,000 on Jan. 08, 2009
- ❖ 6054 22nd Rd N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 0.20 acres) in Over Lee Knolls sold for \$1,120,000 on Jan. 27, 2009
- ❖ 3508 Abingdon St (a 6 BR, 3 FB Detached Home on 0.45 acres) in Country Club Hills sold for \$1,025,000 on Jan. 21, 2009
- ❖ 11199 Branton Ln (a 5 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 1.35 acres) in Chadwick Property sold for \$2,085,000 on Jan. 13, 2009
- ❖ 309 Springvale Rd (a 3 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 2.18 acres) in Great Falls sold for \$1,400,000 on Jan. 30, 2009
- ❖ 800 Grace Meadow Ct (a 4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 1.97 acres) in Dogwood Farm sold for \$1,050,000 on Jan. 23, 2009



The residence at 419 Lincoln Street in Arlington recently sold for \$1,132,000.



The condo at 3650 South Glebe Road, Unit 1048, in Arlington recently sold for \$1,250,000.

McLean

- ❖ 818 Clinton Pl (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB Detached Home on 1.12 acres) in Langley Forest sold for \$2,300,000 on Jan. 21, 2009
- ❖ 1203 Alps Dr (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 1.48 acres) in Courts The sold for \$1,350,000 on Jan. 26, 2009

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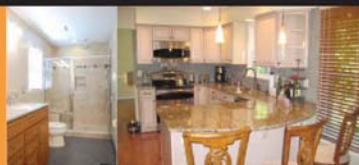


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