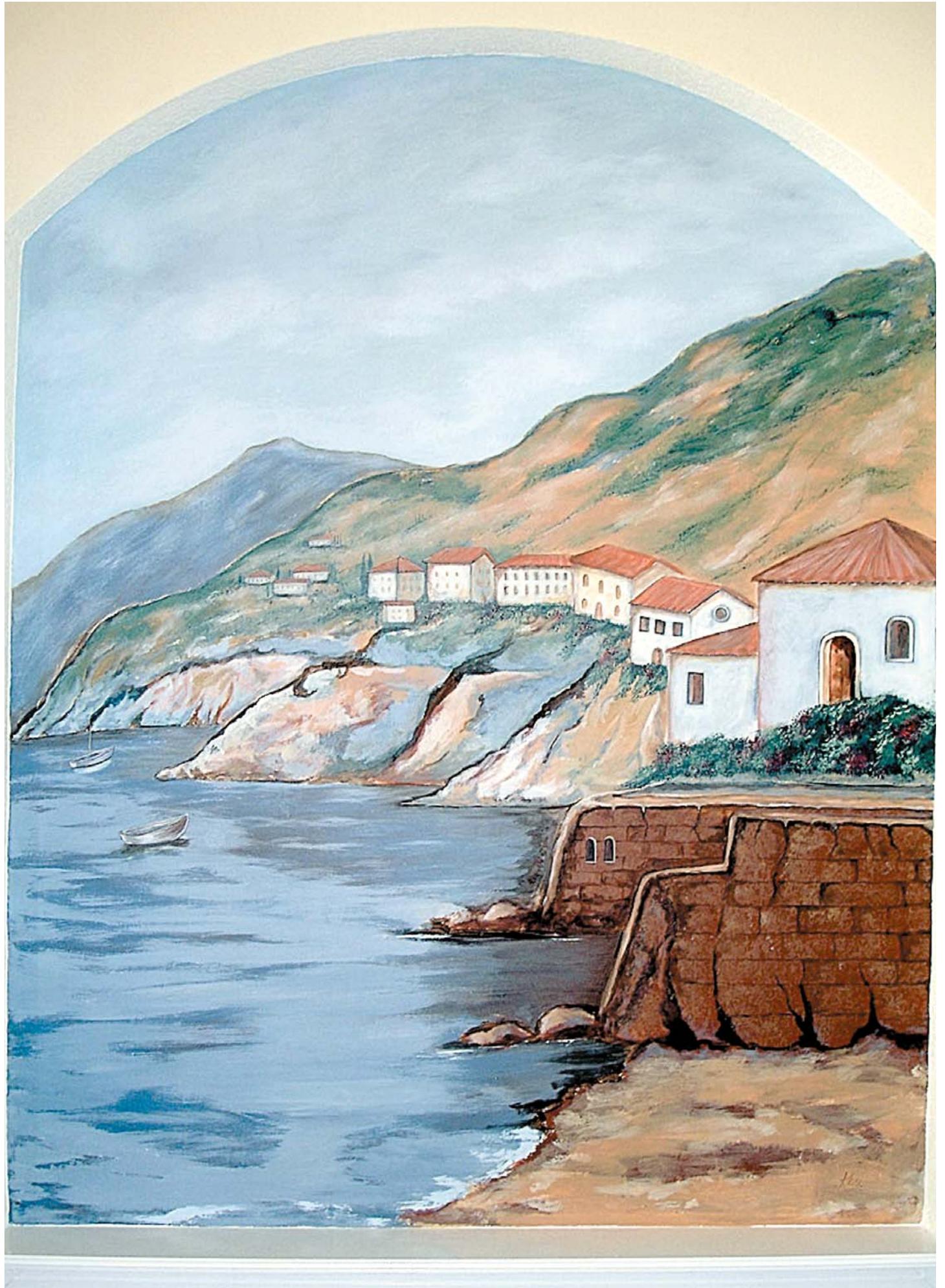
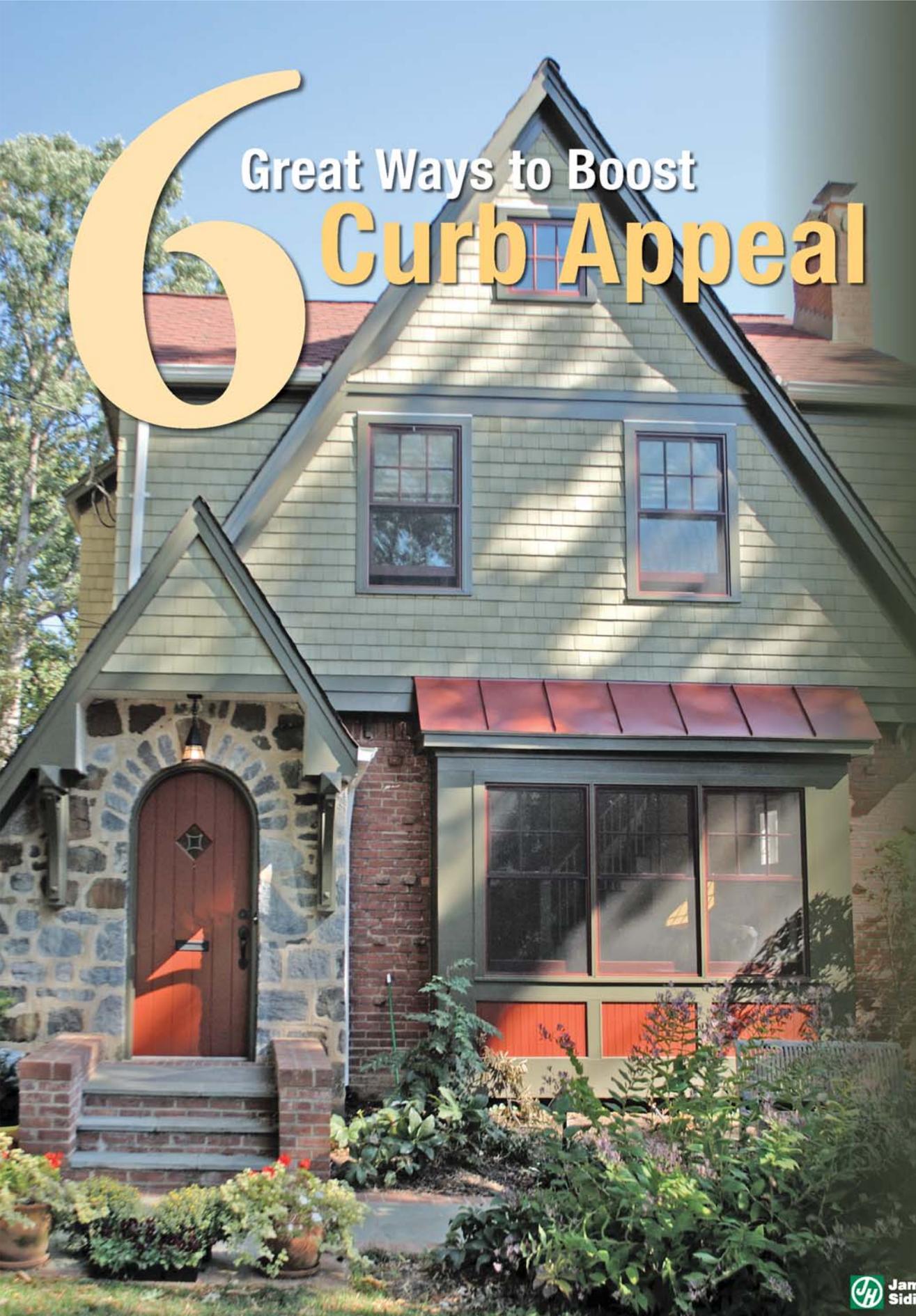


# H

# Home Life Style



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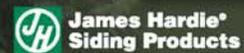
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Painter transforms household walls into travel windows.

# A Moment in Time

BY AMBER HEALY

**S**haron 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."

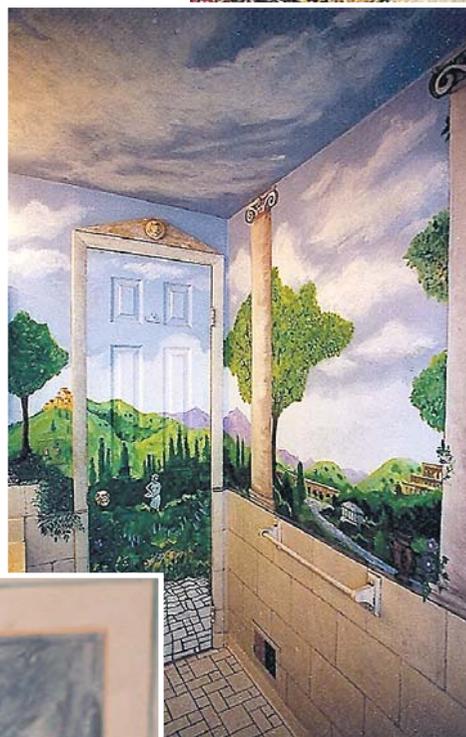
For Cannistraro, transforming rooms into landscapes has become a career

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](http://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.

# At Home with History

BY DONNA MANZ

Judi Medwedeff was not looking for a new home in 1984 when she came upon the historic house on Windover Avenue. “I happened to be cutting through Windover and saw the ‘For Sale’ sign,” says Medwedeff. “I said to myself, ‘I have to have it.’ I knew nothing about it except that it was an old house.”

The house was built in 1892 by one of Vienna’s most prominent townsmen of his time, E. C. Bouton. The original structure is featured in Mayo Stuntz’s “This Was Vienna.”

In the 1950s, the house, in what is now known as the Historic Windover

District, was moved from its original location, about a hundred yards away, to its current site. The relocated house was moved to a triangular lot that narrows toward the back. Changes had been made to the structure over the years, but it was Judi and David Medwedeff who threw themselves into expanding and restoring it.

In 1988, the Medwedeffs added on two new levels in the back, an architectural challenge.

“We hired an architect but we knew what we wanted,” David Medwedeff says. “We wanted lots of light and windows but we didn’t want it to look modern.” Today, the house is approximately three times the original size.

“We tried to keep everything original that we could,” says Judi Medwedeff. Throughout the original upper level are heart pine planks, and the 1892 windows and moldings remain in the earli-



The family room was designed around an antique mantle that the Medwedeffs found in Millwood, Va.

est rooms.

For the additions and restoration, the Medwedeffs commissioned custom millwork to match the original trim and casings.

There is a piece of stained glass

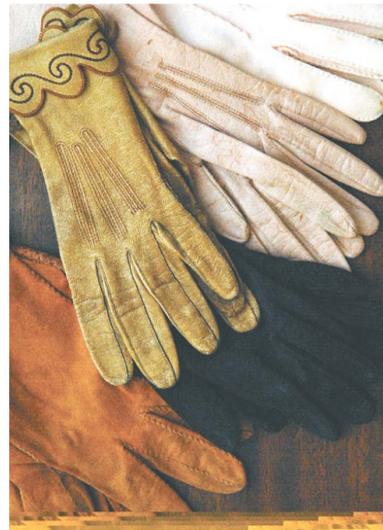
art, bought at an antique auction, accented by an unrepaired hole that Judi Medwedeff believes is a bullet hole.

Interior stairs leading down to a lower level were outside the house

in the 1950s. A razed 100-year-old Baltimore house provided baseboard trim. The warm, art-filled family room was designed around a finely detailed mantle purchased from an antique shop in Virginia.



A detail of the Victorian couch.



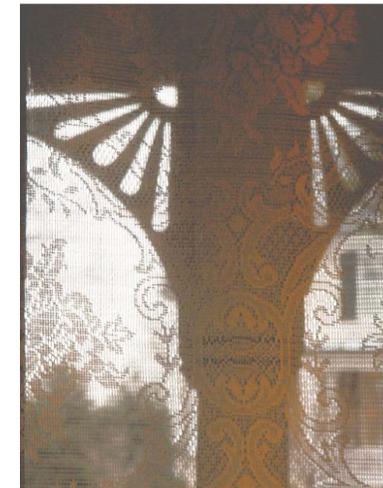
A collection of gloves from David’s great-aunt.



An antique lamp lights the way up the back stairwell. On the wall is a painting by David’s sister.



The walls in the upstairs hallway were painted dark and then textured with a lighter rose with the help of plastic Safeway bags.



Lace curtain diffuse the light entering from the street.



Faux etched glass adds a touch of Victorian charm to the vestibule.



Antiques and heirloom furnishings in the dining room.



Beaded lampshades add to the ambiance.

## Windover house retains original charms.

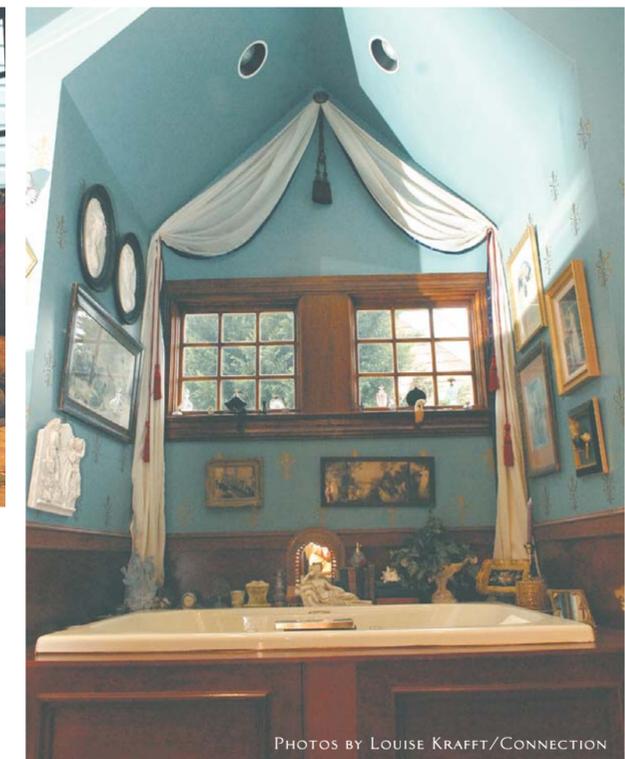


David and Judi Medwedeff in the newly added family room.

Transom windows were lined up with the top of the mantle by the architect. “An old home has all the character built right in,” says Judi Medwedeff.

Rooms and hallways are painted in faux paint style after trial and error. The upstairs hallway paint effect was created using a paper Safeway bag.

The Medwedeffs’ two sons, both students at James Madison High School, sleep and study in bedrooms of antique furnishings and



The master bath.

100-year-old windows. David Medwedeff even indulges his historic passion outside his home. He has coached and refereed lacrosse for 20 years, and is now trying to arrange a visit from a

lacrosse team from England, where he once coached lacrosse.

Judi Medwedeff calls her home a “dream” house. “I like antiques, old things. I like the idea of preserving an old house.”

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

Woodlawn's 46th annual  
Needlework Exhibition

# 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.



A small footstool by Lori Mazza received a second prize.

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.

The show continues until March 31. See [www.woodlawn1805.org](http://www.woodlawn1805.org) or call 703-780-4000.

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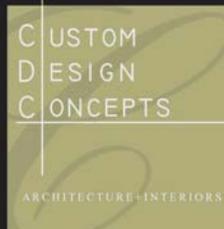
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# Sold: Million-dollar Homes

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



HomeLifeStyle ❖ McLean Connection ❖ March 2009

## 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

## Great Falls

- ❖ 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

## Potomac

- ❖ 11413 Palatine Dr (a 7 BR, 7 FB, 2 HB Detached Home on 2.00 acres) in Palatine sold for \$2,057,000 on Jan. 05, 2009
- ❖ 10000 Abbey Dr (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB Detached Home on 0.28 acres) in Avenel sold for \$1,400,000 on Jan. 20, 2009
- ❖ 10012 Chartwell Manor Ct (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB Detached Home on 0.24 acres) in Avenel sold for \$1,339,000 on Jan. 16, 2009
- ❖ 10826 Nantucket Ter (a 6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB Detached Home on 1.06 acres) in Kentsdale Estates sold for \$1,200,000 on Jan. 30, 2009



The residence at 818 Clinton Place in McLean recently sold for \$2,300,000.



The residence at 1203 Alps in McLean recently sold for \$1,350,000.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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