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Home Life Style



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 ♦ ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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Accents throughout Deborah McDysan's house were made in the home art studio she designed.

See McDysan at work in her home studio during the annual Great Falls Studio Tour Oct. 17 and 18. www.deborahmcdysan.com or www.greatfallsstudios.com.

Creating Her Own Space

BY MIKE DICICCO

When Deborah McDysan and her husband David were designing their home in Great Falls, one major component was to be the art studio where she would ply her trade. Now, products of the studio have spread throughout the spacious house, with her pottery, paintings and sculptures inhabiting almost every room. She even made the tiles on the two hearths and the friezes above the Jacuzzi-style tub and in the shower in the master bathroom.

McDysan is a professional potter, but she has space and equipment in her studio for everything



Deborah McDysan with her Westie, Kelsea on a love seat in the great room of her Great Falls home.



The master bath is completed by a tile mosaic of seashells and fossils created by McDysan.

from glasswork to painting and jewelry making. "I like to do a lot of different things so I don't get bored," she said.

At the moment, her backyard is heaps of dirt and gravel as workers install a swimming pool. "It'll be done just in time for winter," she quipped. Sitting on one of her worktables are glass mosaics



McDysan painted this of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. It now adorns a wall in her dining room.

of fish and a conch shell that she will set into the concrete.

A large kiln in a little room off one side of the studio is where she fires most of her work, and she has a small kiln for firing jewelry.

It was in the large kiln that she fired the tiles for the house's fireplaces. In the living room, more than 500 tiles cover the

hearth in shades of brown, black and white, she said. She "fumed" the colors into the clay, burning salt, ferric chloride, copper carbonate and sawdust on the tiles.

Some of her favorite pieces are reserved for the master bedroom, including one of her favorite pots, a colorful abstraction of a woman with a bird. Over the bed is a brightly colored triptych illustrating a Hungarian folktale about a girl and a golden egg, a cautionary tale about materialism.

She made the tiles around the fireplace between the bedroom and the sitting room by pressing plants such as honeysuckle, ferns and maple leaves into the clay. One tile, though, has a paw print in it. "That was my other Westie. She contributed too." She is on her third West Highland white terrier.

To make the friezes in the master bathroom, she smashed tiles and arranged the shards along the edges of the horizontal designs. In the middle, she set river rocks, seashells, fossils, glass and sharks' teeth.

"Some of these shells I collected when I was a kid," she said.



The mosaic also continues in the glass-enclosed shower.



A signature pot by Deborah McDysan

On the market for \$8.95 million,
historic home on more than three acres.

Retreat in an Urban Hub

Named for the clear streams that ran through the property, the Clarens estate sits on three-and-a-half acres in the heart of Alexandria. The seven-bedroom center hall colonial sits atop Seminary Ridge with views spanning across the Potomac.

The main house features seven bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths and nine fireplaces. Built in 1820, the property includes the main house, a newly constructed pool house, two former slave quarters now used as a guest house and potting shed, an ice house, a well house and a three car garage.

Surrounding the home are the beautiful grounds where George Washington is said to have hunted. Clarens was home to U.S. Sen. James Murray Mason



Library off the main hallway.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

after the Civil War. In 1870, Senator Mason entertained Alexandria resident and guest of

honor President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis on the estate.



Eat-in kitchen features a hand painted La Corne double-oven from France.



Clarens was built in 1820 and has been used as a school, civil war hospital, summer retreat and a private residence.



The Well House sits beyond the bridge that crosses over the koi pond.



The family room with French doors that lead out into the west façade and the gardens.



A northern view from the second floor bedroom suite in the newly constructed pool house.

About half sold, first of Turnberry's residents move in.

Turnberry Towers: Call 703-243-3000 or visit the project online at www.turnberrytowerarlington.com.

Towering Location

It may not look like a home yet, but Eric and Jessica Blazer's condominium at the Turnberry Towers in Rosslyn is beginning to feel like one.

The recently installed refrigerator keeps sodas

cold as they check the progress of the painter putting a fresh coat on their walls.

The Blazers were one of the first buyers to close on their nearly 2,000-square-foot unit at Turnberry Towers, saying they were attracted to the new residence for its mere size, as well as location and amenities.

Like all of the 247 units at the Towers, the Blazer's very spacious two-bedroom, two-bath condominium is built "designer-ready." The concept allows the couple to decide the individual design details in their new home, which includes upgrades in their kitchen appliances.

Eric Blazer is looking forward to being pampered in their new home, including inviting his mother, who lives in Potomac, over to cook some spaghetti sauce in their new kitchen.

Noting how they love the open space in the layout of their apartment, the Blazers have the freedom to choose their own white oak floors and select paint colors.

The only standard installations throughout the Towers are marble floors in the bathrooms and Snaidero Italian cabinets in the kitchens.

Turnberry Vice President Jim Cohen says the style opportunities that come with "designer-ready" condominiums add to 26-story Tower's aim for luxury living.

Turnberry luxuries include amenities similar to those offered in a luxury hotel for its residents, which the Blazers said gave them another compelling reason to move. Private car and valet services, an indoor pool and fitness center, and entertainment theatre are available to the Tower's resi-



The Turnberry Tower

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

dents.

Although such features may give owners like the Blazers little reason to leave their new home, they also say the location and access to public transportation adds to Turnberry's appeal.

"You can't beat the location," said Eric, an accountant. "This is the heart of [the city]."

Residents can walk outside to

the park for concerts and festivals, or across the bridge to Georgetown.

While the Blazers are moving around the corner from their previous residence, Cohen says many of the new residents are families looking to downsize in an urban environment.

In hopes of maintaining the privacy that accompanies a typical

family home, Turnberry offers private elevators to each of its residents.

Every residence in the Towers has a balcony. The floor-to-ceiling glass provides various views of the city and enables

residents who are downsizing to exchange their lawns for the Turnberry's alternative to outdoor

space.

While the 26th floor unit with a 180-degree view of downtown Washington and Arlington is

selling for over \$4 million, Turnberry's prices start in the \$800,000s, with some penthouse level condominiums more than 6,000 square feet in size.



A view from one of the four penthouses on the 26th floor.



A party room is available for residents.



The marble in the bathrooms is standard in all of the units.



The indoor pool at the Turnberry



Jessica Blazer



Eric Blazer



The Blazers made modifications to the kitchen to suit their love of cooking. The range was changed from four to six burners and a large overhead hood replaced a cabinet with a built in hood.



"It is a cream of the crop kind of building."
— Eric Blazer, new resident

Glass artist showcases paperweight collection.

Weighty Art

BY DONNA MANZ

Bev Schindler of Vienna calls her first paperweight purchase a “turning point” in her life.

It was in the late 1960s when Schindler went on a search to buy a friend a paperweight gift. In an antiques and junk store, Schindler found a swirly sea green glass paperweight for a dollar. What Schindler also found was that she could not part with this captivating egg-shaped glass art.

“By the time I got to the

cash register, I knew I wasn’t giving it away.”

Seven hundred paperweights later, Schindler calls that initial purchase the “most expensive dollar I ever spent.” She kept the paperweight, which she surmises was made in Portugal, for herself, sparking the passion that has taken over her home.

Seeking out paperweights became a mission of sorts, one in which Schindler visited antique shops, flea markets, antique shows, and craft shows. “I couldn’t stop collecting; I kept going and going.”

Schindler has made 118 of her own finely detailed glass paperweights. See www.bevschindler.com.

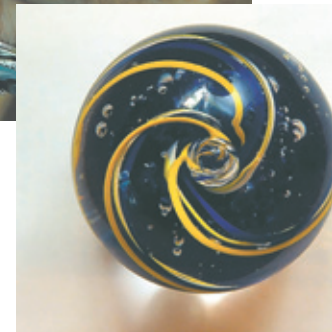


Bohemian “Butterfly” weight from 1920s, purchased in Vienna, Austria.

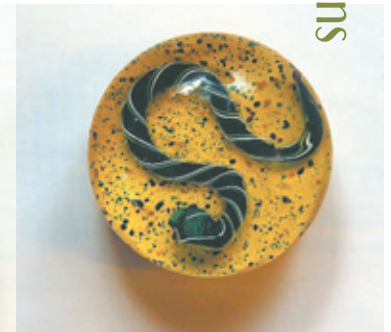
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT



Bev Schindler holding 1940s “Flowers in latticino Basket” Murano, Italy, doorstep sized weight.



Bev Schindler “Swirl” made at Wheaton Village



Bev Schindler “Snake #2” green spiral framework.

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HomeLifeStyle ♦ Arlington Connection ♦ September/October 2009

Arlington (top June sales)

- ❖ 4100 Randolph St N (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.27 acres) in Arlingwood sold for \$1,860,000 on June 29, 2009
- ❖ 4518 35th Rd N (a 4 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.23 acres) in Country Club Hills sold for \$1,695,000 on June 9, 2009
- ❖ 5536 11th Rd N (a 4 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.24 acres) in Lacey Forest sold for \$1,608,000 on June 30, 2009
- ❖ 2516 Upland St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.44 acres) in Broyhill Forest/Hills sold for \$1,427,000 on June 19, 2009
- ❖ 1810 Kenmore St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.23 acres) in Cherrydale sold for \$1,410,000 on June 30, 2009
- ❖ 6014 28th St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.22 acres) in Berkshire Oakwood sold for \$1,375,000 on June 11, 2009
- ❖ 1524 Johnson St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.18 acres) in Lyon Village sold for \$1,310,000 on June 18, 2009

Arlington (top July sales)

- ❖ 3450 Roberts Ln (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.92 acres) in Bellevue Forest sold for \$1,683,000 on July 24, 2009
- ❖ 1228 Vermont St N (a 6 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.22 acres) in Waverly Hills South sold for \$1,670,000 on July 31, 2009
- ❖ 5607 36th St N (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 0 HB detached home on 0.23 acres) in Williamsburg sold for \$1,452,000 on July 27, 2009
- ❖ 2331 Randolph St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.11 acres) in Lorcom Ridge sold for \$1,350,000 on July 31, 2009
- ❖ 2326 Vernon St N (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.16 acres) in Lee Heights sold for \$1,339,000 on July 24, 2009
- ❖ 5116 27th St N (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.16 acres) in Milburn Terrace sold for \$1,300,000 on July 20, 2009



4100 Randolph St N in Arlingwood sold for \$1,860,000 on June 29, 2009



4518 35th Rd N in Country Club Hills sold for \$1,695,000 on June 9, 2009

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION



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Julia S. O'Donoghue

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue
FIRST PLACE, Government writing, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*

Mark Giannotto
FIRST PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, *Arlington Connection*



Mark Giannotto



Mary Kimm

Mary Kimm
FIRST PLACE, Editorial writing, *Fairfax Connection*

Robbie Hammer
FIRST PLACE, Sports news photo, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*, Subject: *Wrestling*



Robbie Hammer

Robbie Hammer
FIRST PLACE, Feature photo, *Springfield Connection*, Subject: *Synchro Swim Team*

Robbie Hammer
FIRST PLACE, Picture story or essay, *Springfield Connection*, Subject: *Lee HS Prom*

Michael Lee Pope
FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Michael Lee Pope

Michael Lee Pope
FIRST PLACE, In-depth or Investigative Reporting, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Michael Lee Pope
FIRST PLACE, Health, Science and Environmental Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Michael Lee Pope
FIRST PLACE, Education Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Mirza Kurspahic
FIRST PLACE, General news writing, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection*, "Controversy in Herndon"



Mirza Kurspahic

Mark Giannotto
FIRST PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Rebecca Halik

Rebecca Halik, Greg Wyshynski,



Greg Wyshynski



Louise Krafft

Louise Krafft, Michael Lee Pope, Mary Anne Weber, Chuck Hagee;
FIRST PLACE, Lifestyle/Entertainment pages; *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Louise Krafft
FIRST PLACE, Pictorial Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Louise Krafft
FIRST PLACE, Picture Story/Essay, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Julia O'Donoghue
FIRST PLACE, In-depth or Investigative Reporting, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

Robbie Hammer
FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, *Potomac Almanac*, Subject: "Practice House Fire"

Aaron Stern
FIRST PLACE, Sports Feature, *Potomac Almanac*, Subject: *Pauline Betz Addies' "Triumphant Return"*



Aaron Stern

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue and Louise Krafft, SECOND PLACE, Combination picture and story, *McLean Connection*, Subject: *Feature on the home of Terry McAuliffe*



Jason Mackey

Jason Mackey
SECOND PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, *Fairfax Connection*

Robbie Hammer
SECOND PLACE, Feature photo, *Vienna/Oakton Connection*, Subject: *Family Support*

Robbie Hammer
SECOND PLACE, Sports feature photo, *Fairfax Connection*, Subject: *Soccer players in defeat*

Bonnie Hobbs
SECOND PLACE, Public safety writing, *Centre View Northern Edition*



Bonnie Hobbs

Bonnie Hobbs
SECOND PLACE, Feature series or continuing story, *Centre View*, Subject: *Immigration*

Jennifer Lesinski
SECOND PLACE, General news writing, *Ashburn Connection*, Subject: *Catholic Charities' food program*



Jennifer Lesinski

Jennifer Lesinski
SECOND PLACE, Personal service writing, *Ashburn Connection*, Subject:

Nicholas M. Horrock



Nicholas M. Horrock

SECOND PLACE, Business and financial writing, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*

Michael Lee Pope
SECOND PLACE, Public Safety Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Michael Lee Pope
SECOND PLACE, Feature series or continuing story, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Louise Krafft
SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Louise Krafft
SECOND PLACE, Feature Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Louise Krafft
SECOND PLACE, Personality or Portrait Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Aaron Stern
SECOND PLACE, Public Service, *Potomac Almanac*, Subject: "Teens Go Online, Get Vicious"

Kenneth B. Lourie
SECOND PLACE, Sports Column, *Potomac Almanac*, Subject: "Fanatic but Not a Phillie"



Kenneth B. Lourie

David Schultz
THIRD PLACE, In-depth or investigative reporting, *Arlington Connection*, Subject:

Unscrupulous landlord evicts tenants



David Schultz

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Michael O'Connell



THIRD PLACE, Page design, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*

Michael O'Connell,

Lea Mae Rice, Paula Friedrich



Lea Mae Rice

THIRD PLACE, Lifestyle or entertainment pages, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*

Jason Mackey
THIRD PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, *Springfield Connection*

Robbie Hammer
THIRD PLACE, Picture story or essay, *Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection*, Subject: *Robinson HS Marching Band Camp*

Robbie Hammer
THIRD PLACE, General news photo, *Fairfax Connection*

Robbie Hammer
THIRD PLACE, Sports news photo, *Vienna/Oakton Connection*, Subject:

Lacrosse celebration

Louise Krafft
THIRD PLACE, General News Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Kenneth B. Lourie
THIRD PLACE, Column Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

Chuck Hagee
THIRD PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

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