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Home Life Style

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.

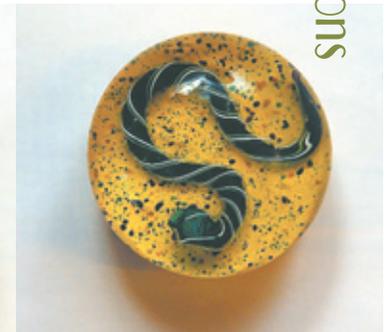
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT



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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“You want a home that supports how you live. But you don’t want it to be impossible to resell.”

Custom Dream House in Shades of Green

BY JOHN BYRD

One sure way to acquire a house that knows everything about your needs is to build it yourself.

Martha Strauss, who now occupies a spacious Craftsman-style residence in Vienna, met her dream weaver practically around the corner—in the form of Susan Pierce, AIA, a neighbor who operates Commonwealth Home Remodeling with her husband Kelvin.

“After we saw a few of Susan’s ideas, we almost

immediately started looking for a suitable lot,” Strauss recalls.

Thinking back on the steps that led her family from a 4,800-square-foot residence in Oakton to the 4,800 square

foot Craftsman-style home in Vienna, Martha Strauss concedes that the process taught her a great deal about herself and the changing possibilities of the emergent American household.

“The formal living room wasn’t even a part of our lives; the breakfast room didn’t serve us; many rooms were just transitional walk-throughs to spots



Architect Susan Pierce created the plans for this Craftsman-style residence in Vienna.

where we actually spent time,” Strauss observes. “It was a breathtaking waste of space.”

Strauss wanted well-defined gathering places, a convenient home office (that wouldn’t spill over into family areas), and a generous country-style kitchen that would meet a host of storage, serving and informal dining requirements.

“A winning design can deviate from traditional floor plan expectations,” Pierce says, “so long as the floor plan is well-rationalized.”

On this score, the absence of a formal living room turned out to be a non-event. Graced with a four-course 12-foot-by-10-foot arch window that draws the eye the moment one enters the front door, the family room naturally beckons visitors forward in a comfortably well-appointed salon that features a stone fireplace, custom cabinetry and artfully arranged overhead halogens.



Martha Strauss and her son Grant on the veranda of their Vienna home.

The 330-square-foot country style kitchen off to the left is both skillfully integrated into a suite of rear-of-the-house chambers and, with its centrally located granite topped serving and dining station, completely mainstream.

The dining room, to the left of the entry foyer, is separated from the kitchen by a walk-in pantry. The dining room also has a direct exit to the spacious front porch adorned with comfortable Adirondack chairs and a shady view of the tree-lined street.



Large windows that flood the home with natural light were an important part of the design.

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.



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



Moving In



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



A party room is available for residents.



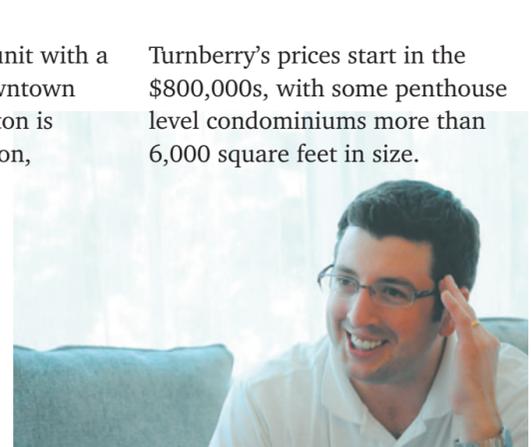
The marble in the bathrooms is standard in all of the units.



The indoor pool at the Turnberry



Jessica Blazer



Eric Blazer

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.

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.

Built in 1820, the property includes the main house, a newly constructed pool house, two former slave quarters now



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

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

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



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

Washington is said to have hunted. Clarens was home to U.S. Sen. James Murray Mason after the Civil War. In 1870, Senator Mason entertained



Clarens was built in 1820.

Alexandria resident and President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis on the estate.

On the Market

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

Oakton (top June sales)

- ❖ 3524 Saint Augustine Ln (a 6 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB detached home) Avondale Glen sold for \$1,610,000 on June 16, 2009
- ❖ 10904 Willow Creek Ln (a 6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home 1.07 acres) in Willow Creek Estates sold for \$1,512,500 on June 30, 2009
- ❖ 11306 Walnut Creek Ct (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home 1.14 acres) in Waples Mill Manor sold for \$1,500,000 on June 30, 2009



3524 Saint Augustine Ln in Avondale Glen sold for \$1,610,000 on June 16, 2009

Vienna (top June sales)

- ❖ 108 Kingsley Rd Se (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.63 acres) in Vienna Acres sold for \$1,550,000 on June 25, 2009
- ❖ 503 Mashie Dr Se (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.52 acres) in Westbriar Country Club M sold for \$1,332,000 on June 4, 2009
- ❖ 9514 Francis Young Ln (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.28 acres) in Francis Young Estates sold for \$1,243,640 on June 15, 2009

Oakton (top July sales)

- ❖ 10801 Tradewind Dr (a 4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.92 acres) in Windsong West sold for \$1,825,000 on July 16, 2009
- ❖ 11044 Heathland Dr (a 6 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB detached home on 1.45 acres) in Avondale Glen sold for \$1,575,000 on July 15, 2009
- ❖ 2557 Bridge Hill Ln (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB detached home on 1.76 acres) in Bridges Of Oakton sold for \$1,450,000 on July 29, 2009

Vienna (top July sales)

- ❖ 2205 Arynsex Dr (a 6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 1.72 acres) in Wickens sold for \$1,825,000 on July 2, 2009
- ❖ 113 Kingsley Rd SE (a 5 BR, 5 FB, 2 HB detached home on 0.63 acres) in Vienna Acres sold for \$1,590,000 on July 31, 2009
- ❖ 2008 Carrhill Rd (a 5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB detached home on 0.57 acres) in Wendover sold for \$1,412,500 on July 22, 2009

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MOZART: Clarinet Concerto

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4

November 21, 2009

Chu-Fang Huang, piano

FALLA: *The Three-Cornered Hat*, Suites 1 and 2

GERSHWIN: *Rhapsody in Blue*

RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G

GINASTERA: *Estancia*

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BARBER: Violin Concerto

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