

MODERN LUXURY

DC

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Gala Season



Marc Andersen's  
Insights on  
Leadership

*The Evolution*  
of **PAMELA  
BROWN**

CNN'S SUPERSTAR TAKES ON A  
THRILLING NEW ROLE

*Pamela Brown photographed at The Jefferson*



De Gournay wallcovering adds a whimsical touch to the powder room.

# THE NEWCOMERS

A new home in McLean reveals the challenging work that went into designing every room with flexibility and comfort in mind.

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY WITTEFINI PHOTO

## THE PROJECT

A couple, who have three adult children, relocated to the DC area from Chicago's North Shore. They set their sights on a new, two-level 9,550-square-foot home in the Turkey Run area of McLean. The biggest issue? While the new property had lovely bones and exceptional design, it was an empty canvas that needed depth and gravitas.

## THE TEAM

Because they were coming from the Midwest, the couple chose Chicago-based Tom Stringer Design Partners ([tomstringer.com](http://tomstringer.com)) for the massive project that would entail designing every room. "I design spaces for clients that reflect their given space and the time of their lives," says John Cialone, the principal designer on the project. "This client was moving to a new residence significantly smaller than their previous home. Their collections from lifelong travels were important to them, and we made every effort to include the most important pieces while making the home feel current."

Cialone notes that the homeowners are close friends, and, because of that, he understood what they wanted to achieve without much direction. "I saw the house one day, presented it to them the next day after a fun all-night exploration into the design, and then did a follow-up with color, texture, materiality, fabrics and finishes shortly thereafter," he says. "The entire house was installed during the pandemic, and we were very creative about the approach to achieve the timeline." **CONTINUED...**

The light-filled office is graced with a chair and ottoman by O. Henry House and an area rug by Watson Smith.





From left: The design team added warmth and style to the kitchen, including Holly Hunt stools and a rug from Delos; the gallery features a bench from O. Henry House, an area rug from Merida and window treatment fabric by Cowtan & Tout.



...CONTINUED **THE GOALS**

The homeowners' central goal, says Cialone, was to integrate their existing belongings into the new home. They wanted each room to feel like it had been designed over the grand sweep of many years with a collected look. "They were also looking to ensure that the house was easy to maintain and promoted a healthy lifestyle," says Cialone, who also notes that the pandemic presented a significant challenge. "Timelines and deliveries were huge obstacles, but our relationships with existing vendors were key in achieving the outcome."

Cialone says layering in the clients' existing pieces was the most important part of the project. "In addition, finding a way to make a large house live comfortably for two without feeling overwhelming was a goal in the furnishings and layout," he says. "With the existing pieces, using those items without the space feeling cluttered—or like a museum—was integral to our success. The contrast between the contemporary furniture forms and the antiques is very appealing when in each space."

**THE LIVING AREAS**

Many of the home's pieces were custom-designed, and Cialone says he wanted the

living room to accentuate the idea that the homeowners were living in a treehouse. "The windows and sightlines all give you this great connection to the outdoors," he says. "Comfortable and flexible seating were our goals, and we wanted the space to feel as perfect for two people as it does for 12."

For the dining room, Cialone created the look and feel of a salon, where the homeowners use the table as a work desk. "Our goal was to not make it feel like a dining room, so we didn't furnish the space with a set of dining chairs. The space showcases some of the clients' most interesting collections housed in a custom-made cerused cabinet with large glass doors and interior lighting." Cialone says he channeled one of the Asian display rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago when creating every square inch of what has become an important space.

Cialone's goal for the kitchen—which was already designed by the builder—was to add warmth coupled with a contemporary feel. One masterful touch: adding Holly Hunt ([hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)) Siren stools, which he used in a property the couple also owns in Florida. CONTINUED...



"I'VE HAD MANY GREAT EXPERIENCES IN THE HOUSE WITH THE CLIENTS, AND THEY USE NEARLY EVERY SINGLE ROOM. WE GAVE THEM A PURPOSE FOR EACH AREA."

—JOHN CIALONE

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#### PRIMARY SUITE

Cialone says the entire room's design centered on a single rug, which the couple brought from their previous residence. "This allowed us to use natural tones of greens, celadons, taupes and creams to bring the outside in—paying homage to the lush foliage surrounding the house."

#### HOW THE HOME IS LIVING

"I've had many great experiences in the house with the clients, and they use nearly every single room. We gave them a purpose for each area," says Cialone. "They love their new home with its great sense of purpose, and we're working with them again on additional properties." ◉

The primary suite bathroom offers a relaxing sanctuary, with an ottoman from O. Henry House, wallcovering from Phillip Jeffries and towels from Matouk. Opposite page: The primary suite is bathed in greens, taupes and creams, with bedding from Matouk.





## DESIGN DETAILS

### HOME TYPE

Single-family

### LOCATION

McLean

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Tom Stringer Design Partners  
[tomstringer.com](http://tomstringer.com)

### RESOURCES

#### O. Henry House

Sofas, swivel chairs and  
ottomans, living room  
[ohenryhousetd.com](http://ohenryhousetd.com)

#### Vaughan

Floor lamps, living room and  
primary suite  
[vaughandesigns.com](http://vaughandesigns.com)

#### Watson Smith

Area rug, living room  
[watsonsmith.com](http://watsonsmith.com)

#### Phillip Jeffries

Wallcovering, salon and  
primary suite bath  
[phillipjeffries.com](http://phillipjeffries.com)

#### Mitchell Denburg

Area rug, salon  
[mitchelldenburg.com](http://mitchelldenburg.com)

#### Holly Hunt

Counter stools, kitchen  
[hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

#### Visual Comfort

Table lamps, primary suite  
[visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com)

#### Lightology

Ceiling fan, primary suite  
[lightology.com](http://lightology.com)

#### Matouk

Bedding, primary suite;  
towels, primary suite bath  
[matouk.com](http://matouk.com)

#### Made Goods

Wall mirror, primary suite  
[madegoods.com](http://madegoods.com)

#### Arteriors

Drink table, primary suite  
[arteriorshome.com](http://arteriorshome.com)

#### 1stDibs

Antique cabinets,  
primary suite bath  
[1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)



From left: A cozy entertainment area expands the home's living space; the home offers outstanding spaces for entertaining.

