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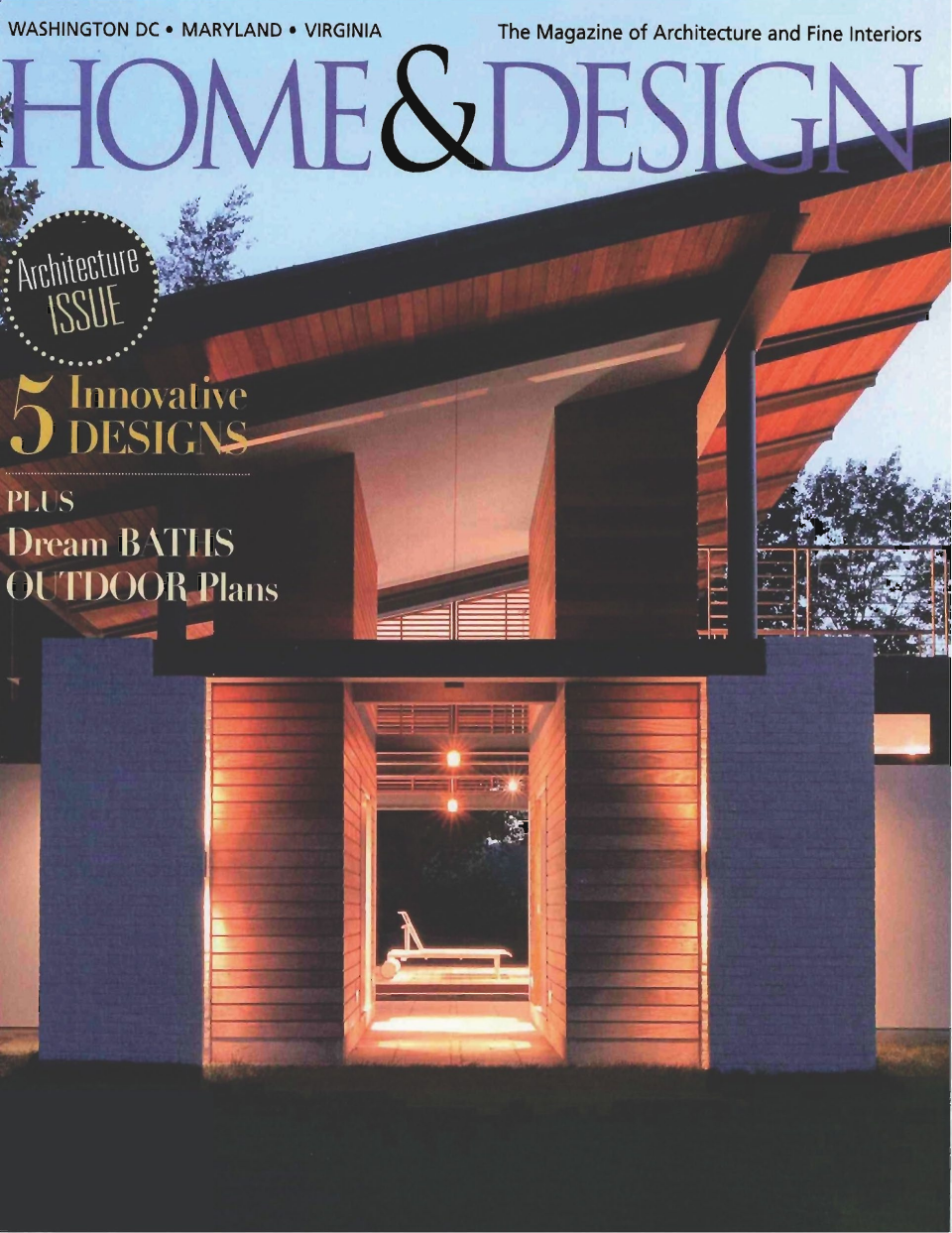
The Magazine of Architecture and Fine Interiors

HOME & DESIGN

Architecture
ISSUE

5 Innovative
DESIGNS

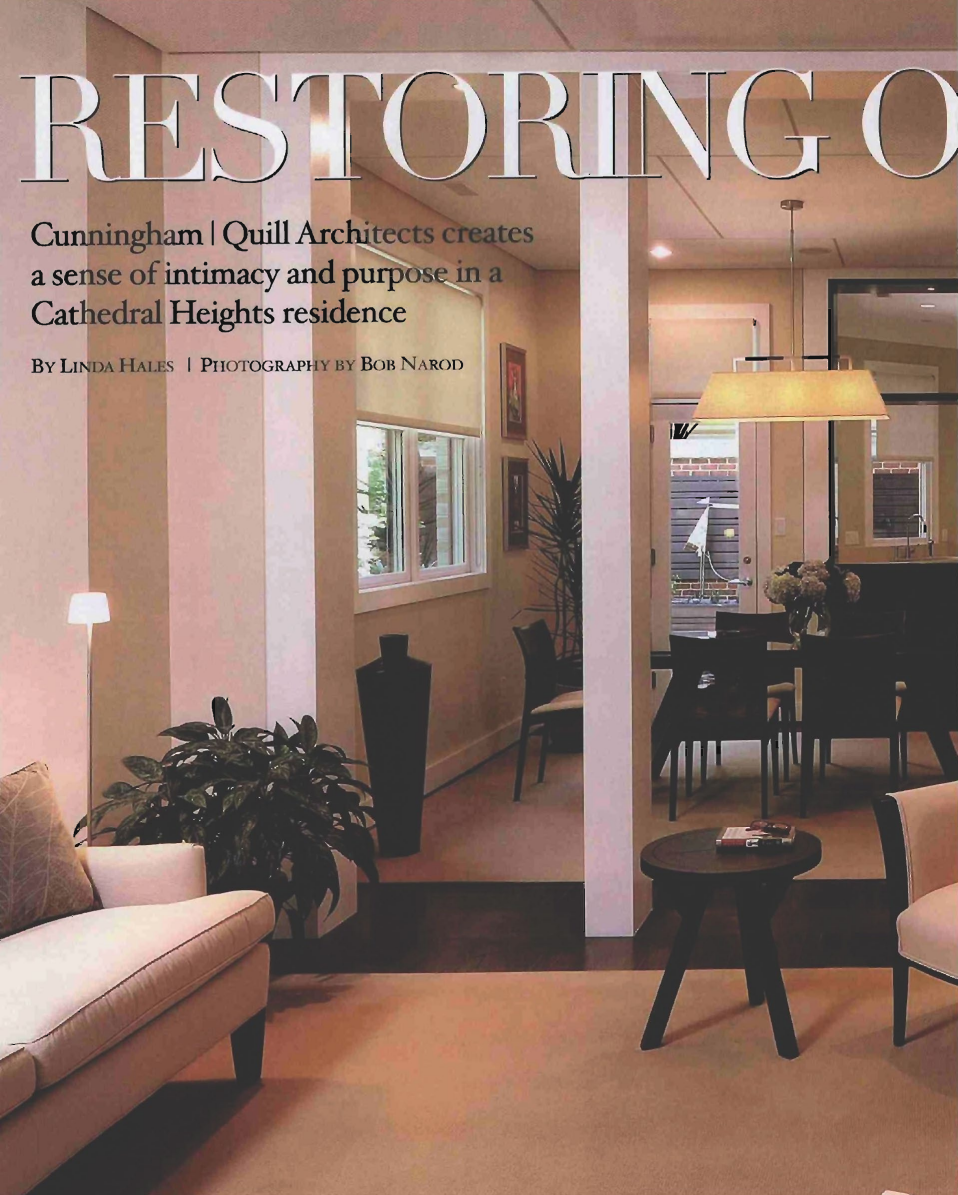
PLUS
Dream BATHS
OUTDOOR Plans



RESTORING O

Cunningham | Quill Architects creates
a sense of intimacy and purpose in a
Cathedral Heights residence

BY LINDA HALES | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB NAROD



ORDER



In the living and dining areas, the architects dropped the ceilings and embellished them with a scored pattern to create a sense of intimacy and sophistication. The rosewood armchair, pedestal and dining room furniture are from Roche Bobois.



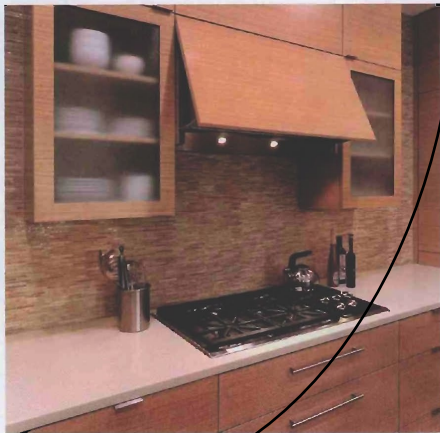
drew on an array of architectural devices to re-establish order and still retain the open quality of the space.

The home's interior was, and still is, anything but traditional. The architects devised cabinetry to shape views, with big open frames atop storage consoles. Ceilings were dropped slightly to create a sense of intimacy in the living and dining areas. Trim was installed over doorways to draw the eye upward. To unify spaces and add sophistication to plain woodwork, patterns were scored on walls, floating ceilings and floors.

Today, the interplay of ebonized wood, cream surfaces and white trim is as fresh and relaxed as the couple's vintage Donghia chairs and collection of Mid-Century Modern classics. The serene ambience gives little hint of the scope of change. Windows on the long north wall were enlarged and are now adorned with chic rolling screens. Casarella also upgraded a series of hidden service spaces—a closet, a powder room and a butler's pantry—along the home's shared south wall. By encroaching on 12 inches of prime floor space, she realigned a powder room door (it no longer opens into the living room), tucked a gas fireplace into the living area and turned a closet off the dining room into an occasional bar and workstation.

The new cooking area is a sleek maple box, with emphasis on efficient storage. As for dismantling the oversized, professional-style kitchen with its seating area and fireplace, the owner reasons, "We didn't need two dishwashers or a 48-inch fridge."

Casarella attributes the success of the project to an observation she made about her clients: "They are architects at heart." Years ago, the owners had experienced the power of architecture, having built a house from scratch with Washington architect Heather



Cass. That light-filled, frankly contemporary retreat had floor-to-ceiling glass fronting the Potomac River. Three moves later, Cass directed the couple to Cunningham and Casarella—both former colleagues—for their latest project.

Casarella worked long distance on the design, receiving photos and furniture dimensions from the owners, who preferred to retain



The master suite on the second floor includes a tranquil bedroom (pictured here) and a bath with a steam shower (right, top) and custom pearwood vanity (right, bottom).

