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HOME & DESIGN

SPECIAL

DESIGNER
ISSUE

At Home with
Five Local Pros

HOT TALENT

Up-and-Coming Designers

PRIVATE TOUR

The Dutch Embassy Residence





In the guest room (these pages), architect Stefan Hurray designed a Moorish-style niche for the bed, while Hildreth's colleague, architect Victor Sanz, created the window-treatment and bed-frame drawings. Bedding from Timothy Paul Home complements fabric by Penny Morrison for Evans & Sheldon, used on the bed frame, alcove and draperies. An 18th-century burl-veneer slant-top desk (right) occupies a corner of the room.

Hildreth has enjoyed visiting historic houses ever since. While a student at Virginia's Randolph-Macon College, he made pilgrimages to Mount Vernon and Monticello, historic Williamsburg and the great homes of Newport, Rhode Island. But, he states emphatically, he would not want to live in any of these. "They are too stiff and formal, too perfect," he declares.

Seated in his warm, inviting sunroom, Hildreth looks approvingly at the cracked paint on a lacquered Chinese cabinet, at the chips on a centuries-old Persian vase. "Those imperfections give character," he notes. In his view, what matters most is not the perfection of a room or the provenance of pieces, but rather "the people who live inside the home, and the experiences of those coming in and having great conversations there," he says, adding a time-honored coda: "When you create a space, it is about more than creating static beauty within a room. You are creating a catalyst for memory-making." ♦

Tina Coplan is a Chevy Chase-based writer. Photographer Stacy Zarin Goldberg resides in Olney, Maryland. For resources, see homeanddesign.com.



