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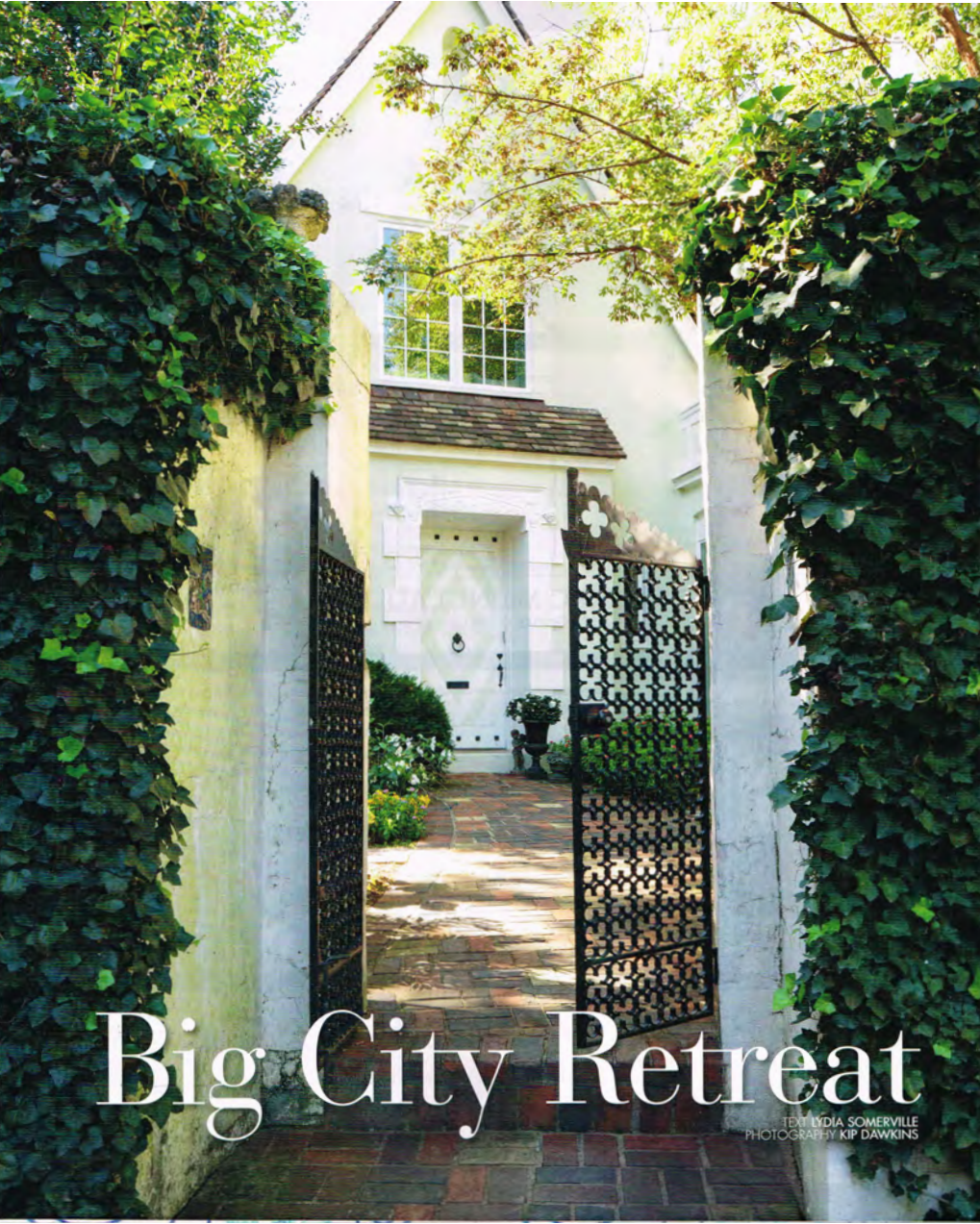
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Big City Retreat

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FOR CLIENTS SEEKING AN IN-TOWN GETAWAY, DESIGNER KELLEY PROXMIRE TRANSFORMS A HISTORIC TUDOR IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA INTO A SOPHISTICATED PLAY OF ARTFUL MOMENTS.



"SARAH AND BILL GRAVITATED TO PRIMARY HUES. SARAH'S AN ARTIST, SO WE USED HER PAINTINGS AS A STARTING POINT FOR MANY OF THE ROOMS' PALETTES." —KELLEY PROXMIRE



EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGIE SECKINGER

The idyllic vision of rolling countryside originally lured Sarah and Bill Walton from their Washington, D.C., home to Rappahannock, Virginia. But, like so many seekers of peace and quiet, they found they missed the stimulation of the city and began their search for a pied-à-terre. When they found a 1923 Tudor in Chevy Chase, Maryland, they knew it was the perfect place for their city retreat. The couple soon brought in designer Kelley Proxmire to create a sophisticated design scheme based around entertaining and culture, as well as a vivid color palette.

Many owners of a Tudor revival home wrestle with deciding whether to paint the woodwork. The desire for a more modern look conflicts with a reluctance to tamper with the period design. Luckily for Proxmire, a previous owner had already painted walls and woodwork, which resulted in subtle outlines of the Tudor style without the heaviness. The designer saw this as an opportunity to present a play of colors against the stately, structured backdrop.

"When we started talking about colors, Sarah and Bill gravitated to primary hues," says Proxmire. "Sarah's an artist, so we used her paintings as a starting point for many of the rooms' palettes." The living room's bold blue, cranberry red, and sunny yellow were pulled from a Klimt-style canvas that Sarah had painted. Strong colors continue through



Previous pages: The original chevron-patterned door establishes the modern Tudor theme of the house, while the bright red entry sets the tone for the lively interiors. These pages, opposite: A Juliet balcony with Tudor woodwork overlooks the living room. This page, clockwise from top left: The rear entrance leads to a secluded garden. A painting by Sarah in the style of Gustav Klimt hangs behind the sofa and served as inspiration for the living room's color palette. Two of the couple's three dogs enjoy lounging among the graphic prints in the drawing room.





the house, from the red entry hall to the Kelly green chinoiserie powder room wallpaper capped by a malachite fabric on the ceiling. The sunroom received a coat of daffodil paint, with black-painted woodwork echoing the framed pen-and-ink drawings from Sarah's days as *Chicago* magazine's art director.

Proxmire also worked to incorporate some of the couple's treasures from their Virginia house, giving them the comfort of familiar furnishings. "We loved that Kelley located things we had tucked away in our basement and found a place for them here," says Bill. "Instead of starting from scratch, she started with what we had." One such find is a pair of antique French bayonets over the fireplace. And the fruits of Sarah's artistic career imbue the whole house with a sense of vibrancy.

The lower level ballroom, which is rumored to have served as a speakeasy during Prohibition, allowed space to create a commodious guest level with two bedrooms, a bath, and a kitchen. It also houses a studio from which Bill records his weekly podcast, "The Bill Walton Show," with notable leaders from private and public spheres.

With the house complete, the couple finds themselves spending much of their time in the living room, which they call the Tudor room. But they also love an upstairs guest room that pays tribute to the original architecture with brown painted woodwork and green walls. "Thanks to Kelley, we have lots of favorite spots in the house," says Sarah. The home proves to be the perfect antidote to the serenity of country life, providing just the right amount of excitement when needed.



Proxmire used malachite green and contrasting fabrics throughout the house. Opposite: The dining room chairs wear a gold fabric and a bright green ikat. This page, clockwise from top left: A cushioned niche off the entry hall serves as a perch for greeting guests—and pets. Black accents in Sarah's reading room complement the bold, green walls. A small study houses the television and a daybed for overflow guests and has become a favorite hangout for the Waltons.



For left and above: In the sunroom, Sarah's artwork for *Chicago* magazine adorns the walls. Proxmire used the black-and-white drawings as the starting point for the room's painted trim and furniture. A Parson console in an animal-print custom finish adds a contemporary note to the mix. Left: Fanciful chinoiserie wallpaper covers a powder room.



Above: In the master bedroom, Proxmire balanced a fun print with a pale blue backdrop to ensure a restful setting for the space. Left and below: A guest room wears an ebullient red print paired with cool celadon. An acrylic table introduces a dash of modern style in the inviting room. Right: Porcelain birds perched next to the bed echo their brethren in the fabric.

