

AMERICAN DREAM HOMES™

JUNE 2006

ON THE COVER: Talk about luxury! The secluded guest-house of Richard Branson's Necker Island home has panoramic open air views of the sea and islands beyond. Furnished with one-of-a-kind pieces from Bali, the house is the ultimate luxurious getaway. Ah, the life! For more, turn to page 72. Photography by Gerry Thomas.

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Built for a family of seven, a brand-new house in a long-established enclave of Washington, D.C., makes room for the whole gang.

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Pack the kids, dog, and distant relatives. There's room for all in the New American Home 2006, a lean, green, and pristine family retreat.



A two-story entry opens to the adjacent spaces, allowing views of most of the main floor (opposite). Designed to take advantage of its sloping lot, the new house assumes a commanding presence.



(far left) For the parents of five children, a place to retreat is a sheer necessity. In the master suite, a sumptuous master bath provides just that service. Gorgeous finishes like the marble deck surrounding the tub lend a sense of indulgence. (above) A window above the soaking tub is at perfect eye level for a bather who wants a view. (left) Generous storage keeps toiletries and extra towels out of sight.



of giving the home the warm yet elegant look that he was after. Drawing on Natalie Jacoby's Mediterranean heritage, Hawthorn created a color palette intended to evoke a sense of warmth and sunshine year-round. With a succession of evolving colors, the rooms at the front of the house are treated to a soft straw-like yellow, while those in the back are

a slightly darker terra cotta. Interjections of bolder colors throughout—eggplant in the artwork in the front hall, for example—add spice to the palette. Says Barbara: "Walking through the house—with the colors going from lighter to darker—is like going from morning light to afternoon light."

Now what could be better than that? ■



(opposite) Located on the third floor of the house (above the garage level and the main living areas), the master suite is a quiet zone designed for adult sensibilities. French doors open to a private deck, providing a quiet and cheery spot for morning coffee. (above) Splashes of dark colors—like the wenge headboard on the bed—create a soothing contrast to the linen-white walls. The woven texture of the headboard adds further interest. (left) Neutral wall color in a hallway lets artwork take center stage.

URBAN HOMESTEAD

Built for a family of seven, a brand-new house in a long-established enclave of Washington, D.C., makes room for the whole gang

WRITTEN BY JESSICA TOLLIVER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY GIAMMARINO STYLING BY MONA DWORKIN

When Michael and Natalie Jacoby were searching for a new home for themselves and their five school-age children, they had a list of criteria, some of it contradictory. On the one hand, they yearned for a house in an urban neighborhood: one with mature trees, established houses, parks within walking distance, and a short commute to downtown. At the same time however, they also sought some features that are far more likely to exist in the sprawl of many suburban and exurban communities: namely, a low-maintenance home large enough for every child to have his or her own bedroom and with a few up-to-date conveniences, including a master suite, a casual and open layout, and a built-in garage.





If necessary, the loveseats at the dining-room table can be pulled over to the adjacent living area for extra seating. (opposite)
 A cherry finish on the base cabinet beneath the sink contrasts with the antique white on the cabinets around it.

After some diligent house hunting, they found a home for sale in the Spring Hill section of Washington, D.C., a neighborhood near American University that was just like the one of their dreams. But even though the location earned an A-plus, the house on the property fell far short of their expectations. It was, in fact, in such dismal disrepair that the next-door neighbors had replaced their windows with frosted units to block the view of the eyesore. Not ones to shrink from a challenge, the Jacobys promptly bought the place, had the old house torn down, and started from scratch.

So what did the Jacobys do when faced with the potential of a blank slate in a desirable urban neighborhood? They hired a builder who'd literally been around the block—their block—a few times. Chryssa Wolf, a designer with Hanlon Design Build, a local firm that handles both the design and construction of new houses, had already built several houses in the neighborhood and Michael liked what he saw. He contacted the designer and set the ball in motion.

Not surprisingly, building in an established neighborhood like the Jacobys' presented a









(opposite) For a large family, a warming drawer to the right of the ovens in the kitchen provides a needed spot for keeping plates ready for kids or adults who arrive late to dinner. (above) The stone backsplash is the perfect complement to interior designer Barbara Hawthorn's warm color palette. (left) Abundant storage, a definite must-have for a family of seven, is located throughout the kitchen.





(left) Even from the large round table in the breakfast nook, the living room and foyer of the front of the house are in plain view. A series of french doors in the living room actually open to the front porch. (above) The family gathers around the table in the prominent breakfast area for the majority of their meals.

handful of restrictions: namely, the size, shape, and topography of the lot. Hugging a relatively steep slope, the lot is narrow and deep. Wolf determined that to make the most of the lot—and to eke out the maximum possible square footage on it—she would need to design the new house to work with Mother Nature, not against her. Her solution? A new house that determinedly stays true to the shape of the lot. The structure is relatively narrow, yet reaches four stories high and follows the curves of the hillside. With a built-in garage on the lower level and a prominent porch and entry on top, the house stakes a commanding presence on the streetscape.

And though the exterior of the home is decidedly impressive, the interior is equally warm and friendly. While elegant, the spacious and open layout is intended to make all seven members of the Jacoby family feel welcome and comfortable at all times. Of course, meals consume a considerable portion of the family's waking

At the rear of the house is the great room, which includes both a formal living room and a formal dining room. A large round ottoman at the center of the room creates a sense of division between the two spaces.

hours, and Wolf and Jacoby designed the floor plan to accommodate that lifestyle. At the literal heart of the main floor is the breakfast nook, a misnomer for the large, casual dining area where the family breaks bread for all but a handful of meals. Because the main floor is wide open, that breakfast area is visible from vantage points in every direction.

At the front of the house is the family room, while a more formal great room and dining room occupy the rear. Rounding out the main floor are the kitchen and a study for Michael, both of which are located off a hallway on the right. (Though Michael intended to reserve the study for his exclusive use, the kids managed to take over that room as well. There, right in front of the fireplace, two of the boys stake their claim every night for another round of video games.)

Finally, Michael consulted with another professional, interior designer Barbara Hawthorn of McLean, Virginia, whom he charged with the task



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