

AT HOME with RICK WEISSENSTEIN

Arlington bachelor pad has a retro Modern twist

By Merlisa Lawrence Corbett
Special to The Examiner

When Rick Weissenstein purchased his Arlington town house two years ago, he immediately rejected the traditional Williamsburg interior and asked Paola McDonald, owner of Creative Elegance Interiors, to transform the four-level home into a midcentury Modernist bachelor pad.

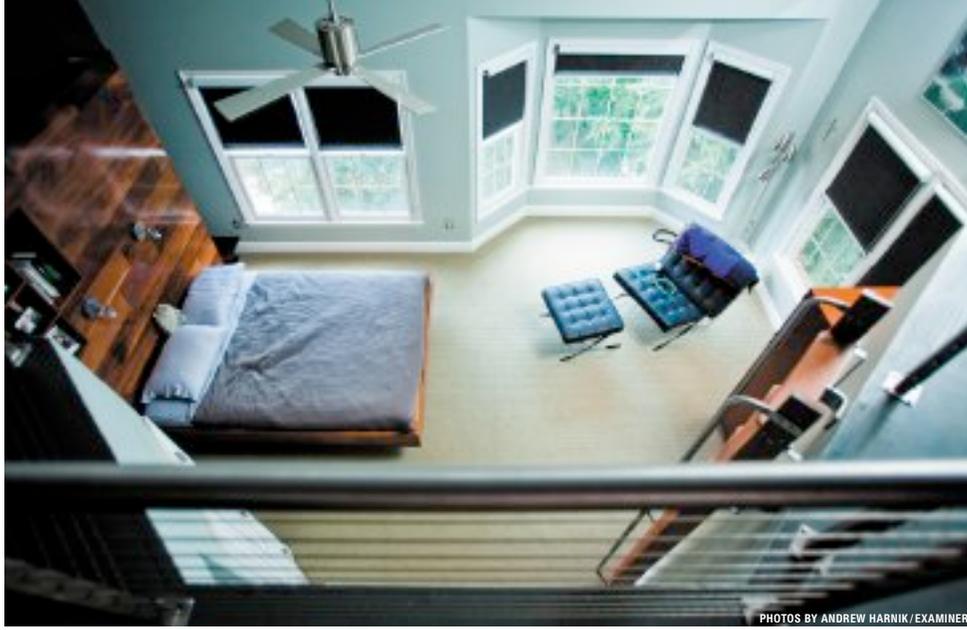
"I had been renting for five years, and thought it would great to live like a grown-up," Weissenstein said of his first home purchase since he divorced. "I wanted it to be my place, to be totally me."

A Chicago native, Weissenstein is a sports enthusiast who collects autographed baseballs and plays in local baseball leagues. He loathes all things Colonial and chose the Rosslyn area for the easy commute to Georgetown, where he works as an analyst at a research firm.

"He was easy to work with," McDonald said. "When I walked into his place, he had no furniture, just a flat-screen TV. He was like a blank slate. He knew that he loved midcentury. Other than that, he let me go at it."

Key elements of midcentury Modern design are the rounded, organic corners and use of woods. To create this look, McDonald had contractors rip out all traditional molding, mantels, wainscoting and banisters and replace them with sleeker, custom-built oak finishes. The custom-built stainless steel and oak railing feature metal cabling that serves as the backbone of the postindustrial look throughout the home. Walls, painted in charcoal, slate and bluish-gray create an ideal backdrop for the various wood and metal finishes incorporated in the midcentury furniture and fixtures on the main level.

Weissenstein chose midcentury-



PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARNIK / EXAMINER



style furniture because he loves that "1960s Tomorrowland view of the future." The smooth, clean lines make for a minimalist look with a hint of whimsy. The Formica-topped kitchen table with chrome legs reminds him of days spent at his grandma's house. "My grandmother had a table just like this," Weissenstein said. "My brother has the real one, so I had to go out and find this one."

McDonald converted the mezzanine in the master bedroom into a private library. A custom-designed wood and stainless steel ladder, attached to the wall, allows Weissenstein access to the mezzanine without taking up floor space.

"A lot of homes have that vaulted ceiling, and most people just put flowers or art up there. By making the space useful, you add square footage to your house," McDonald said.

McDonald gathered several of the baseball pennants Weissenstein collected as child, framed them in steel and glass and hung them on the wall in the mezzanine. "That's about as much sports memorabilia as you can display in one place and get away with," said Weissenstein, who

has season tickets to the Washington Nationals.

The mezzanine overlooks a custom-made platform bed and wall-size headboard with built-in nooks. Both were built with solid walnut from Colonial Hardwoods in Lorton. Weissenstein helped design the bed based on one he saw in a magazine.

The wood was so heavy that the carpenter had to build the bed and headboard in the bedroom. The platform bed is on wheels and can be rolled away from the headboard.

McDonald chose a sea-blue acrylic that serves as the face on doors throughout the home, allowing light in while maintaining privacy. Weis-

senstein picked durable Berber carpet for the basement and bedrooms because he wanted his home to be as functional as it was comfortable.

"It's very low-maintenance," Weissenstein said. "I travel a lot and it's nice to look forward to coming home."

Free Special Report: Increase your home's value with government money

Residents of Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia can increase the value of their homes, lower fuel costs, get up to a \$1,500 tax credit through the stimulus package and save hundreds of dollars by sending for this free report (a \$12.95 value) before July 31.

Landover, MD. A free report is being distributed by Thompson Creek.

It explains how in a highly competitive housing market with the threat of energy costs rising dramatically, as the recovery starts, homeowners are scrambling to find cost-effective ways to increase their home's value and cut energy costs.

The \$12.95 report being given away free states that the best way to do this is with vinyl replacement windows. Additionally, it explains how the government's stimulus program will help pay for the windows.

In the Mid-Atlantic area, Thompson Creek is currently offering windows that meet or exceed the even-higher energy ratings required for 2013, at a savings of 20% off every window until July 31.

Their windows offer another benefit: Since they're specifically manufactured for the Mid-Atlantic region, it allows them to blend the highest quality vinyl with the best glass.

This feature should appeal to both homeowners and home buyers, because windows not only provide views they also provide light to interior spaces to make these spaces seem larger and more inviting.

They also add to the home's curb appeal and overall desirability, the very things both buyers and sellers are looking for.

This is evidently why homeowners purchased over 33 million replacement windows last year, and why real estate agents are now advising homeowners to replace old windows with new "Energy Star" windows from manufacturers like Thompson Creek.

A 2009 survey of upscale homeowners in the Mid-Atlantic region confirmed the cost effectiveness of premium vinyl replacement windows. It showed that homeowners recouped 79.2% of their investment. In comparison,

a typical bathroom addition project for the same upscale home recouped just 66.1% and a major kitchen remodel recouped only 70.7% of the investment.

And thanks to a 30% tax credit from the government, homeowners will get back virtually every penny they invest in replacement windows, and then some.

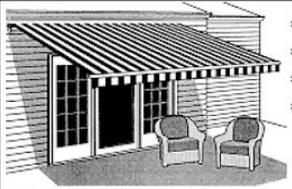
The checklist below is for homeowners who want to get the highest quality windows at the lowest cost with the least amount of problems:

- Deal with a local manufacturer directly for the best price.
- Make sure the windows are engineered for the local climate and custom made with the highest quality materials.
- Deal with companies recognized by the BBB and those that have done work in your area for 10 or more years.

To obtain the \$12.95 report free and/or get a free energy usage analysis, simply call the Toll-Free number: 1-866-572-7335, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



RETRACTABLE AWNINGS



- * Keep Deck cool
- * Save energy
- * We install
- * Up to 35' W x 14' P



Showroom M - F 8:30 - 4:30
Saturday 9:00 - 12:00

\$350 OFF Installed Lateral arm only w/RTS
Not available with any other offer
Call for details / expires 8/15/09
www.sunairdirect.com
1-800-548-0408