

# 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.

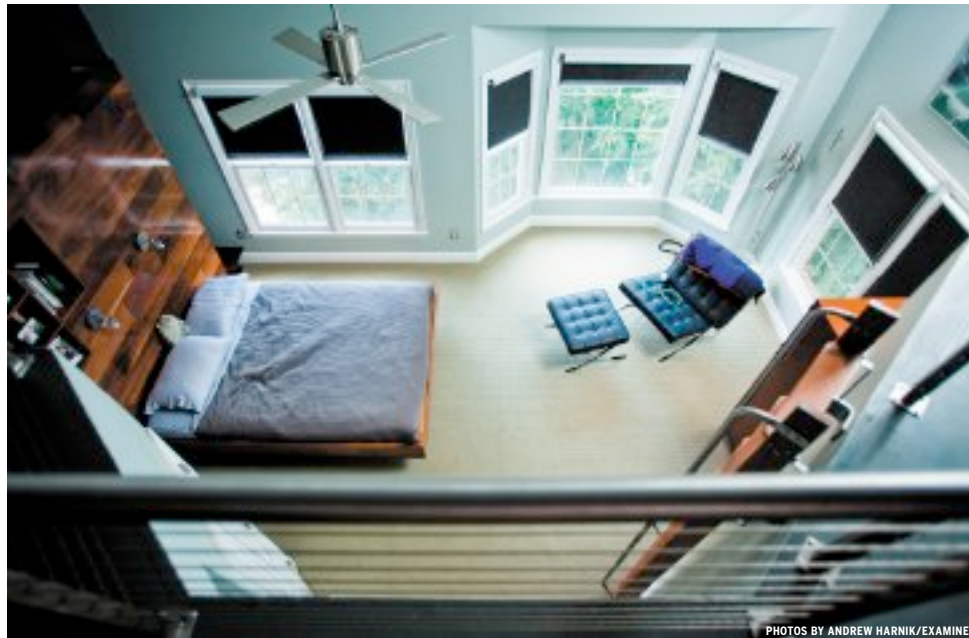
"I had been renting for five years, and thought it would great to live like a grown-up," Weissenstein said of his first home purchase since he divorced. "I wanted it to be my place, to be totally me."

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-

stein 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."

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