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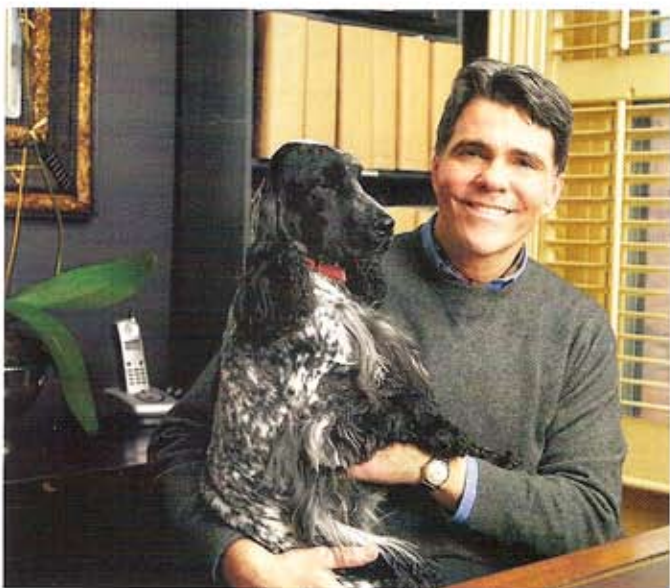
HISTORIC ELEGANCE

Interior designer Gerald Pomeroy invites us to his South End home, where he has created a sumptuous setting for work and play

Written by **TERI BORSETI**
Photography by **ERIC LEVIN**

ALWAYS DRAWN TO BUILDINGS WITH HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE, interior designer Gerald Pomeroy recognized a gem in the rough the moment he stepped into the late 1800s building he now calls home. That first glance six years ago told him all he needed to know—in spite of the horrible orange bathroom, damaged floors, and painted fireplaces. “It had the bones. It had the original moldings. Even the parquet floors were salvageable,” he says.

During a gut renovation that took five months to complete, Pomeroy restored beautiful period features including plaster ceiling medallions and the marble fireplaces. “I found Irish laborers who could copy plaster moldings,” he says. The walnut parquet floors were stripped and restained. Layers of paint came off the marble fireplaces. And gradually, the home’s sense of grandeur emerged. “The focal points are highlights again,” he says proudly. In establishing the overall look for the 1,450-square-foot, two-story home, he emphasized its English townhouse character. Having traveled extensively, Pomeroy appreciates European sensibilities and has been a lifelong collector of art and antiques. “A living space doesn’t have to be big to work; it’s all



GERALD POMEROY TAKES a break at his desk with Gilligan, his English cocker spaniel. Pomeroy’s office is on the second floor of his restored 19th century rowhouse.



THE PARLOR of Pomeroy's late 1800s rowhouse includes such original details as plaster crown molding, marble fireplace, and walnut parquet floors. Pomeroy's design evokes an English drawing room, with neutral tones for fabrics and walls,

and a mix of period antiques, including the ornate light fixture and Swedish burlwood secretary. He designed the softly curved cornices covered in wool cotton chenille, and the Directoire-influenced storage piece, which stands 14 feet tall.





THE FRONT PARLOR (TOP) includes some elements identical to the rear parlor, namely the window treatments and custom storage piece, but Pomeroy purposely kept the two spaces distinct by arranging the front parlor as more of a library reading area. Cherished silver cups (ABOVE) commemorating Kentucky Derby winners are brought out for a Derby party every May.

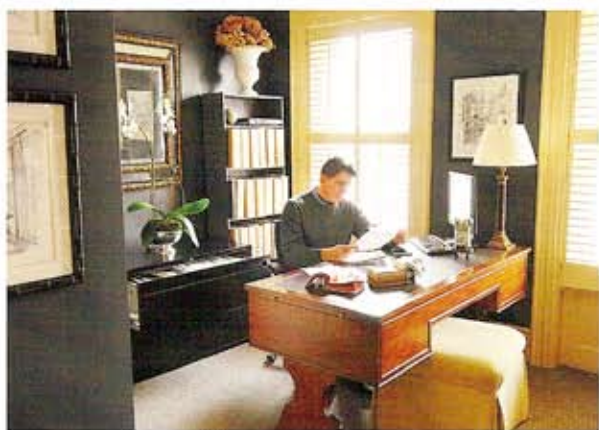
Pomeroy's house reflects the sensibilities of a well-traveled collector. "It's all about using the right pieces for the space you have," he says.

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A gracious turned staircase and 15-foot-high ceilings set a grand tone. The double parlor, divided into several strategically designed conversation areas, is an ideal room for entertaining with two fireplaces adding warmth. He kept the fabric selections to a minimum, relying on such elegant choices as French raw

linen and wool cotton chenille. The walls, a buttery beige color applied in a light cheesecloth glaze, create a serene backdrop to his mix of antiques and custom pieces.

Working with the two bedrooms on the second floor, he designated the one at the front of the rowhouse as his office, headquarters for Gerald Pomeroy Design. A dramatic wall



FOR HIS OFFICE (ABOVE AND FAR LEFT), Gerald Pomeroy transformed a 14 by 18-foot bedroom, furnishing it with a handsome desk and bookcases to hold design reference materials. Items on the drafting table represent a scheme for a client. The 16 by 20-foot master bedroom (LEFT) gains impact from the toile-patterned walls.

color—fifteen coats of lacquered gray—offset with bisque-colored trim creates impact.

In the master bedroom, Pomeroy created the illusion of more space by adding floor-to-ceiling bookcases, and positioning the brass bed as a focal point in front of the large, shuttered windows. As an accent to the toile-covered walls, he hung an abstract work above the bed. "Abstract pieces are a great counterpoint in traditional settings," he says.

His passion for mixing period antiques and traditional elements elevates his design work both in his own home and for clients. Since establishing Gerald Pomeroy Design in 1995, he has designed everything from city townhouses to country homes. Secret to his success: "It's very important to draw the client into the design process," he says. "The ability to listen is the most important tool a designer has." ■

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