

Clancy's living/dining room with its 15-foot-wide Zuber decorative screen.

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De-Plaining Jane

| BY DONNA ANDREWS RUSSELL · PHOTOS BY JOHN NATION |

All those luxury condos going up along the Ohio and around Louisville's famous parks system aren't the first to take advantage of the local scenery. Ask Pam Clancy, who's been living in the Park Terrace Condominiums on Spring Drive in the Highlands for the past 15 years.

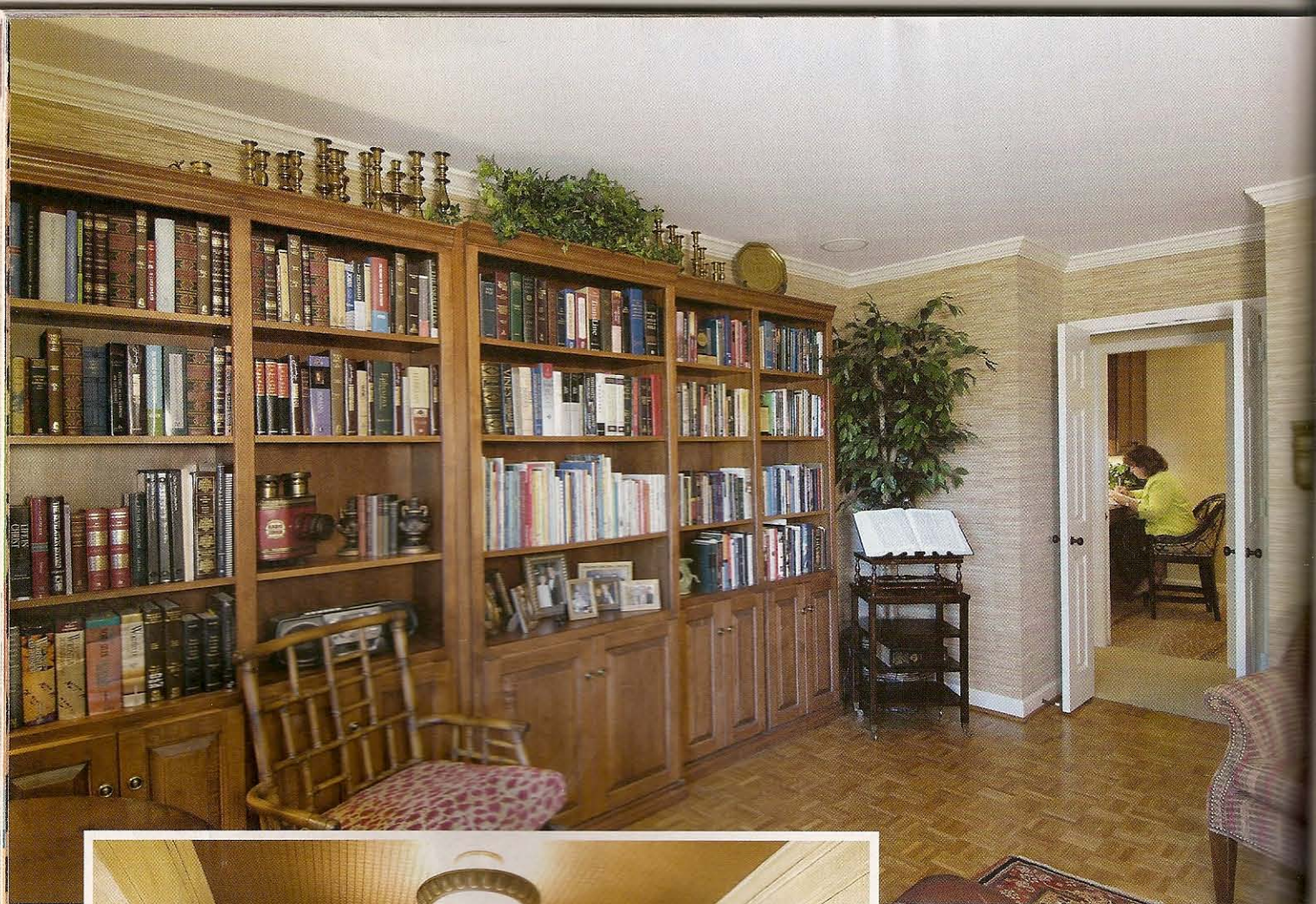
Completed just prior to the April 1974 F4 tornado that carved a swath of destruction through the city, the Park Terrace's interior architecture was vintage

'70s when Pam married T. Johnson Clancy and moved into his unit in 1992. As Todd Stengel of Todd Stengel Construction, who has helped renovate the condo, recalls, "The kitchen cabinets were extremely plain, there were steel casings around the doorways and all the doors were flat. You could have shot a segment of *That '70s Show* in it without changing a thing."

What the condo lacked in style, however, was more than made up for by its convenient location, leafy views and the carefree "take off and leave it" lifestyle

This 1,700-square-foot condo may be small on space, but it's large on style.

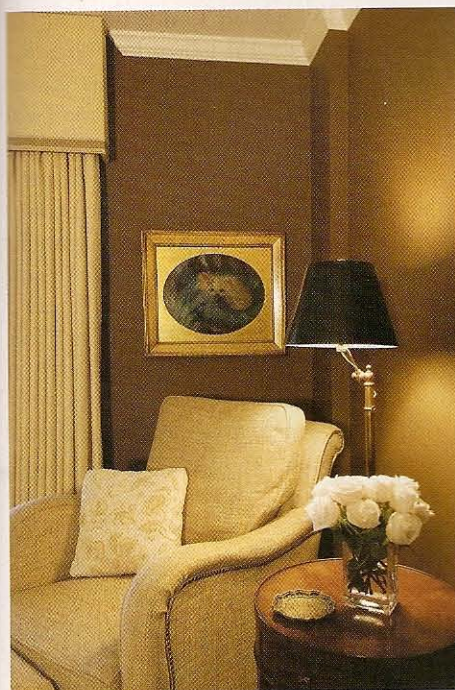




This page: The Ralph Lauren faux-finish walls and moldings in the foyer (left) and the den's grass-cloth walls and Chinese Chippendale chair. Opposite: A top-to-bottom redone bathroom and a restful corner of the master bedroom.

it afforded. After her husband's death in 2003, Pam Clancy says she's also come to appreciate the security condo living has to offer.

It's taken more than a decade for her, with the help of Stengel and interior decorator Shane Pearson of Dwellings, to completely make over the 1,700-square-foot unit. One of Stengel's first recommendations was to replace the doorways' steel casings with wood and switch out the flat-panel doors for a raised six-panel design, changes he says made all the difference in the world. Another small, but significant, architectural alteration was made to the foyer. By adding picture moldings to the walls and applying a Ralph Lauren tea-stain faux finish to both the walls and moldings, Pearson created the illusion of expensive wood paneling. Paired with a new marble floor, the formal entrance hall now "makes a statement," Pearson says.



Textures are another way to add depth and interest to otherwise plain-Jane rooms. That's why Pearson recommended wheat-hued grass cloth for the wall covering in the den. Formerly a guest room, it was one of the first projects the Clancys completed while T. Johnson was alive, Pam says. "With a small condo like this, we each needed a place to get away. One of us could be in the living room and the other in the den when we wanted some private time."

She opted to keep the den's original

parquet flooring and added rows of bookshelves along one wall, with cabinets below for out-of-sight storage. Traditional floor-length drapes with a tailored valance disguise the metal frames on the sliding glass doors to the terrace. The furnishings, window coverings and Oriental rugs incorporate Clancy's favorite color, red, with sand and touches of green. Three small-scale chairs, a tufted leather ottoman that can double as a coffee table and a love seat in lieu of a full-size couch afford comfortable

seating for five without overcrowding the room. A tall, graceful pedestal table in the corner has been re-purposed to serve as a game table.

The den's color palette was carried into the condo's combination living/dining room, allowing Clancy to use the den's two bamboo Chinese Chippendale chairs for additional fireside seating while entertaining. "I wanted a large gathering area where I could seat 10 to 12 people," she says. "Because there's so much harmony

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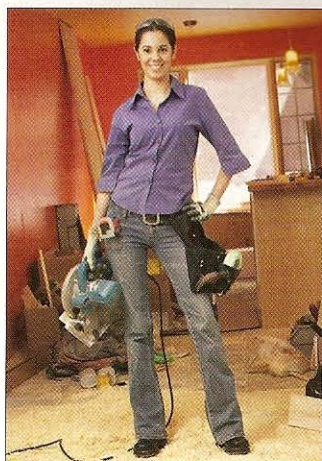
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between the den and living room, I can bring in the den's chairs when I need them and they don't look out of place."

Textured sand-colored carpet adds light to the living room and makes it seem more spacious. "It used to have wood parquet flooring and Oriental rugs, but the area rugs broke up the space," Clancy says. "The wall-to-wall carpet unifies the room and opens it up."

Oriental-themed fabric was used for the drapes, hung from a cast-iron rod handcrafted by local metal artisan Gianni Zinatti. "The room is too small for a lot of pattern, so we went with pattern on the drapes and kept the furniture neutral," Pearson explains.

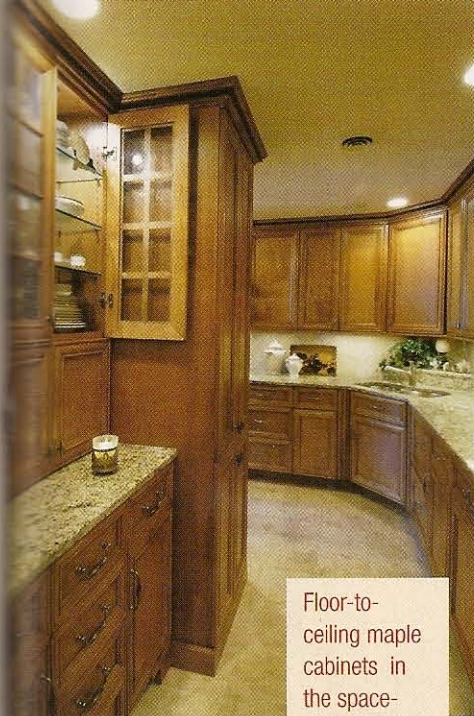
Another design element that makes the space seem larger is the decorative six-by-15-foot screen mounted on the dining area's wall. "We tried sconces, paintings, shelves — none of them were enough to give the room definition, until Pam found the screen," Pearson recalls.

"I first saw a scenic Zuber hand-printed wallpaper in a private dining room at the Pendennis Club and fell in love with it," says Clancy. "Then I found this Zuber screen at Bittners. The challenge for Todd was mounting it on the wall."

Stengel solved the problem by floating the screen on wall-mounted grooved boards, so it can be removed without damaging it. "It fits together like yin and yang," he says proudly. Above the screen, three recessed lights make the "yellow in the Hindustan print's horizon seem to glow and adds to the illusion of depth," Clancy remarks.

The outside balcony, which runs almost the full length of the unit, is one of Clancy's favorite features. "It's nice to sit out there at night, and because it's covered, it's like having another outside room," she says. During the day, the view of the terrace through the sliding doors makes the living room seem larger, but the balcony used to be invisible at night. Clancy asked Stengel to find a way to illuminate it without resorting to deck lights. The contractor came up with a unique solution: easy-to-change rope lighting hidden beneath an angle iron that was bent, welded and painted to look like part of the terrace railing. The resulting soft glow pulls the terrace into the living room after dark.

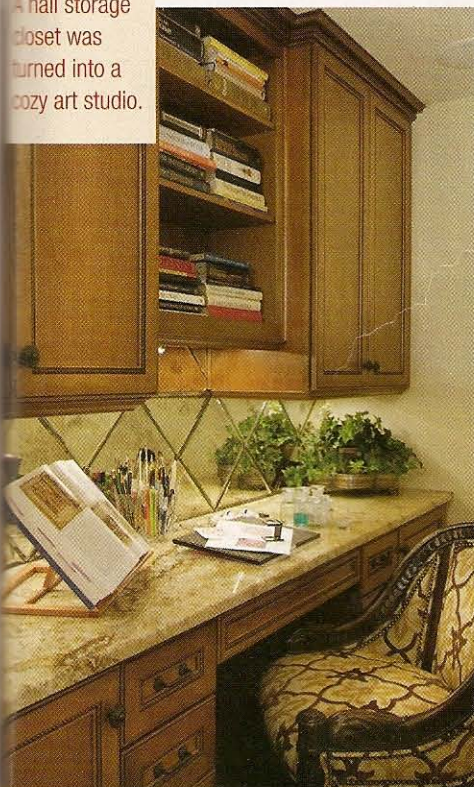
After her husband's death, Clancy set to work updating the 1970s kitchen. The original cupboards were replaced with floor-to-ceiling maple cabinets made by Michael Woodworking & Custom Cabinetry. Special



Floor-to-ceiling maple cabinets in the space-saving kitchen.

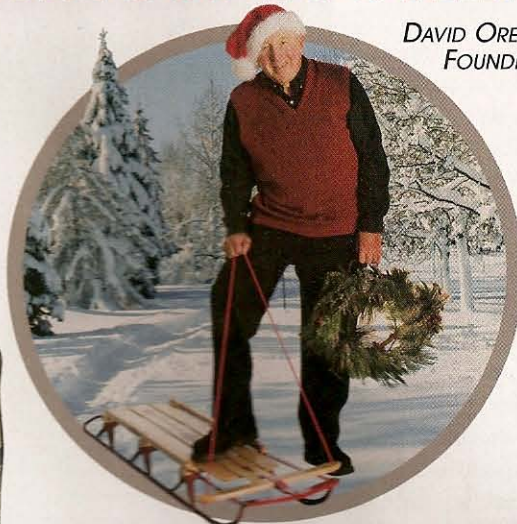
To brighten the windowless studio, Pearson used antiqued mirrors between the cabinets and desk.

A hall storage closet was turned into a cozy art studio.



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features include a lighted display cabinet for the condo owner's collection of heirloom dishes, a series of silver cloth-lined drawers for cutlery, and a computer workstation that's hidden when not in use. Integrated appliances, the expanse of granite countertop wrapping two sides of the room, and a pocket-door replacement of the former hinged door between the dining room and kitchen keep the small galley-style kitchen from feeling cramped.

Clancy has also renovated the master bedroom and bath. In the bedroom, the sand-colored carpet, bedding, window treatments and upholstery contrast nicely with the restful deep-chocolate walls and prevent the room from feeling closed in. Pearson opened up the master bath by mirroring the walls around the vanity. Electric candle sconces and a beveled mirror with a carved wooden frame were mounted to the mirrored wall, lending the new bath a formal feel in keeping with the rest of the condo's traditional decor.

Clancy's most recent project involved



A contrast of sand carpet and chocolate walls in the master bedroom.

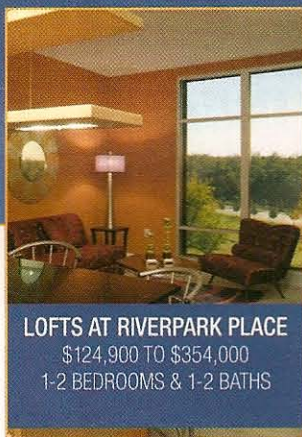
converting a hall storage closet into an art studio where she illuminates manuscripts in the medieval style. The former art director for WHAS-TV says, "I have a passion for God's word and this enables me to incorporate that into my artwork." The studio is just large enough for a built-in work desk and upper storage cabinets. To brighten the windowless room, Pearson used antiqued mirrors between the cabinets

and desk. Antelope-patterned Stark carpet adds some pizzazz.

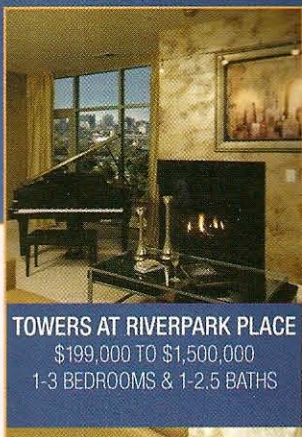
Completing the art studio was the final step in the makeover. "It's a nice place to call home," Clancy says. "It's extremely functional and comfortable, proving that it's not how much space you have, it's how you use it."

Contributing editor Donna Russell may be reached at editorial@loumag.com.

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