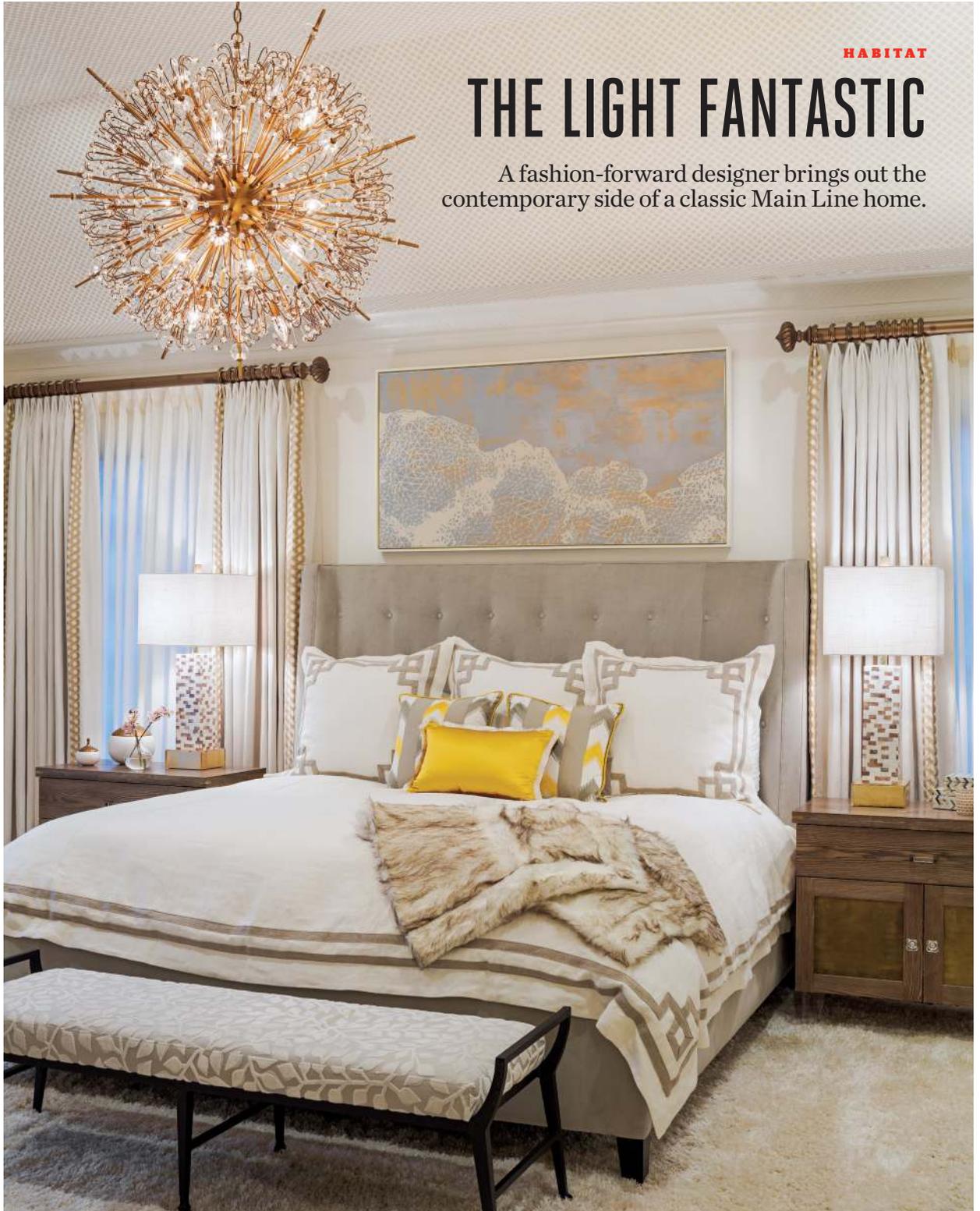


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ALL THINGS HOME & REAL ESTATE



HABITAT

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

A fashion-forward designer brings out the contemporary side of a classic Main Line home.



Even new homes on the Main Line tend to hew to a traditional architectural vocabulary, and Charlie and Sharon Shaver's Villanova residence is no exception. When they moved from Houston two years ago, the couple fell in love with the house, a circa-2000 manor whose stone walls and intricate woodwork belie its rather young age.

"When we bought it, it was a lovely house, well decorated and taken care of," Sharon says. "Then, when we moved in, we said, 'Oh, maybe we might want to lighten up the entryway a bit.' You change one thing to make it fit your style more, and then it snowballs."

Thus it was that Philadelphia-based designer Michele Plachter ended up giving the Shavers' home a total makeover, lightening, brightening, and injecting contemporary glamour (glossy black trim! Splashes of kelly green! Funky chandeliers!) into the space without stripping it of its traditional character.



PREVIOUS PAGE: Standout light fixtures—like the starburst chandelier from Plachter's soon-to-launch home-furnishings line, MPD Home Collection, in the master bedroom—are sculptural focal points in many rooms. Plachter also covered this room's ceiling in wallpaper from Schumacher to add softness and dimension. **DINING ROOM:** Black lacquer paint and graphic textiles offer a sharp contrast to the room's traditional coffered ceiling and wainscoting. **LIVING ROOM:** An Eileen Neff photo and an Oly Studio chandelier are chief elements of the unexpected in what Plachter describes as a "formal but still very comfortable" room. **OFFICES:** "Sharon wanted her office [above] to be a very happy place, so we went with yellows and whites to make it bright," Plachter says. Meanwhile, Charlie's "man cave" skews masculine, with rich mahogany paneling, a classic leather chair, and a hand-blown glass-topped table by local artist John Pomp. **DINING ROOM:** An antique bar cart complements splashy modern art prints and is flanked by two gilded, velvet-covered stools by Worlds Away.

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