



GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERS Gray tones appear as different textures in the master bedroom and closet: a mohair chaise, Ultrasuede shams, woven leather bench, and tweed-like carpet. Most unusual of all? The headboard is upholstered in fabric like billiard table felt, reinforcing the room's masculine, clubby ambience.

Sophisticated Statement

Handsome fabrics and luxurious finishes make this addition worthy of a five-star hotel.

BY LISA MOWRY

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE CARY GRANT buying a house in Virginia-Highland and renovating the attic space into a sophisticated second story, this project might be the result. "It's definitely 'old Hollywood glamour,'" says interior designer Karen Hott. And if some of the tailored masculine touches and gray tones bring to mind a dashing lawyer in a Brooks Brothers suit, that's intentional, too, since the homeowner is an attorney.

"I was definitely inspired by the client," says Hott. "The

way the fabrics drape and the materials we used. They are like traditional menswear fabric."

The project began when the homeowner and his partner stayed at a luxury hotel in London and returned wanting those sorts of chic touches in their own house. Their 1929-built house had a large walk-up attic that would lend itself well to an addition. The attorney called in Home Rebuilders to figure out how to add upstairs rooms while minimizing changes visible from the street. The design-build firm came up

DOUBLE TAKE

with a plan that allowed for a higher roofline in back of the house, so that the new rooms could have tall ceilings.

Above all, everybody wanted the new space—two bedrooms, a study-craft room, and two bathrooms—to transition well from the original architecture. The team chose stained, solid-wood interior doors to match ones on the first floor. Classic subway tile and mosaic white marble reflect the house's era, the homeowner points out. "We avoided trendy colors and elements that were inappropriate for the style of the original house," he says.

"You wouldn't believe how many

boxes of tile we used for the bathroom," says Hott. A subtle blend of grays and whites shows up in honed marble and basket-weave styles throughout the bathroom, with the sexy shower area the star of the show. With its multiple showerheads, overhead water tile, and steam component, this room-sized shower is on par with any ritzy resort version. The homeowner added a black bench with nail-head trim to soften the hard surfaces.

In fact, shades of gray and cream appear throughout the upstairs. Hott originally came up with this color scheme for the first floor, then continued the paint right up the stairs from the living room. "I like gray as a neutral," says Hott. "This particular gray has a warmth to it when the light hits it, but it's cool, too." **H** See Resources



ROOM IN THE ROOF Clockwise, from top: Honed marble and basket-weave tiles are used throughout the bathroom, with a slate-colored bench breaking up all the hard surfaces. The staircase leading up to the second floor has elements of traditional Arts & Crafts architecture with updated metal balustrades. The second floor doesn't feel like a former attic because of how it was incorporated onto the back of the house by contractor Home Rebuilders, allowing for high ceilings and spacious rooms.