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DARK AND COZY

The lowest level of a house can still feature high design. Turn the page for some basement inspo.



The basement of this 1807 Georgetown home was dug out to create a sunken family room.



Historic Makeover With British Flair

THIS BASEMENT IN A HOME ON GEORGETOWN'S historic Smith Row got a major overhaul when Tracy Morris, of Tracy Morris Design, came in to make it over.

"The only thing that really existed was the kitchen, and we flipped it over to the other side," says the McLean designer. She worked alongside Overmyer Architects and Goldsborough Design Build to revamp and restructure the entire space.

To best suit the clients' needs, the team decided the basement would contain a bar room (where the kitchen originally was), an area for TV-watching, a wine room,

a guitar room, and a powder room. The owners still wanted a kitchen down there, so it was moved next to the new bar room.

Morris says the bar area was inspired by her clients' love of pubs in England and Ireland. The exposed-wood beams, original to the home, had been refurbished during the renovation. Morris landed on a blue-and-gold Phillip Jeffries wallpaper for the space. "The client just loved it," she says. "We ran with it, and then we found an antique rug that had those blues and creams." The tabletop and bar countertop feature the same azure-blue quartzite from Marble

Systems used on the basement's fireplace surround. "It is a well-utilized space, and they entertain a lot," says Morris.

The wine cellar, featuring temperature-controlled wine refrigerators, was "100 percent a new space that was made to look old," Morris says. A limestone carving of Joan of Arc, original to the home, makes a floor-to-ceiling statement. "That room was pretty much built around her."

The flagstone on the fireplace inset is original to the home and was taken from its foundation, cleaned, and reused as the surround. **W**

TOP PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG POWERS