Small Homes Big on Style
Urbane Renewal

An urban professional downsizes to a sleek retreat
Story by Judith Fertig
Photos by Aaron Leimkuehler
For interior designer Kurt Knapstein, the start of his own business prompted a move from a cut-the-grass-on-weekends, two-story Colonial home in Brookside to the chic, contemporary condo he now calls home. "I work so much that it's great to come home and not have to do anything but relax," he says.

When Knapstein found the perfect Wornall Plaza condo to customize, he made the move. Now the three-room condo reflects his personal design aesthetic as well as his need to live a streamlined, everything-at-your-fingertips life.

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Knapstein worked with Portfolio Kitchen & Home to create a space that could do double duty as gathering spot for friends and home office. The black granite island and surrounding bar stools are chic and functional, while decorative touches like the oversized ceramic pear add a touch of whimsy.
The terrace of this off-Plaza condo gives a city feel with the luxury of added outside space. A seating area becomes another room when the weather is fine.
“When you have a small space, the textures and surfaces are very important,” Knapstein says. “I like to mix it up.”
Opposite: In a compact space, every angle counts. In the foyer, painted, textured wallpaper makes a bold statement, while the highly polished inlaid floors gleam with reflected light. This page: Knapstein designed the stylish bedroom as an immediate focal point in the apartment. Grasscloth walls, alabaster sconces and a masculine duvet with covered-button detail are refined and elegant.