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hen Angie and Blake Cordish bought their town house in Baltimore's historic Federal Hill neighborhood, it was just the right fit. But fast-forward five years, and the couple felt like the walls were closing in on them. They considered moving to gain more space but didn't want to leave the neighborhood they had grown to love. As luck would have it, two town houses adjacent to theirs came up for sale, giving them the chance to expand.

Residential designer Ray Booth, of McAlpine, Booth & Ferrier in Nashville, recognized that the place "had magic and meaning for Angie and Blake," he says. "I told them they would be the seeds of its rebirth." The subsequent demolition of

LEFT: In the sitting area opposite the dining room, modern pieces, such as the club chair and floor lamp, complement a circa 1890 Chinese coffee table. ABOVE: Residential designer Ray Booth found three rare Alexandria chairs by Edward Wormley for the dining room; upholstered chairs and a banquette embraced by a low screen add to the mix. PREVIOUS PAGES: Homeowner Angie Cordish and dog Ira enjoy the main living room, where a long French walnut table and a chandelier by Paul Ferrante tame the scale of the lofty space. Two-story draperies set off a bookcase of steel and reclaimed walnut.