



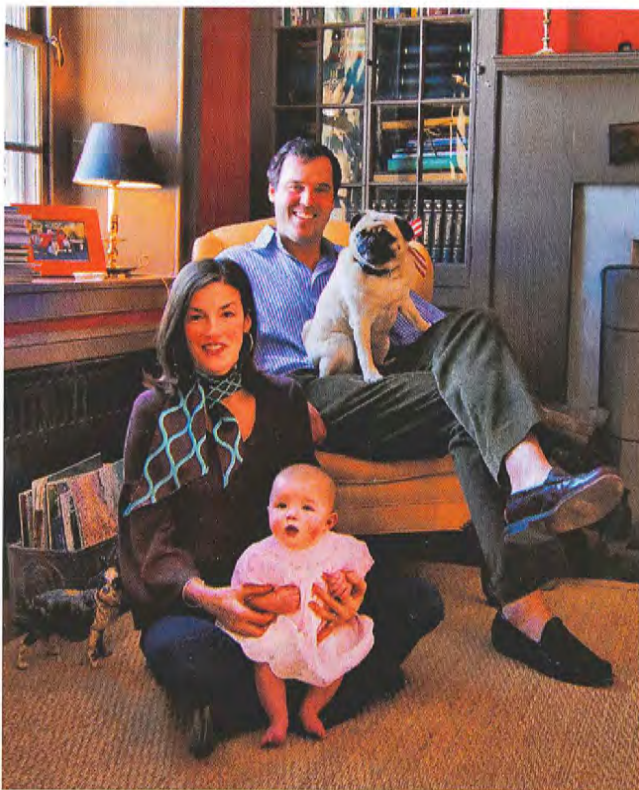
while my wife is just the opposite – she reads all fiction, authors like Alice Munro and Jodi Picoult.”

The Oswald library has a tall, sloping ceiling with side windows, doors leading to the outside and a fireplace. The Oswalds wanted the space to be more inviting and personalized, so they invited designer Terry Hilprecht, whom they had retained to redo other parts of their house, to make modifications.

“We changed the colors of the rooms,” Hilprecht says, “and we hung Marty’s needlepoint works on one wall to both personalize it and to integrate it with other elements.” Window treatments were changed, a table added, “but I never really tried to formally stage the room,” she says.

“We’re at the point now where we have run out of room for books, and we don’t want to expand the library,” Oswald says. “Fortunately, I can give away the overflow books to my son-in-law.”

Artists David Larned and Sarah Lamb are both successful painters who live in an 18th-century farmhouse near Embreeville, Pa., where their library is situated in the same



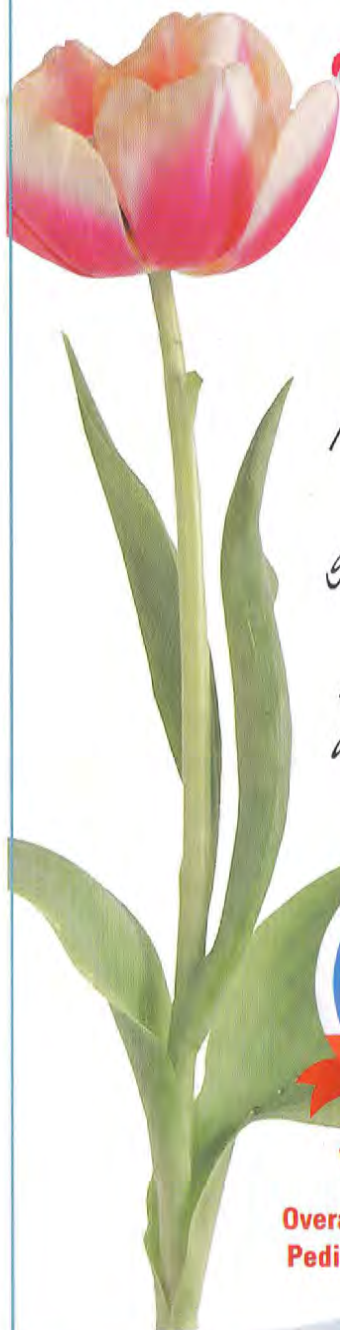
The dramatic library of artists David Larned and Sarah Lamb is in the same room actor Charles Rains used when he owned the 18th-century Embreeville, Pa., farmhouse in the 1940s.

The couple balance time with daughter Sadie, 5 months, pug Weezie and painting, which they say limits the time they spend in the library, but they do enjoy sitting by the fireplace to read whenever possible.

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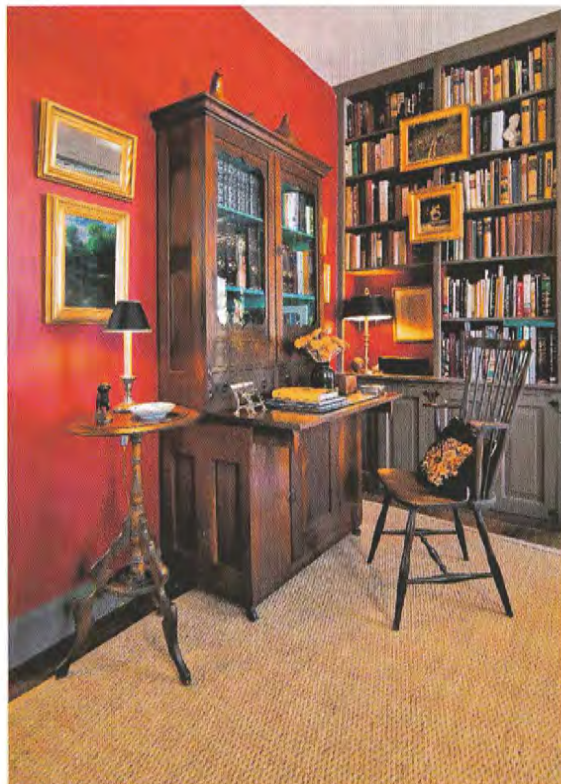
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HOME



Red-lacquered walls and shelves filled with books both serve as backdrops for paintings, some the work of homeowners Larned and Lamb, and some the work of other artists.

room that actor Claude Rains used when he owned the property in the 1940s – to the left off the entry hall and across the way from the dining room.

It is a gorgeous library with red-lacquered walls and hundreds of books stacked to the ceiling in open shelves, glassed-in units and inside a secretary desk. Area rugs soften the old wooden floors. Not surprisingly, paintings – both theirs and those of other artists – are on the walls and integrated into the bookshelves. Mementos are here and there, including a silver-framed photo of Rains posing in the library. There are comfy chairs and a working fireplace – one of many in the old house.

“We are fortunate to have books that were passed down by our parents and grandparents, as well as our own,” Larned says. “I tend to collect art books, while Sarah, who is quite a chef, buys a lot of cookbooks.”

They use the library mainly “to read newspapers and periodicals,” he says. As both paint daily in their side-by-side studios in a converted garage – and as they now have a 5-month-old daughter, Sadie – “It’s a lucky day when we can get in here to read a book, although it is nice to sit by the fireplace when it’s raining.”

In fact, with many people, while they love their libraries, they may do most of their reading someplace even more comfortable.

Robert Oswald says he doesn’t spend much time reading about history in his library chairs. “I’m afraid I’m like a lot of people,” Oswald chuckles, “and do most of my reading in bed!”