

orn Neighbor to Labor of Love



PHOTOS BY MAX HIRSHFELD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

point at one end. Owner Jim Kimsey prefers to use the house and its Potomac River views for small gatherings.



forms a point like the probably the most per- I have been to sit and

read," Kimsey says, pointing to a Wegner "Papa Bear" chair and ottoman under shelves lined with National Geographic is-

sues featuring Luis Marden's work.

Behind that wall of shelves is the master suite: a bedroom facing a hillside stand of soaring trees, a full bath and his-and-her closets. In the kitchen, worn red laminate countertops and dated appliances have given way to concrete and stainless steel.

While the built-in furniture survived, a pre-restoration snafu resulted in a few free-standing Wright pieces leaving the house, which Kimsey laments: "I couldn't get it back for a million dollars." He still has a small Wright-designed table and two reupholstered ottomans near his reading corner.

He can seat as many as 20 for meals but prefers to use the house for more intimate gatherings with such friends as soprano Renee Fleming, singer Patti Austin and Queen Noor, widow of Jordan's King Hussein.

"The only people who have spent the night here are Patti — she said it felt 'very Zen-like' — and my son Roy and his wife, Petra," Kimsey says. "I think this is where my about-to-be-born third grandchild was conceived."