Scout

edited by
ERICA MOODY



OBSESSED

Natural Light

There's something soothing and elegant about a space illuminated by the glow of candles—and you don't have to go to a wedding or fancy restaurant to achieve this romantic atmosphere. Just look to home lighting and furnishings studio Lostine. The sustainable company's new Tulip candleholders and candelabra incorporate delicate brass and warm wood for an effect that's both understated and eye-catching. When choosing wood for the design, co-founder Robert Ogden (who runs Lostine with his wife, Natalie Page) aimed to reduce waste by using leftover pieces of maple and walnut from a line of lampshades being made in the shop. "I love them on a mantel or console table," Ogden says. "They're just a beautiful source of quiet light." *Candleholders from $120, candelabra from $235 at lostine.com.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON VARNEY

Creative Connector

REC Philly co-founder Dave Silver empowers local artists to do what they love (and make a living doing so). His Center City incubator invites members to create, network and collaborate. The Bucks County native shares what fuels his busy days. —*E.M.*





AT HOME

DAILY ACCESSORY: I've worn the same necklace every day for the past 10 years ①; it says "Grandfather" in Hebrew. It belonged to my dad's father, who passed away before I was born.

ON MY FEET: I own about 10 pairs of Allbirds shoes. ② I try to keep my outfits simple so I can save myself the decision-making in the morning.

ON MY PLAYLIST: According to Spotify, my two music moods are "Hype" and "Chill" ③ … which sounds about right. I'm usually listening to LoFi Hiphop Beats when I work or Drake when I'm walking in the city. Otherwise, I'll have Tierra Whack, Orion Sun, Jack Harlow, Pop Smoke, Mac Miller, Bruce Springsteen, Pink Floyd, or the *Hamilton* soundtrack playing.

CURRENTLY READING: Will Smith's new book, *Will*. ④

RECENT SPLURGE: Crypto.

ON THE JOB

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT WHAT I DO: The people I get to work with and the creators we get to serve. I love that we're doing something so new, and because of that, we get to write the rules as we build this thing.

NEXT BUSINESS TRIP: Miami, as we look to expand our business.

I COLLECT: Bubble wrap, to help with anxiety. My team keeps putting more of it in my office every time we get a new package in.

ON THE GO

MODE OF TRANSPORT: I love walking and don't own a car. It's a great time to think. If it's out of walking distance, I'm usually hitting the subway or Uber.

FAVORITE BOUTIQUE: I love what Saeed Ferguson has built with All Caps Studio and Shannon Maldonado at Yowie, and I'm inspired by gear from designers Dewey Saunders and Brunofsky.

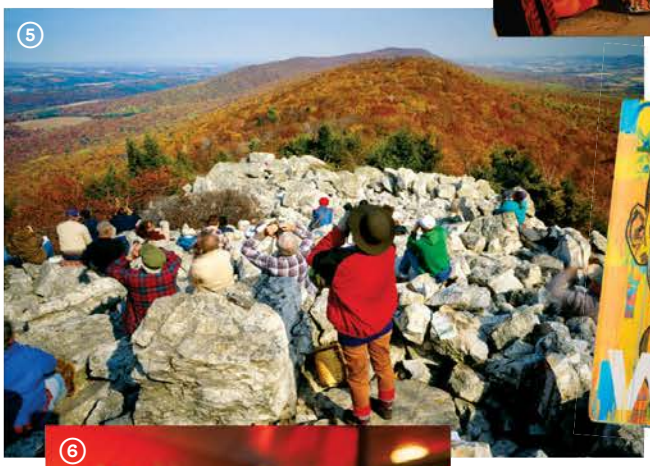
HOW I UNWIND: Hiking gives me clarity; it's my favorite hobby besides hanging out with my nephews. Hawk Mountain in Berks County is a go-to ⑤; it's only a 90-minute drive from Philly.

FAVORITE BAR: Saloon, where I'm ordering a manhattan.

FAVORITE RESTAURANTS: Sampan for fried rice and brussels sprouts; Prohibition Taproom for a burger and IPA; and Silk City for the chicken sandwich and whiskey. ⑥

CHOICE COFFEE SHOP: If not REC ⑦, which has our own cafe, Higher Grounds in Northern Liberties.

BEST DAY OF MY LIFE SO FAR: The Eagles' Super Bowl parade.















HAWK MOUNTAIN: H. MARK WEIDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; HEADPHONES: LIGORKO/GETTY IMAGES; PHONE: ISSARAWAT TATTONG/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAUHIEN SASNOU

What you get for ...

$800,000+



2 North Chester Road. A rare new-construction house next to the Regional Rail station gives you the chance to select fixtures, finishes and fittings. *4 BR, 2/1 BA, 2,750 sq. ft. BHHS Fox & Roach Realtors, 610-431-1100.*

$500,000+



207 Riverview Road. This renovated twin comes with a two-bedroom apartment over its detached garage, so your tenants can pay your mortgage for you. *4 BR, 2 BA, 1,825 sq. ft. Keller Williams Real Estate, 610-363-4300.*

$250,000+



204 Michigan Avenue. A classic, well-maintained 1950s split-level with enclosed rear porch and side deck, move-in ready or ready to upgrade—your choice. *3 BR, 1/1 BA, 1,540 sq. ft. RE/MAX Hometown, 610-566-1340.*

FROM TOP: BHHS FOX ROACH REALTORS; WILLIAM BREISH/REAL T PHOTOGRAPHY; THATO DADSON



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF FUSCO

LIVING IN ...

Swarthmore

This tight-knit community has a personality strongly influenced by the college that changed it in 1864.

by **SANDY SMITH**

The town a college made Originally named Westdale for its most famous native, painter Benjamin West, Swarthmore became Swarthmore when Quakers founded Swarthmore College in 1864. The borough—incorporated in 1893—was fully built out by the 1930s, according to historic-home aficionado Scott Laughlin of BHHS Fox & Roach.

... and remade The borough's social life changed for the better when the **Inn at Swarthmore** (10 South Chester Road), built by the college, opened across Chester Road from downtown in 2016. The 40-room hotel features the Broad Table Tavern restaurant and a bar that holds the borough's first liquor license. "The inn has done a great job of bringing the college into the community," says Becky Hanson, a lifelong Swarthmorean who's an agent at D. Patrick Welsh Real Estate (16 Park Avenue), founded and owned by her husband.

Historic houses, academic vibe Many Swarthmore faculty members call Swarthmore home, though rising house prices threaten to drive some of them out of town. The borough definitely has an academic vibe: Streets are named for other colleges and universities, and the **Swarthmore Public Library** (121 Park Avenue) has the highest per-capita use of any library in Delaware County. In non-pandemic times, residents can also borrow books from Swarthmore College's libraries for a $20 yearly fee. Swarthmore's housing stock is rich with a variety of styles.

Working together for good (food) The town, long a liberal island in a (no longer) conservative county, is also home to the country's third-oldest co-op grocery store. The **Swarthmore Co-Op** (341 Dartmouth Avenue), which began as a health-food outlet in Hanson's grandmother's basement in 1932, carries a full range of groceries.

NEIGHBORHOOD STATS

$125k	$400k	+13.1%
Typical condo/co-op value	Typical single-family house value	Increase in the past year

Global Sanctuary

A world-traveling exec finds a comforting place to land.

When a Campbell's Soup VP relocated to Philly for work in 2019, she called on Gray Space Interior Design to create a modern haven incorporating her love of travel and music. "It's mostly contemporary with a global influence," designer Rasheeda Gray says of her client's style. "She'd traveled extensively, including living in Singapore, and wanted to bring the story of her life to this new home."

The result is a new-build Manayunk townhome that's spa-like in some spots, lively and colorful in others, but functional and clutter-free throughout. In the primary bedroom, Phillip Jeffries's Cape Town wallpaper, hand-colored and hand-laid by artisans, suggests distant lands. A focus on craftsmanship in executing the homeowner's vision meant touches like bright yellow drapery made of Mud Cloth fabric, an intricately carved floral-pattern cabinet, and elephant figurines from Singapore.

The basement was transformed into a colorful hangout spot where posters from favorite concerts line the walls to "tell the story of some of the memorable entertainment moments of her life," Gray says. Stain-resistant couches (don't worry about spilling wine!), surround-sound, and swivel chairs (so guests can turn and talk to each other) make one thing clear—this globe-trotter's life adventures are only just beginning. —*E.M.*



1

① **Living room:** Gray incorporated many of her client's existing pieces (such as colorful paintings from a flea market) into the open-concept living room and kitchen space.

② **Bedroom:** "My client has a very busy schedule, so I wanted the bedroom to be a retreat," Gray says. She brought in fixtures from Kichler Lighting, Pottery Barn accent lamps, a piece of wooden artwork from Uttermost, nightstands and an accent chair from Four Hands, and a budget-friendly mirror from Etsy.

③ **Basement:** The colors in the concert posters provided a starting point for choosing the lower-level furnishings. "We wanted to see the reds and blues throughout the space," Gray says.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN WETZEL



2





3

"Nine out of 10 color authorities have declared a shade of green to be the color of the year for 2022. Now that we're all emerging from the pandemic, green gives us a sense of starting over and growth in a new season."

—**Rasheeda Gray**

The Brains Beneath The Hair

Nuele Hair founders **Anne Cheatham** and **Christine Martey-Ochola** discuss their path to creating 100 percent natural beauty products.

as told to **SHAUNICE AJIWE**



WHAT WE MAKE

Martey-Ochola: "Ultra-clean hair products. They're paraben-free, sulfate-free, alcohol-free and fragrance-free."

HOW WE MET

Cheatham: "We met at West Chester SDA Church and became friends. We felt an affiliation since we're both from Africa; Christine is from Kenya, and I'm from Zambia. Later, we decided to become business partners when Christine made a product specifically for needs that I was looking for. I was looking to get out of using a lot of chemical relaxers and keratin treatments, which were very expensive and filled with chemicals. Christine came up with the Nuele serum, and we absolutely loved it. Then there came the idea that hey, if we love it, surely other people will also love it. Being a Black-woman-owned business, we noticed a big gap in 100 percent organic natural hair-care products designed for all hair types."

BEFORE NUELE

Cheatham: "I worked on research into plant-based diseases before becoming a nurse anesthetist." **Martey-Ochola:** "My background was in food science and technology. That got me more interested in the field of biochemistry, which is what I ended up studying, as well as pharmaceutical chemistry. I got my doctorate in that and did a lot of research in cancer of all sorts, specifically driven by toxic products. The research and discovery, as well as the health aspects of our careers, play a big role in the values of our company."

WHAT DRIVES US

Martey-Ochola: "Sustainability as well as food, health, and economic security for the communities that we engage with. We value working with local female farmers in Ghana and Morocco. Having grown up in communities where we saw such amazing robustness with natural products, that drives us: to be able to say that because of the work we're doing, there are communities that are benefiting."

Anne Cheatham, left, and Christine Martey-Ochola with their heat-protecting Nuele Hair serum and hydrating hair mask, available at nuelehair.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAUHIEN SASNOU