



## *At Home* AT THE FITZGERALD

Story by Tina M. Wolfe | Photos by Paul M. Howey

The stars must have aligned perfectly the day Jill Vargo showed up for her regular flying lesson. It was through her flight instructor that she met, and eventually married, fellow pilot and doctor Tony Sciarra. “He thought we’d be a good fit,” Jill says with a laugh. This exuberant couple is full of love for each other and for life.

Not only are they pilots, they are doctors, love to travel, adore animals (they have two West Highland White Terriers named Daphne and Wesley), are committed to their jobs, and are physically active. Tony is a clinical psychologist and has a private practice in Asheville and Jill is a rheumatologist at the Asheville Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center. Their lives have a healthy balance of work and play. The couple recently moved into their new condominium at The Fitzgerald, Grove Park Inn’s residential property.

Tony and Jill were looking to streamline their life, and their existing home no longer fit the bill. “We travel so much,

so security was an issue,” says Tony. “We also wanted less maintenance and something closer to city life.” The quality construction, top-notch appointments, and security were deciding factors, but the west-facing views sealed the deal.

At 2,300 feet elevation, the condo offers picturesque vistas of the city, mountains, and the polished greens of the Donald Ross golf course. “You can see everything from here,” says Tony.

Looking for a new adventure, they sold their existing furniture and turned to interior designer Susan Sellers of Tyson Furniture in Black Mountain for help. “I had worked with Tony and Jill before and was thrilled to work on this project with them,” she says.

Using shades of silver, white, black, and grey, she was able to attain a placid feel while still showing off the couple’s fun-loving spirit—and their love of Westies—with colorful art and accents. The couple’s collection of art from their travels reveals their sense of adventure and fun. They honeymooned in Italy,





toured Africa on horseback, visited the villages of Mexico, and both worked and played in Russia, Spain, Japan, and Alaska. Two world maps in the study track their piloted flights and places they've visited.

To the right of the foyer are two bedrooms (one for the dogs) that take advantage of the morning sun. The study, with floor-to-ceiling bookcases and casual seating, offers a quiet place to work, read a book, or watch a movie.



The kitchen has dark-stained cabinets and sleek stainless hardware. A sparkling silver backsplash reflects the light and countertops are dressed in lightly flecked quartz.

Like a modern interpretation of the sun, the dining room chandelier is a defining fixture. "Tony had put the whole thing together and realized something wasn't right," says Jill. "He had to take it all apart and put it back together." The fixture, along with the majority of the furniture was custom ordered. Black matte finishes on the dining table, curved side table, and custom Doug Stratton (Stratton Design Group) hutch tie the rooms together. A center niche in the hutch highlights a handmade Mexican silver vase.

Doug also helped with architectural elements including adding closet space and creating a pass-through from the master bathroom to the laundry room. The living room offers a retreat with open views, a cushy white sofa, and two leather and black herringbone fabric chairs. The master and living room share access to the patio, and Jill found a stunning tri-fold mirror for the bedroom that reflects the views. The home has an elegant yet playful side, much like its owners.



"We love the whole lifestyle here," says Tony, explaining that ownership here includes access to the golf course and many Grove Park Inn amenities. "It's our time to enjoy life and the condo fits that perfectly," he says.

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