



top: The beautifully appointed haven features Tracie Reid's favorite colors and furnishings. **above:** Tracie leads an incredibly busy life. That's why she created a quiet hideaway for herself.

Seeking Sanctuary

She created a place of serenity within her hectic home.

Tracie Reid's life gets crazed at times. "I'm a chauffeur," the Germantown woman says with a laugh. "I just run, run, run. We have four telephone lines to the house, and they're ringing all the time."

She and husband David own several businesses that keep him on the road and her in charge of answering work-related questions and handling bookkeeping needs. The couple also has two active children, Eric, 18, and Alyson, 14.

After she gave up her traditional office job to work at home, Tracy no longer possessed a designated space to accomplish her tasks. "I was doing everything all in the open at the house," she says. "It was so busy and noisy that I got nothing done."

"We all need a place that we can call our own," she muses. For her, that meant planning the perfect space to use as an office, project room, and sanctuary.

Retreat Treat

To get to her hideaway, Tracie explains, "You have to go through my bedroom door, then through my bathroom, then my dressing room, and then a closet. Nobody ever interrupts me here," she says.

Tracie chose colors and furnishings that make her feel good. A red project table is complemented by a red valance and Roman shades above French doors. An open desk serves as a workstation while an armoire holds materials. Business-related files find a home in the cabinet sporting a green-and-brown finish. A stuffed chair and ottoman, handy for the rare occasion when Tracie finds time to read a novel or watch television, fill an entire corner.

Of course, life calls, and Tracie refrains from hiding out for days on end in her private sanctuary. "I'm really not that big of a hermit," she concedes. Still, she admits, her special getaway features one more essential element: a small refrigerator. "I never really have to go out," she says happily.

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