



GRAY WALKER



PORTRAIT BY DUSTIN PECK • CLOSET PHOTOS BY ERICA MARK PHOTOGRAPHY

When the eldest son of interior designer Gray Walker (graywalkerinteriors.com) went to boarding school, a design opportunity presented itself: she could shift the bedrooms and guest rooms in her Myers Park home to make way for a true dressing room to house all of her beautiful clothing. “I’ve loved clothes all of my life,” says Walker, 50. “You have to have a space like this to really enjoy and see what you’ve got.”

The resulting space highlights her sophisticated

style and a number of sentimental items. Take, for example, the watercolor nude hanging on the wall. It was the first piece of art Walker purchased on her own, fresh out of college and living in Columbia, S.C. She loved the colors, the loose look. “It kept getting demoted from every room in the house because my husband doesn’t like nudes,” says Walker. “But it worked out just fine because now it’s in my little space, in my boutique.”

—Whitley Adkins Hamlin

Playing off of her adjacent master bedroom, Walker's dressing room started with a Manuel Canovas classic trellis wallpaper design in one of her favorite shades: lavender. Next came roman shades trimmed in the same hue, and a lavender island in the middle of the room. A year later, Walker fell in love with a Christian Lacroix wallpaper she saw on a road show and immediately thought of her closet ceiling.

"It was the finishing touch that created the feeling of being outdoors in some wonderful lattice gazebo with flowers growing through the top of it," says Walker. "I love gardening and I feel like this room feels like a spring day."





Having designed a lot of closets with large center islands for her clients, Walker wanted something similar for her own space, and the magnificently appointed mirrored-top surface helped make the storage fixture striking and functional. She loves seeing the reflection of the wallpaper on the ceiling—and the stunning light fixture from Visual Comfort. “I just love mirrors,” she says. “I think they are glamorous.” One side of the island holds Walker’s lingerie, socks, and nightgowns. The other side is home to her accessories, jewelry, sunglasses, and belts.





Growing up, Walker's personal style was extremely preppy. Then at St. Mary's for college, she discovered her bohemian, hippy side. After becoming an interior decorator, her style grew more sophisticated and glamorous, and her dressing room is a reflection of her fashion journey. "The walls of my dressing room are totally old-school prep, then the feminine part would be the flowers on the ceiling, and the glam is the mirrors on my island and light fixture," she says.

