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Photos by ANDREA HUBBELL PHOTOGRAPHY



local architecture firm Wolf Ackerman and Richmond-based designer Anne Tollett, founder of Hanover Avenue, created “a home away from home that inspired creativity and good conversation,” she says. Art also plays a significant role. For example, in the event space, a black and white image of a man is “impactful but neutral,” while a large abstract painting of the Charlottesville landscape offers a jolt of color. Another dramatic piece stretches up the staircase, borrowing tones and textures from a Marvel comic book but in antique silhouettes, a nod to the building’s early 20th-century heritage.

Two coworking spaces on the first floor can double as rooms for private events in the evening, while upstairs, a block of smaller rooms—for drinking or playing billiards—surround two larger social spaces. A rooftop terrace provides yet another gathering place, while the new extension in the back houses

common house

Architecture and design firms: Wolf Ackerman, Charlottesville, Virginia; and Hanover Avenue, Richmond, Virginia

The details: The idea behind the members-only Common House in Charlottesville, Virginia was to create, says cofounder Josh Rogers, a “place that has some depth and urbanity to it” that encourages “people to gather round and bond through new experiences.” Accordingly,

a bright and chipper tea room with ashy woods, hanging raffia light fixtures, and graphic black and white flooring and whimsical wall art.

Part of the Social Hall is wrapped by an ivory linen banquette, persimmon club chairs, and lacy wire chandeliers made by cofounder Derek Sieg, while on the other side (divided by a custom steel and concrete hearth), the interplay of personalities continues on a portrait wall. “I was looking for the feeling of an old country manor,” says Tollett. “We found all of these great subjects—of all sexes and races—to reflect the diverse membership of the club.”