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POWER

DOCTOR

In Her Skin

Dr. Tina Alster is far more than just a pretty face—she keeps ours looking great, too. By Scott Sowers



WHEN DR. TINA ALSTER WAS 14 YEARS OLD, her life changed forever when she ran her bicycle into a car and landed on her face. She needed over 100 stitches, but the emotional trauma hurt more than the sutures. “My boyfriend didn’t like me anymore,” says Dr. Alster.

The story had a happy ending, as she turned her mishap into a quest for dermatological perfection. After studying at Duke, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and Harvard, Dr. Alster set up shop on M Street, where she specializes in using lasers to resurface skin.

Once admirably called a “doorway diagnostician” by the chairman of dermatology at Yale, she continues to work on her expanding practice, which includes an ongoing collaboration with Lancôme. Dr. Alster consults with the firm on skin products that she says “bridge the gap

between dermatology and cosmetics.”

Sometime around Christmas, her practice (skinlaser.com) will be moving to the power address of 1430 K Street. The new digs are being designed by architectural heavyweight Hugh Newell Jacobsen. Besides utilizing the entire second floor, Dr. Alster will also oversee a retail operation dubbed Skin Couture, specializing in products that will no doubt include a few offerings from Lancôme.

With all this going on, the Alsters are also designing their new Georgetown home—which dates back to 1813—with help from Jacobsen, while she tries to maintain a balance between her career and everything else. But her happiness comes from a predictable source: “the satisfaction I get from knowing that I’m doing something positive for my patients,” she says. ★

PLUS STAR CONTRIBUTORS

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