Builder & Buyer Guide
Spring 2012

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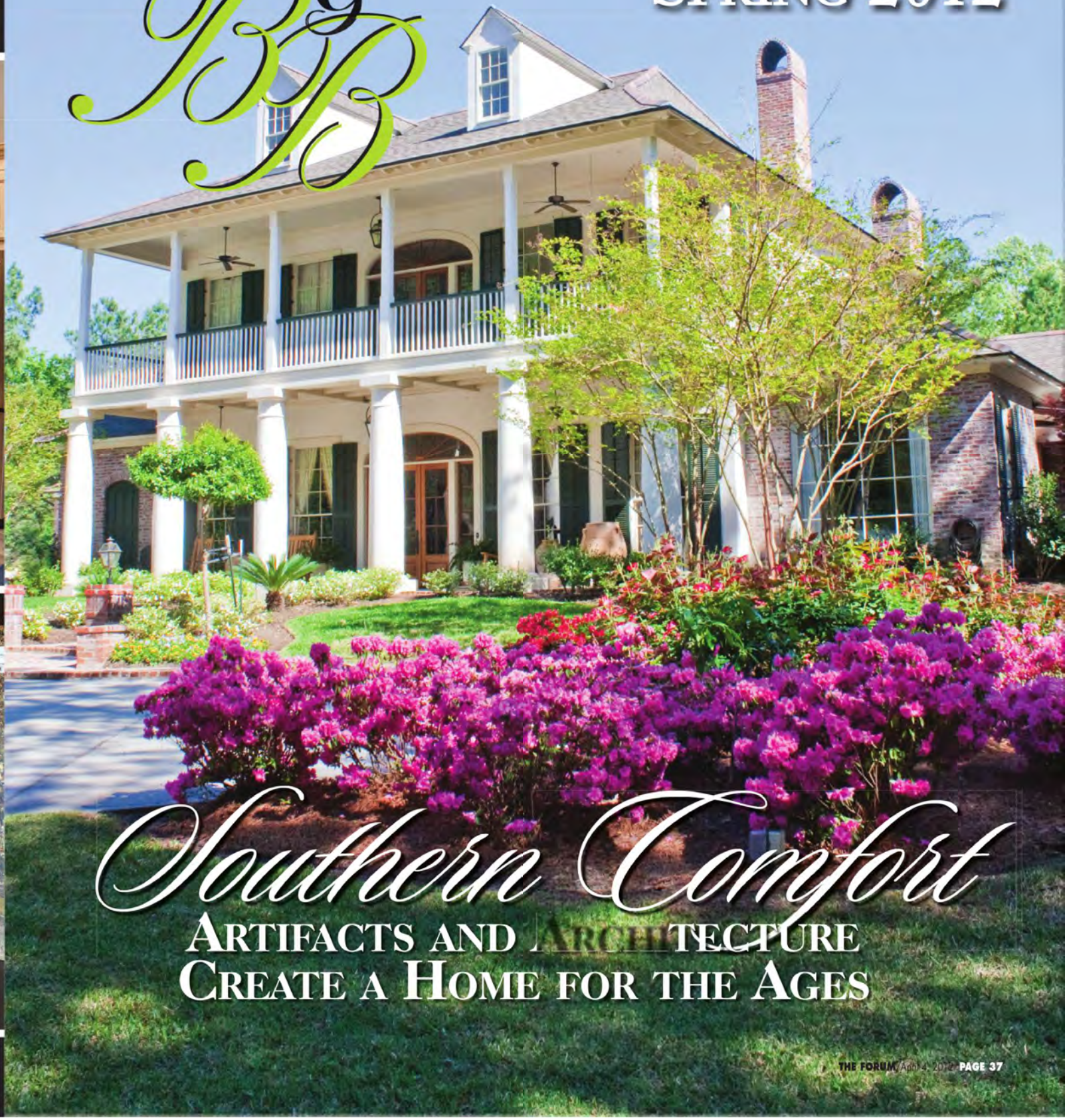

Southern Comfort
Artifacts and Architecture Create a Home for the Ages

Southern Comfort

Artifacts and Architecture Create a Home for the Ages

When builder Terry Elston was approached to build a home for a visionary client who had already drawn up preliminary plans centered around a collection of salvaged and antique elements, he knew he was signing on for an exciting challenge. Little did he know at the time that the relationship they developed would give life to a home filled with rustic and historical artifacts that will surely be enjoyed by many generations to come.

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By Noma Fowler-Sandlin
Photography by Lora Fairchild

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The homeowner, a busy woman with a demanding career and husband with the same, plus four children and an equal number of cuddly little Maltese dogs, dreamed of creating a family friendly home full of light and the feel of the Old South. For over two years she sketched a plan and, before even choosing an architect, she contacted Elston, who she felt was the only one who could build the house she wanted, melding the South Louisiana influences of the renowned architect A. Hays Town, with a grand sweep of Natchez charm.

This creative woman had been raised on architecture in a way – her family ran a roofing company – and she was always looking at the lines of roofs and how they connected to a house. Along the way she came to appreciate old elements of those homes – rustic beams, the worn beauty of heart pine floors, the graceful scrolls of antique ironwork and "gingerbread" details on houses in her native South Louisiana. So much, in fact, that she began collecting them, knowing someday they'd fill her dream house.

And so Elston not only had to build a modern home for a busy family but also incorporate a large collection of architectural salvage into the plan eventually clarified and drawn by architect Gene Hodgson. Elston made certain the house had the charm the client requested but also kept a firm grip on the realities

of building a home – to make it lasting, functional and livable.

The collection of antique elements originally began with a large number of sturdy beams formerly part of an old paper mill in Bogalusa, that her brothers transported northward for the project. Elston was able to incorporate them into the plan but also had to source even longer ones for some of the bigger rooms with the help of the homeowner, who sited some of her favorite salvage places, The Bank in New Orleans and Melange Architectural Salvage in Sunset.

Always searching, she collected various pieces as she went – beams, old doors and corbels – sometimes not even knowing

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B&B

No formal living here. Instead, one open, spacious area was designed for the whole family to enjoy (above, left and on Page 39).

A temperature-controlled wine room is entered through stunning antique doors in the dining room (above, left and right).

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where they'd go but knowing she wanted them as facets of the artistic collage she wanted built. Of her relationship with Elston she said, "It was a complete collaboration and partnership." And in this case, she had the perfect husband for the project – one that understood that this was her passion and gave her ample space in which to express her creativity. As for the builder, "I just did what I was told," joked Elston, but he pleased his

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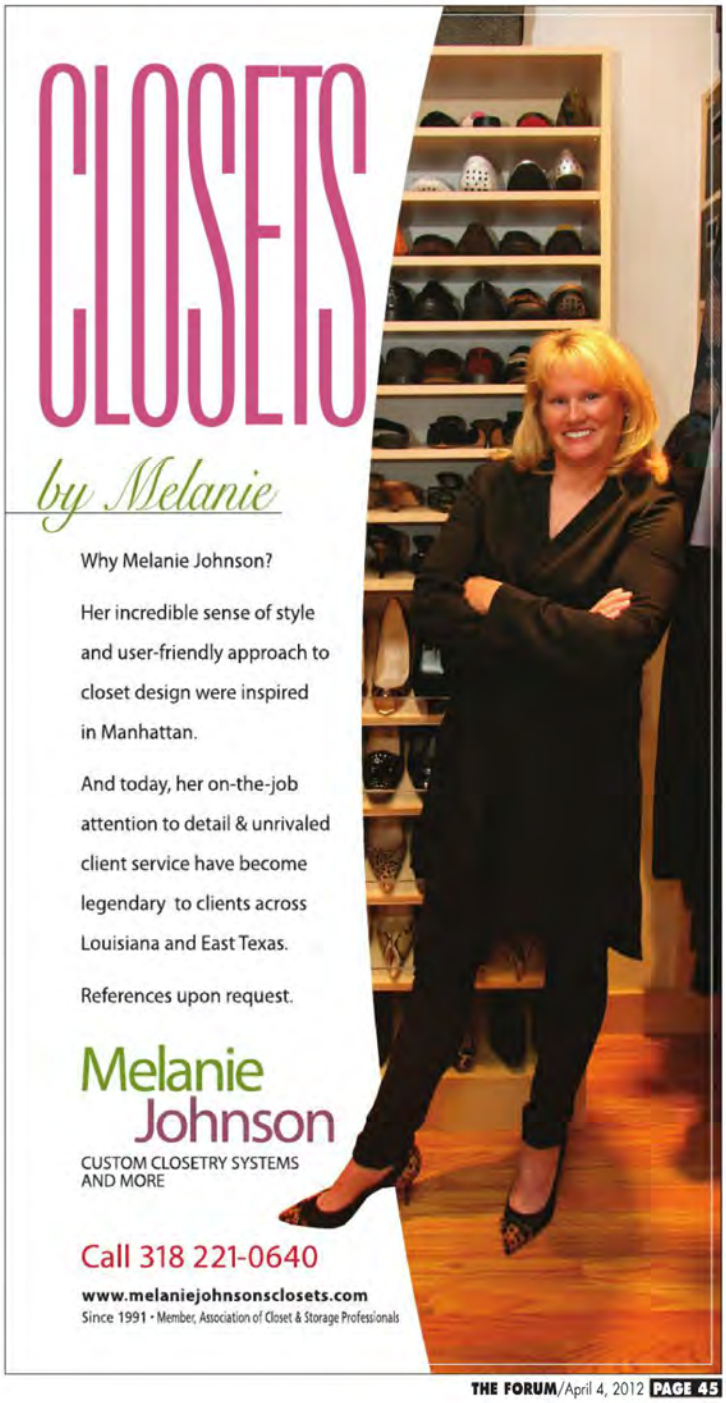

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client by surrounding himself with skilled craftsmen, working in truly inspired ways to incorporate the antique elements of the home.

The heart of her dream house is the hearth room, but she hesitated to call it that because she didn't want it to feel stuffy. No room was to be off limits to her young family, which operates in a "controlled chaos of laughing loud and learning." It is true that the only shine on the long and rough-hewn dinner table is some glitter from a school project. It is surrounded by six chairs on three sides and a long bench on the other. The table is made of "thrashing wood" from Pennsylvania upon which wheat was worked.

There is no formal living room in this home where casual rules. Comfortable new pieces of furniture share space with reupholstered hand-me-downs and a sprinkling of antiques and handmade stand-outs. Catherine Smith, a freelance stager, offered the homeowner suggestions on how to best utilize what she already had. The coffee table is a lovely old door embellished with decorative corner irons created by Derek Simmons. On it rests an old trough as centerpiece. He also created the crafty fireplace grates in this room and throughout the house from old garden gates.

Another person deeply involved in the look of the home was Kori Shurley, from Kitchen & Bath Cottage, who aided the owner with much of the kitchen design, utilizing pieces from the store and sourcing others to blend with the various styles being joined together.

Highlights of the ample kitchen space include the floor, which is comprised of antique bricks laid between lengths of heart pine, looking rustic and charming yet functional. The modern vent hood has been enclosed in sheet rock, but made beautiful by a trim of reclaimed wood and fancy corbels from an old New Orleans shotgun house and a large painting of poppies facing the rest of the great room. The large functional island is trimmed in a pale sea foam green that gives it the feel of an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

Overlooking the lawn and pool on the second floor is a screened sleeping porch with hanging beds and white wicker seating (above).

Another screened area between the great room and the pool is perfect for year-round entertaining (left).

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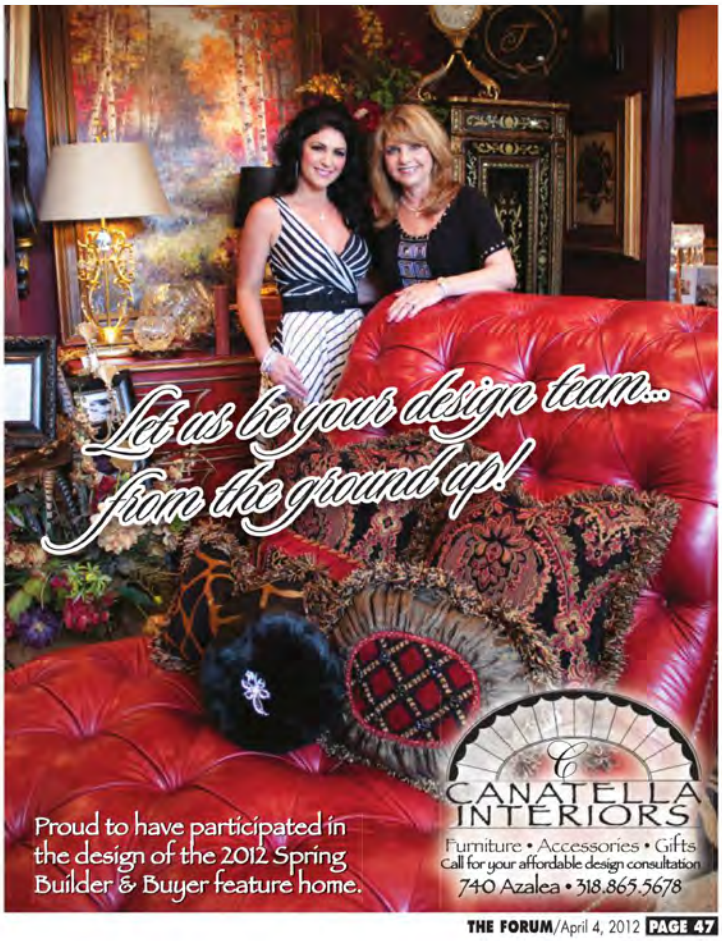

The home office has a more feminine touch with a fanciful blend of contemporary elements (above and left).

The game room has the feel of an old warehouse, while still allowing for plenty of light through high-arched windows (right).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

antique Hoosier cabinet, and that motif is repeated in black in the adjoining wet bar.

The only room in the home that is formal is the dining room, but even it was designed with the needs of a family in mind. Its gracious Natchez-style arched windows are gently draped in pale fabrics that still allow plenty of light. A French table from Inessa Stewart's in Baton Rouge came from an old estate and easily seats 14. In a house filled with exceptional lighting, the 18th century chandelier above the table is one of the best with its bronze sunflower motif. The wonderful lighting throughout the home was rewired and made modern

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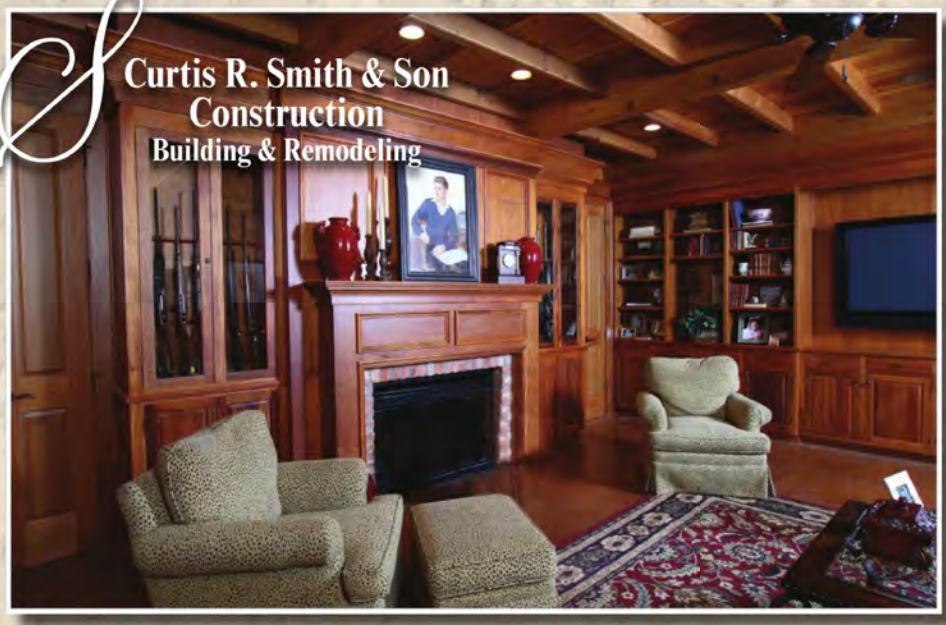

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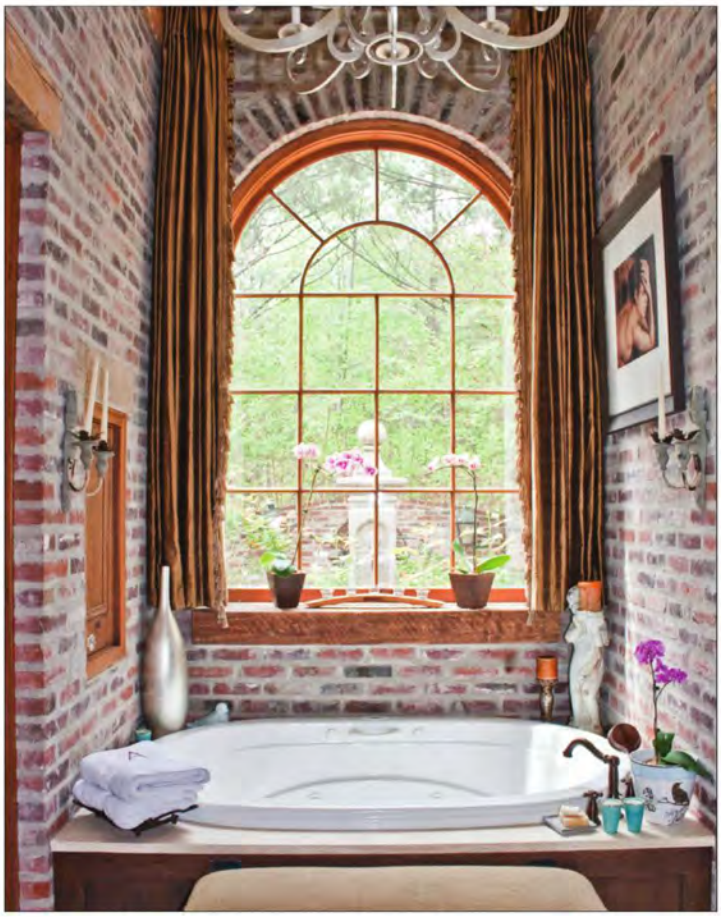

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by C&C Electric.

Fanciful and colorful doors in the dining room could just as easily be attractive art with its Indian décor and elaborate ironwork, but it actually leads somewhere quite special – a climate-controlled wine room, filled in the same fashion as the rest of the house with reclaimed woods, this time from the owner's great-grandparents home. A table for four awaits tastings and intimate dinners. Ye Olde Woodworkers Ltd. created the wine racks from leftover strips of old wood and researched the exact spacing to make it optimal for the storage of wine.

The master suite, on the ground floor is down a hall hung with family portraits and is a blend of old and new. The headboard is comprised of a set of Indian doors taller than many rooms could accommodate, but perfect for this one. Marvelous views of the private garden can be seen from both the bedroom and bath.

The master bath is again a blend of

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modern and antique, rustic and sleek. Bricks are used to accent throughout, balancing the iridescence of glass tiles.

Dedicated to her mom, the owner's secret garden is shared with the whole family but is occasionally a respite just for her. Some of the plantings here have passed-down histories from family members, where kumquats and camellias give up stories in fruit and flowers.

The secret garden isn't the only option for outdoor living. A large screened porch at the back of the house allows for a fire in the fireplace in winter and protection from mosquitoes in the summer, plus acts as delightful overflow for parties. Beyond it, lies 6 acres of pine trees and a beautifully groomed yard with various gardens and seating areas throughout, including a wisteria arbor planned around the idea of future weddings. Although these marvelous areas were spearheaded by Hoogland's, they are maintained by the family as a project to pass on the owner's green thumb. An outdoor kitchen has modern countertops by Pringle Concrete Design, but it rests under retooled antique gas lighting.

Upstairs, there are rooms for each of the children, all reflecting their own personal styles. Also on the second floor is a screened sleeping porch that overlooks the pool and spacious grounds. It sports two beds suspended by large ropes, hammock-style, and white wicker seating. Whether used for a relaxing nap on a rainy day or a night's sleep, this room is a popular hangout for the whole family.

From the old sugar kettle turned into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

Carved Indian doors are transformed into a headboard in the master bedroom (right).

A private garden is accessed just outside the master suite (left).

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

a fountain out front, to the transoms above tall doors, to the old beams, metal, bricks and blend of Southern style, the homeowner has created a piece of personal art. With the help of Terry Elston and a team of old-school craftsmen, this collage of architectural treasures seems much older than it actually is. Elston's client is thrilled and content with a living history created for her family and a work of art that is home. ■

(Special Advertisement)

Riverside Roofing Materials, Inc. • Locally Owned

Jon Henderson Bill Henderson Pat Henderson

Riverside Roofing Materials, Inc. is proud to be a locally owned, independent operation. Owner Bill Henderson graduated from Texas A&M University in 1975, and he entered the roofing industry just four years later. He opened Riverside Roofing in 1994, and he is now partnered with his sons, Jon, an LSUS business management graduate and Pat a construction management graduate of LSU, in their newly renovated offices and showroom at 975 Louisiana Avenue in Shreveport. They have been in the same location for 17 years.

"Your roof and front door are the two main focal points of your home," Bill explained. "If you want to buy something just to cover it and keep it dry, go to one of the big box stores and get what they have. But if you want to make it look really good, then come to a place that specializes in quality roofing materials. When a customer comes in here they're going to talk to somebody who knows the product." Quality, service and industry and product knowledge are the characteristics that set Riverside Roofing apart from their competitors. Simply put, "We have to do it right, if we expect people to keep coming back to us." said Pat.

The Henderson's company also takes pride in supporting other local businesses. They carry Certainteed Roofing materials, a brand that is manufactured here in Shreveport. If you do not have a roofing contractor, Riverside Roofing can refer you to a reputable local contractor for installations. They are involved in the community, with memberships in the Better Business Bureau, the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce and the Northwest Louisiana Home Builders Association.

Thanks to their showroom, the only one of its kind in this region, the employees at Riverside Roofing can not only tell customers about their products, they can show them as well. In the showroom, there are twelve miniaturized roofs to actually show customers what their shingles will look like once they are installed.

At Riverside Roofing, customers are treated as individuals. Bill said, "When a customer leaves Riverside, I want them to be glad that they came here. I want them to feel as appreciated after the sale as much as before it. But if we can't help you, we will try to point you in the direction of someone who might be able to." It's this philosophy that has kept the Hendersons in business for almost two decades.

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Photos by Lora Fairchild

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Great Investment

Foam insulation protects, benefits environment

For the featured home by Terry Elston, the builder chose urethane foam insulation to blanket it from heat and cold. He chose a firm out of Longview, Texas, with a remote Shreveport crew, K&S Insulation, to use the high-performance spray polyurethane foam to utilize all the benefits it offers.

Polyurethane foam insulation is comprised of millions of microscopic cells. It is applied as a liquid but expands to 120 times its volume to form a semi-rigid material. Not only does the foam expand to fill the space, it has an adhesive property as well, making it bond with what it is sprayed on.

It reduces heating and cooling costs by 50 to 60 percent by eliminating air infiltration. Because it so thoroughly permeates the space, it helps control moisture and condensation and reduces air currents in walls and attics. It shields the home's interior from both high and low temperatures.

One of the biggest benefits is that it provides the correct environment for ventilation, air and heating systems to perform at their optimum efficiency. K&S co-owner, Newt Surber, said, "In an SPF home, the attic temperature is only five to eight degrees different from the home's desired interior. Uninsulated attics may get up to 150 degrees. This product just doesn't allow the heat in.

"It also reduces air conditioner and heater tonnage by about 30 percent."

The product is environmentally safe, too. Cured foam is relatively inert, and studies indicate that SPF does not release toxic gases or leach harmful chemicals into the soil. SPF is environmentally friendly, contains no formaldehyde or ozone-depleting chemicals, saves energy and reduces the use of fossil fuels, thereby reducing global warming gases. It also assists in providing good indoor air quality, requires less energy to produce than the leading insulation and reduces the amount of energy required to transport and install it. It maintains its physical properties over time and can take the place of other products, reducing the need to manufacture and use less environmentally friendly materials. Additionally, it helps conserve energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions. For green builders, it contributes LEED credits for sustainable, green construction.

The air quality inside a treated home improves as well. The product does not support mold growth and reduces allergens, pollen and dust from entering and polluting the home. SPF reduces the infiltration of outside air pollutants and soil gases. Even sound pollution is locked out – the open cells and semi-rigid polyurethane mass will absorb and reduce the transmission of sound.

An added benefit of SPF is that the closed cells add structural strength and glues a building together, making it resistant to racking events, such as hurricanes and high winds.

Not only offering optimum efficiency for ventilation, heating and air systems, spray polyurethane foam insulation is also environmentally friendly.

For all these benefits, Surber, along with his partner and son, Keith, have been using SPF in their projects for eight years, replacing the other sorts of insulation they had been installing since 1980. Their clients like the change that results in energy savings. "We did a guy's house about five years ago," Surber said. "It's a big house – about 4,800 square feet – and the highest bill he's had since we did the job was just over $200."

About 98 percent of Surber's work is in new construction. That way, they are able to spray within the walls without any sort of demolition, but he recommends the product to all homeowners. In the featured home, it was of particular benefit to the temperature maintenance of the wine room, which keeps its wine-perfect temperature year round.

By paying for itself in just a short time, spray polyurethane foam is a great investment for homeowners. It will keep the family protected from the elements in various ways, while benefiting the environment as well.

– Noma Fowler-Sandlin

Calm and Creativity

Kitchen & Bath Cottage provides solutions to the chaos

Photo by Lora Fairchild

In the featured home, Kitchen & Bath Cottage's designer Kori Shurley tackled projects in the kitchen, hearth room and master bath.

Kitchen & Bath Cottage's owner Mary Ann Elston, wife of builder Terry Elston, and her designer Kori Shurley played a large part in the featured home. Mary Ann was able to provide a grand resource to both Terry and the client.

Mary Ann's reputation for detailed design is echoed in Kitchen & Bath Cottage's approach and in Shurley's philosophy. With communication as a priority, she works closely with each client to develop space suited just for them. Relying on her residential design experience, Shurley guides clients through the creative process, enabling them to make smart choices tailored specifically to their needs.

Shurley holds a bachelor of interior design degree from Louisiana Tech University, has experience in residential design, has completed Miele, Sub Zero and Wolf training, and is a member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association.

In the featured house, Shurley tackled projects in the kitchen, hearth room and master bath, keeping in mind what the owner desired. "[The owner] had an incredible eye and was so talented and creative. She knew what she wanted, so part of my job was just listening to her and fulfilling those needs," Shurley said. That simple concept, listening, is what Shurley considers the backbone of her personal design philosophy. Within that, she tries to find the most efficient use of space, but the bigger picture is just aiding the client in creating a very personal space. On the company's website, there are questionnaires for potential clients to use, but she finds them no longer necessary – she knows the information by heart and collects the answers via interviews and meetings. However, there is a lot of good information compiled in them for potential customers who would like to begin thinking about what they want. Those forms are available at www.kitchenandbathcottage.com.

"What's hot in design now is not doing what is hot," Shurley said. "Right now, people are creating highly personal spaces, customizing them to what their dream is." Especially in the arena of high-end custom homes, clients are not worrying about resale, so they are making their homes fit their most personal needs.

Working so closely with people and analyzing their needs makes friendships on top of the client-designer relationship. The homeowners tend to stay in touch, inviting Shurley back to "add this, change this, update that." In the case of the touted home, the designer and homeowner became very close. "She just had such a wonderful attitude about everything," Shurley said of her client. Mary Ann appreciates Shurley's contributions to the success of her business. "Kori is an awesome designer and a loyal employee that we have been very blessed to have for the past eight-plus years. Hardly a week goes by that I don't run into someone who tells me how much they loved working with her and what an incredible job she did on their project," she said.

Ultimately, what keeps Shurley doing her job is the excitement of not only creating something for the needs of a client but seeing, with them, the finished product. "Even if it's good on paper, it's always better than you thought in the end. And having a client that is happy with that – well, that's great," she said. "Getting to do something so fun and making a client happy is exciting."

Kitchen & Bath Cottage has been in business 11 years and soon will be enlarging and changing their location. "We are going from 2,000 square feet to 3,300 square feet and will be offering Walker Zanger stone and tile as well as a few other new specialty products, in addition to our custom cabinetry and appliances," Mary Ann said.

Terry's clients are a small part of the Kitchen & Bath Cottage clientele. "We work with many other homeowners, builders, designers and architects, and the two businesses operate completely independent of one another," Mary Ann said. However, she enjoys their affiliation. "I love being in business with Terry. He is the hardest working person that I have ever known. I am continually awed by his craftsmanship and creativity that comes from a lifelong passion for home building. I am a somewhat chaotic person and he brings a sense of calm to both the business and our home."

– *Noma Fowler-Sandlin*

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C&C Electric

Enlightening Shreveport

Photo by Lora Fairchild

C&C Electric carries modern lighting fixtures as well as updated antique specimens. They also refurbish pieces for clients.

Terry Elston's client in this issue's featured home loved reclamation and built her home around it. One of the most stunning of the reclaimed elements in the home was the lighting. Whether sleek and new or refurbished antiques, she thanked C&C Electric in Shreveport for much of the success in illuminating her lovely home.

Although in business since 1946, C&C's current owners, Wayne and Gale Simmons, are the third. They share many similarities to the old Camus family who began the business in a space on Louisiana Avenue and ultimately relocated to its current location on Line Avenue. "They sold lamps and shades and repaired lamps," Gale said. "Although the original owners did contracting and we do not, we are similar in that we are very service-oriented."

About 50 percent of their work revolves around clients bringing in old lighting to be refurbished, but they also carry lovely antique specimens that have already been brought up-to-date, as well as high-end modern lighting, most of which is American made. Additionally, they create custom pieces from old items clients want but don't necessarily know what to do with. Old vases, urns and other ephemera like bookends get turned into functional lighting by their staff of two technicians.

The personalized shopping experience they offer involves listening to the client, finding out their likes and making suggestions. Whatever the choice, they want the buyer to be happy with it.

"We don't believe people have to go to Dallas to get what they want," Gale said. "It can be made here."

The Simmonses recently acquired an old antique shop in New Orleans and are in the process of expanding their store, for lighting isn't all they sell. Bringing in old tables to use for display purposes has become another facet of the business and a passion. They sell those pieces, which do double duty as display, and mix in other pieces of furniture as well. Multiple pickers across the United States find goods for Simmons to sell in the shop, which offers antiques, and new and interesting decorative pieces. They work with many local decorators and interior designers, plus the general public, and their customer base is growing along with the size of their shop.

Gale, too, acts as a "picker" of sorts. "If the customer can describe what they want, or even find a picture of something similar, we will try to find it. If there's any way it can be done, we will do it."

A new mural by artist Chris Opp decorates the side of the expanding store. It is very New Orleanian in its scope, but features C&C Electric in the middle of it. It shows the grace of a bygone era, and the items inside C&C allow one to capture that in one's own home via lighting and accessories of quality, which never go out of style.

In lighting her home of reclaimed wonders, Elston's client didn't have to go to Dallas, indeed. All her needs were accomplished by a local business of keen-eyed pickers and trained craftsmen who enable the gorgeous lighting elements of the past to be safely and beautifully reused by refurbishing them to today's safety and aesthetic at C&C Electric.

– *Noma Fowler-Sandlin*

Dedication to Craft

Quality craftsmanship evident

Along with stone, mud and animal parts, wood was one of the first materials worked by early humans. The development of civilization was closely tied to the development of increasingly greater degrees of skill in working these materials. Learning from the evolution of those skills and practicing them himself for 50 years, Ronnie Pate, of Ye Olde Woodworkers Ltd., brought years of experience to the featured home built by Terry Elston.

Pate learned his skill as the son of a carpenter who grew up around wood and the tools to work it. When in college in Baton Rouge, he worked in a millwork shop, further honing the talents he brings to projects today.

In the featured home, Pate was in charge of utilizing new and reclaimed woods to create cabinetry, bookcases and the puzzle of function and wood that was the client's wine room.

Photo by Lora Fairchild

In the wine room of the featured home, Ronnie Pate, of Ye Olde Woodworkers, researched and studied the specific configurations that would benefit each type of wine to keep them at the optimum angle of storage.

The cabinetry in the home, although new, maintains the reclaimed theme of the home with its raw wood, sporting the occasional knothole in simple, clean lines with only the most basic factors added for embellishment. They, too, trick the eye into believing they are much older than they are, while functionally hiding away all the elements that make a kitchen modern. All of the appliances – a freezer, a refrigerator, dishwasher and the like – are tucked neatly behind discrete panels matching the rest of the cabinets.

Cabinetmakers were originally the prime furniture builders of the world, and in Pate's case, you can readily see how his mind goes back to those roots. His contributions to the home do not look like boxes mounted to a wall but instead like fine furniture merely utilized specifically.

Historically, woodworkers relied upon the woods native to their region, until transportation and trade innovations made more exotic woods available to the craftsman. The woodwork in the study is comprised of reclaimed native cypress bookshelves that gracefully complement the smattering of antiques and modern pieces used by the client as she works to create a great environment in which her children can do homework. The various physical properties of the cypress make it an attractive material for heavy-duty projects like bookshelves, which may have to contain a great deal of weight. Due to its slow growth, it is hard and durable, offering good dimensional stability and resistance to weather, insects and contact with soil. Also, it can defy the weight of books without warping.

The wine room, pieced together from beam ends and other ancient scraps, is truly a work of art and shows off Pate's expertise very well. The homeowner praised Pate's patience and artistry and reported that he excelled in research as well, studying just what configurations would benefit each various type of wine to keep them at just the optimum angle of storage. "He even researched how far the bottles need to be placed apart for each specific variety of wine," she said.

Due to the desires of the homeowner and others like her who desire true artistry of the sub-contractors in their homes, Pate's business is booming. His dedication to this craft shows in the way he schedules his time, working on one house at a time to give it his full attention. Almost all of his work is residential these days with commercial left to fend for themselves.

– Noma Fowler-Sandlin