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VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

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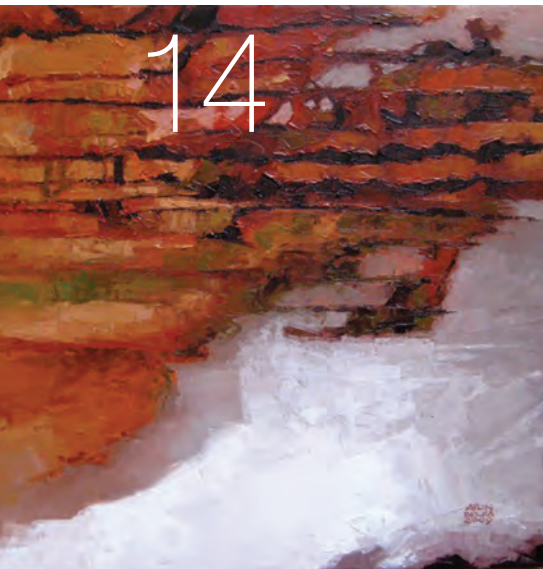


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Home & Art Tour

*Saturday,
April 16*



The New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) Home and Art Tour is back for the museum's centennial year after being missed by many design and art aficionados since 2005. This year's tour features six stately Uptown homes – many opened to the public for the first time!

Put on your walking shoes and tour these historic homes along St. Charles Avenue and State Street admire their art collections. NOMA Volunteer Committee members will greet you at each home and provide historical information.

Participants are free to follow their own schedule, visiting the six homes between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Don't want to wait in line? Patron level attendees receive priority entrance at each home and a NOMA Centennial Plaque.

No matter your favorite architectural style, this tour offers it all and the art collections promise to be as eclectic as the homes.

Advance tickets: Patron, \$75; NOMA Members, \$25; Non-Members, \$30.

All tickets (other than Patron Level) on the day of the tour, \$35.

This year's event is co-chaired by Carol Hall and JoAnn Christopher.

Saturday, April 16, 2011 | 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

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editor's note

revival of the fittest

SPRING IS A TIME of renewal and rebirth, so it's only appropriate to announce in our Spring issue that this magazine is being revived: We're going from twice a year to quarterly, and I couldn't be happier! Home magazines are by their very nature seasonal publications, and so having one issue per season is ideal.

Spring and summer are very different seasons in New Orleans, and although I happen to be the rare soul who prefers the summer – 100-degree days, thunderstorms and 100 percent humidity – this issue is devoted purely to the gentler, sunnier season.

We start the issue off with a refreshingly different recipe: bubble tea made with tapioca pearls and crushed fresh fruit. This (along with Abita Strawberry, of course) is a delicious way to get your daily dose of fruit with a twist. Then we celebrate the pure, primal joy of growing your own food with Pamela Marquis; explore a different kind of rebirth in metalsmith Ellis Joubert's cluttered workshop with Laura Claverie; and dive headfirst into the lighthearted whimsy of Sarah Wheelock's costume business with Sarah Ravits. We also

have a spring fashion TrendWatch full of fresh looks, luscious cosmetics and fabulous jewelry and, on the practical side, tips from Peter Reichard on how to keep your home in tiptop shape.

Our featured home in this issue is also perfect for spring: The light, airy home of Kimberly and Clint Szubinski makes me want to go straight home and declutter everything. I am not brave enough, however, to attempt the Szubinskis' color scheme: pure white. I absolutely love it; I love the way it looks, I love the simplicity and the starkness. But I can't even be trusted to wear a white blouse – coffee, tomato sauce and ink are drawn to me like a magnet. There is no way that I, plus my 4-year-old, could live in a house surrounded by white. I have a burgundy bedspread, and between the two of us, Ruby and I have still managed to stain it. And yet the Szubinskis have not one but four kids, and they just embrace the inevitable stains as part of life. Forget about the beautiful home; that kind of mindset is what's truly enviable and inspiring.

Also enviable and inspiring are the luxurious kitchens on the Junior



League's annual Kitchen Tour, the lush gardens on the Secret Gardens Tour and the carefully and lovingly renovated homes that won the Renaissance Awards that we give in conjunction with the Preservation Resource Center. I am honored to be a part of each and every one of these partnerships.

Spring is a wonderful time to be in New Orleans. Of course, summer is also a wonderful time to be here ... and so are fall and winter. I'm so excited to have a chance again to relish everything each season has to offer in the Crescent City, and I hope you all will join me along the way!

—Eve Kidd Crawford, Editor



On the Cover: Kimberly and Clint Szubinski furnished their renovated home with an eclectic and charming mix of furniture and knickknacks against a backdrop of brilliant white. p. 32

Photographed by Sara Essex



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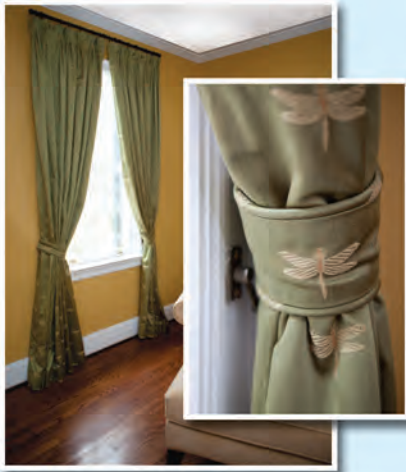
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CHARLOTTE MOSS DECORATES: THE ART OF CREATING ELEGANT AND INSPIRED ROOMS

(RIZZOLI, \$50)

This spring, renowned interior designer and author Charlotte Moss releases her latest book, *Charlotte Moss Decorates*, giving readers a glimpse into the methods behind her magic. For each of the rooms featured, Moss breaks down the various stages of her design process and offers quick doses of decorating advice with her signature "Why Not?" decorating maxims. Moss graciously invites the reader to be engaged and inspired through 200-plus photos.



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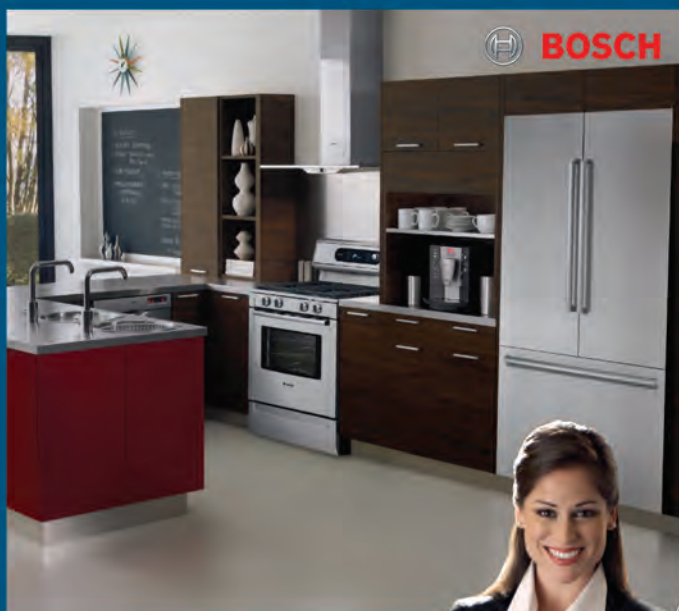
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style

NEUTRAL ZONE

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A SWEET CELEBRATION

To commemorate its 10th birthday, Seda France is combining some of its favorite aromas of the past and present to produce an exotic new home fragrance, Anniversaire. Fusing citrus and floral notes with earthy, spicy scents, the 10.2-ounce candle smells as sweet as it looks in its etched toile tumbler and signature pagoda packaging. Hazelnut, 5515 Magazine St., 891-2424, or go to www.sedafrance.com.

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artist profile

aron belka

By Ian McNulty

THE PROLIFERATION of satellite imagery may be changing our daily perception of the world, from the way we understand news events to the way we get driving directions across town. A recent body of work from New Orleans artist Aron Belka, however, offers a different interpretation of this very imagery.

Belka's portfolio of "satellite paintings" are inspired by aerial and satellite views of the earth. The vantage can range from treetop-level to high orbit, but they're always translated in oil on canvas through his own perspective and imagination. Think of the approach as the big picture, re-imagined.

"When you see a landscape up close, there's all the visual noise in the way, but when you get farther out, you get to see the design that's happening in the land, and that's where I start," he says.

A Mexican mountain range turns blue and green on his canvas, while in another painting a South African river twists like a tendril around the silver glimmer of a developed area before cutting across a great open

expanse. For another painting, a dark circular feature turns out to be a New Zealand volcano ringed by a spreading deforestation.

Belka was raised in Salt Lake City in a family with a strong artistic tradition. His mother is a musician, and his father is an architect, which Belka credits for his own early interest in geometric design.

"I spend a lot of time perusing Google Earth, looking for compositions that appeal to me," he says. "At first it was very design-oriented, but now I'm more interested in what's going on at these locations, the environmental conditions, the social conditions."

One of his paintings is a representation of Mount Kilimanjaro. He's produced prints of the work in partnership with the Kilimanjaro Education Foundation, and half of the proceeds from this print's sales support the nonprofit's mission to improve schooling in Tanzania and other countries bordering the

famous African summit.

"Sometimes people don't realize this work is based on satellite imagery at first, but when they do, the meaning of the painting can really change for them," Belka says. "There's so much material. It's the whole world, really, and there are places out there that are meaningful for different people in different ways." ■

See more of Belka's work and details about the Kilimanjaro Education Foundation project at www.aronbelka.com.



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break out the bubbly!

With New Year's Eve festivities behind us, toast to springtime with healthy homemade bubble tea.

By Margaret Zainey Roux



THE HOLIDAYS MAY be good for the soul, but they can be hard on the body – especially in New Orleans. For your next celebration, raise your glass to good health with bubble tea. The unique frozen nonalcoholic drink originated in Taiwan but is making its way west and stirring up a craze at coffee bars from New York to San Francisco. Made primarily of black or green tea, ice, milk and large “bubble-like” tapioca pearls, it’s lower in sugar than regular soda and lower in caffeine than iced coffee. Shake up the traditional Asian recipe by adding coconut, mango or litchi for a fruity flavor that you’ll come to crave.

recipe

Traditional Bubble Tea

2 cups water
 1 teaspoon sugar (to be boiled with the tapioca pearls)
 1/2 cup large tapioca pearls or 1/3 cup small tapioca pearls
 1 cup chilled brewed black or green tea
 2 tablespoons milk (can be adjusted to taste)
 4 teaspoons sugar (can be adjusted to taste)
 1 cup ice cubes
 Crushed fresh fruit (optional)

► Bring the water to a boil. Stir in the teaspoon of sugar, and add the tapioca pearls. Cook the tapioca for about 20 to 30 minutes, and stir frequently to prevent sticking. Drain, rinse, and chill the pearls in the refrigerator.

► Pour the chilled tea, milk and sugar into a cocktail shaker, and shake until well-mixed. If desired, add crushed fresh fruit. Add the ice cubes, and shake until cold.

► Fill the bottom of a glass with the tapioca pearls, and pour in the tea mixture.

Note: Cooking time is a general guideline. A shorter cooking time will result in chewier tapioca pearls.

Recipe from the Asia Society.

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for the garden



a gardener's roots

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By Pamela Marquis

I REMEMBER IT AS though it were yesterday. My family had been through some very challenging times. I was standing in a dusty field surrounded by a ramshackle fence. A fiery orange and velvety mauve sunset silhouetted my shapely figure as I held in my clenched fist a handful of dirt. I looked to the heavens and cried, "As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again!"

OK, that wasn't me. It was Scarlett O'Hara, but it's the only scene in *Gone With the Wind* that ever resonated with

me. You can keep your Scarlett in her green velvet curtain gown or your Scarlett with a leer on her face the morning after Rhett toted her up that marble staircase. It is the Scarlett who knows that her survival will only be found in Tara's rich soil that brings a smile to my face.

I love the feel of silk and cool crisp cotton sheets, but more than those things, I love the feel of warm friable soil crumbling through my fingers. I know I should wear gloves when

working in the garden, but there is something deeply rooted, pun intended, in my DNA that makes it almost impossible to do so.

I often joke that I am French-Iowan. It's partly my small effort to make fun of those people who boast about their foreign ancestry. Now if your grandparents actually speak a different language, you've got a legitimate claim, but after generations of mixing and marrying, it seems to me we are all just Americans. But another reason I proclaim my Iowan roots is that I'm proud to be a descendent of a farming family.

My fondest childhood memories are of the summers I spent on that farm in Osceola, Iowa. I remember eating freshly picked tomatoes sprinkled with a little sugar. My grandmother would make me close my eyes, and she'd say, "Don't it taste just like strawberries?"

Chasing baby pigs, gathering warm eggs, fishing in the small spring-fed pond: Life was sweet. But best of all was riding with Grandpa Alvin on the old 8N Ford tractor. I'd nuzzle next to his faded blue overalls and be enveloped in the finest scent in the world – honest sweat and WD-40, a smell I unashamedly admit still can buckle my knees.

I think it is one of the reasons I fell in love with my ex-husband. He often wore that "cologne." For a time we lived in North Carolina in a house we built ourselves. We also bought an old tractor, plowed the land and planted a quarter-acre garden. When I was pregnant with my daughter, I ate most of my meals from that garden. I'd wake as the sun rose and go out to the garden to munch my breakfast. I'd walk the rows, shelling and devouring English peas, nibbling on dew-covered lettuce and dusting the dirt off a carrot and savoring its earthy sweetness.

I later bought a house in Missouri because of its landscape and splendid garden potential. Don't get me wrong; it was a fine house with a solid foundation and a brand-new roof, but it was the yard that I coveted.

The previous owner had lovingly planted tulips; hyacinths; daffodils; jonquils; several varieties of irises; day lilies; hollyhocks that were taller than Yao Ming; peonies with blooms larger than cabbages; and lovely, lovely lilacs. I adore the fragrance of sweet olive blossoms, but it runs a distant second to the

delicious scent of lilacs.

While I anxiously waited for the inspection and the loan to be approved, I would visit my soon-to-be yard and watch where the sun hit to strategize about the best place for my tomatoes. On a glorious spring day, I signed the papers, proudly clipped the keys onto my key chain and borrowed a tiller from a friend. It was spring, after all, and I needed to put in my garden.

There's a reason Easter is in the spring. The story of Christ's resurrection resonates with the glory and the wonder that is spring. In the North, it's a thrill to see the jonquils' buttery yellow break through the white snow. In New Orleans, it's the shock of vibrant green breaking through the dead beige leaves that lets us know we've survived another season of cold.

It's primal. Our gardens affirm our resiliency. If we put viable seeds into rich soil and nurture their growth, we will be fed. We will survive.

So I shall now wander out to my seven-container garden in my tiny New Orleans backyard and gather dinner. Tonight I might steam broccoli and drizzle it with lemony butter. Or I could smother Swiss chard and collard greens or build a crisp lettuce salad dressed with herb-infused olive oil.

Or ... if I don't feel like channeling Scarlett, because I live in New Orleans, I can have dinner at Antoine's, order takeout from Lebanon's Café or get Robért Fresh Market's delectable chicken salad. Fiddle dee dee, it's good to be me. ■

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as good as old

Master silversmith Ellis Joubert can flawlessly re-create the works of old masters to help restore antique pieces with broken or lost parts. By Laura Claverie

FOR MORE THAN 30 years

metalsmith and master silversmith Ellis Joubert has worked his magic on some of the most important pieces of bronze, copper and silver ever made. Patiently, carefully and lovingly, he applies his vast knowledge and experience to precious metal antiques.

Using handmade French tools, some dating back to the mid-1700s, and working out of a small New Orleans workshop, Joubert is one of a handful of craftsmen in the country who can restore or re-create the metal works of old masters. He is, in many ways, a throwback to the past. Like the craftsmen who came centuries before him, Joubert works from his cluttered studio and lives in an apartment above it. His black Labrador retriever, Moe, is

always close by.

Workbenches made from old tree stumps display some of his craftsmanship. Nearly 100 antique hammers hang on the walls. Small jars of European metal wax fill the shelves, and cotton cloths rest atop counters. Papers and notes are scattered helter-skelter. To the uninitiated, it's a bit chaotic, but to him, it all makes sense.

Joubert has restored metal artifacts for museums, historic homes, churches,

private collectors and antique dealers from all over the world. His work comes to him by word-of-mouth, and he has never advertised. The work, it seems, finds him.

An elegant 1840s silver hot water urn, made of coin silver, a silver used before the sterling standard was established, rests on one workbench. Its top was lost, and the current owner, a Memphis collector, wanted Joubert to research and create a new one. Interestingly – and luckily – he had made an identical top as a student at LSU and still owned the original wax mold in a long-forgotten box.

“There are no shortcuts to the work I do,” he says. “It’s all by hand.” Indeed, countless hours will go into this project over the period of three months. In creating the urn’s top, Joubert will use many tools, including 15 to 20 different hammers, each curved in a different way, as he gently taps, taps, taps the silver into shape.

He’ll buff it until the patina emerges to create a gloss exactly like the original piece. The years that separate the 170-year-old urn from its new top will be indiscernible.

An 18th-century bronze Roman statesman figure is another

project.

Joubert’s task is to re-create the standard the ancient soldier once held and to bring the bronze’s patina back to its original beauty.

“In figural bronzes, surface is everything,”



he says. "The restorer has to figure out how the surface was prepared, the type of finish used, the process of application, the color. As a final step, the old European masters hired apprentices to rub their hands over the pieces to soften the finish. Basically, they caressed the piece until the gloss was perfect."

Over time the bronze statesman's head was

jewelry-making class that everything clicked.

He also credits his now-deceased grandfather, a master machinist and early aviator, for planting the seeds early in his life.

"I used to work with my grandfather in his shop, and even as a child, I was drawn to the metalwork he did on outboard motors and small engines," he says. "The work I do is like that, with a big



flattened, and the softly etched curls were gone. Joubert has delicately carved new hair for the elegant soldier. "It's sort of a 'Bronze Hair Club for Men,'" he says, laughing. It is almost impossible to tell where the old hair was and the new "toupee" begins.

Joubert took a circuitous route to becoming a renowned metalsmith. He spent time at Delgado studying aviation maintenance and later at LSU majoring in Asian studies, history and architecture. But it was in his metalsmith and



historical, creative bent."

He is a student of the masters, and early Gorham silver-smiths and those of the Martele period are also favorites. "The work done by the French and early Russians is unequalled," he says.

By any standards, Joubert's work rivals the best of his generation. The centuries-old bronze, copper and silver pieces in his eccentric workshop have all been brought back to life under his care and will thrive for generations to come. ■



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products of a playful mind

By Sarah Ravits

Sarah Wheelock incorporates feathers, sequins and a healthy dose of whimsy into her costume creations.

"THE LIGHTNING bug's husband wanted to be a King Cake": It sounds like something that a Lewis Carroll character would say before winking and disappearing into an enchanted forest.

But Sarah Wheelock, costume designer, fashionista and business-woman, says this nonchalantly from her Uptown studio, surrounded by racks of colorful fabrics, overflowing bins of feathers and sequins, elaborately dressed mannequins and rows upon rows of hats and other accouterments. "The lightning bug," it turns out, is one of Wheelock's many clients: a woman whose husband needed a costume as unique and

quirky as his wife's for Mardi Gras Day – the King Cake costume ultimately consisted of, among other fabrics, white fur trim and glitter, and it was accessorized by a gold-painted baby doll stuck to a scepter.

You're never too old to play dress-up in New Orleans. And Wheelock, a Massachusetts native and mother of two, has found a niche in creating and selling costumes, accessories and

refurbished vintage clothing.

"I've always been into vintage clothes," she says. "I started collecting hats when I was 12; my mom taught me how to sew when I was 4. When I moved to New Orleans, there was so much demand for it. It seemed natural."

For 13 years, Wheelock owned the Magazine Street shop and hipster haven Funky Monkey, selling recycled and vintage clothing. But she sold the store last year, opting to devote her time to making more costumes and buying and selling her collection of vintage items, which can be purchased at local art markets, Buffalo Exchange and *Etsy.com* at etsy.com/shop/neworleansmagpie.

After taking a millinery class – paying tribute to her lifelong passion for hats – Wheelock has been working on designs featuring vintage hats that she has collected and embellished with taxidermied birds from the 1920s; other chapeaux are decorated with Spanish moss and antlers or feathers.

Her unique and occasionally swamp-inspired designs are handmade and eye-catching, whether they're in

the form of a flashy showgirl costume, a pirate get-up, a feather headband, a cape or a headdress, and they can be worn whether it's an average Tuesday or a Fat Tuesday. Wheelock also works with clients to create custom orders. "I've always used bustiers and feathers," she says. "I do a lot of peacock costumes and really anything I think will work."

Wheelock is a careful shopper, making sure to select materials that will withstand the test of time. She shops online, scours flea markets and





a warrior-style skirt made of nutria fur as he strutted down the runway at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

The duo also collaborated for New Orleans Fashion Week in March 2011, exhibiting a line of handmade kimonos with hand-dyed fabrics. (Young recently spent time in Japan and drew inspiration from the country's traditional styles.)

Wheelock emphasizes quality in her work. "I prefer a finished style," she says, meaning that her pieces are sewn rather than deconstructed. She says her style is over-the-top and generally appeals to people "who

frequents fabric stores, and her creations are as versatile and durable as they are festive.

In November 2010, Wheelock debuted a few of her creations at the Righteous Fur multimedia fashion show, which emphasized the use of nutria fur in various designs. It's a movement started by another costumer, Cree McCree, who seeks to promote eco-friendly fur, as the nutria is an invasive species to the Louisiana wetlands. Wheelock's design collaborator, Jeremy Young, modeled an intricate American Indian-inspired headdress along with arm- and leg-cuffs and

like to have fun."

Her influences include Diane von Furstenberg, Marc Jacobs and Betsey Johnson, designers who are "eccentric and quirky but still classic." But exuberance for Wheelock is key: "If you like ruffles," she muses, "how about get a million ruffles – not just one!" ■



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A woman with blonde hair and a pink top is looking at a large bouquet of flowers. The bouquet includes orange tulips, blue hydrangeas, yellow roses, and pink daisies. The woman is wearing a pink top and a blue earring. The background is white.

trendwatch

belles and whistles

The modern Southern belle is sophisticated, elegant and comfortable almost anywhere! Take a peek at some fresh new looks for spring.

Photography and styling by PÆIX

Photography assistant Nicole Carrole

Makeup, hair and text by Leah Rial

AS A DISPLACED Southerner, I enjoy talking about Southern women, their diversity and charm, their strength and unique character. Makeup is my world. I am a makeup artist living and working in Los Angeles, but I was thrilled to have an opportunity to come to New Orleans to do a story about Southern beauty. I am presenting my impression of the blend that represents both the sophistication and charm of the modern Southern belle. Because “*belle*” is French for “beautiful,” I chose a perfect brand to represent the treatment, refinement and the range of sumptuous color for this particular story: Christian Dior Cosmetics. With jewelry, clothing and Dior makeup from Saks Fifth Avenue and additional jewelry from Katy Beh and Mignon Faget, we were able to come up with some really beautiful looks. This story moves from bright, clean daytime casual to edgy, modern evening elegance. New Orleans embraces its own pace and style, and these looks are like spring, fresh and inviting.

FLIRTY AND FLORAL

Model Faith Brannon is wearing a jersey wrap tank by Alexander McQueen from Saks Fifth Avenue and 18-karat yellow gold emerald-cut London blue topaz earrings by Nancy Norton from Katy Beh. Faith is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: foundation in Diorskin Nude, blush in Peechy Keen, lipstick in Couture Pink, eye shadow in 5 Couleurs in Extase Pinks and mascara in Diorshow 360. The flowers are by Florist of Covington.



MAKE ME UP

Clockwise: Diorskin Nude Natural Glow Hydrating Makeup; Christian Dior lipsticks in, from left, Pink Bustier, Zinnia Red, Fantastic Plum, Devilish Pink and Pink Preview; Christian Dior L'or De Vie Skin Treatments in, from top, L'Extrait, La Crème Yeux and La Crème; and Dior Vernis nail lacquers in, from left, Graphic Berry, Pink Icing, Pink Kimono, Red Royalty, City of Gold and Massai Red.



**KISS, KISS,
BANGLE, BANGLE**

Faith is wearing a ruched cotton stretch tank by La Via 18 from Saks Fifth Avenue and a 31.5-inch sterling-silver Marquis double-sided necklace with lemon quartz and smoky quartz, two sterling-silver Pylon three-stud bangles and the sterling-silver Pylon Tile Chain necklace used as a bracelet, all from Mignon Faget. Faith is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: foundation in Diorskin Nude, blush in Rose Brazilia, lipstick in Designer Coral, eye shadow in 5 Couleurs in Gris-Gris and mascara in Diorshow 360. The painting in the background is *ColR (Black Birds Exit with Vibrating Strings)* by John Patrick Salisbury.



WORKIN' 9 TO 5 (FACING PAGE)

Clockwise: Model Darla Braquet is wearing a circular drape sweater tank by Vince, a crystal rope necklace by Oscar de la Renta and a 48-inch 10-millimeter black pearl necklace by Majorica, all from Saks Fifth Avenue; 18-karat white gold Rectangle Hoops earrings by Carla Caruso from Katy Beh; and a sterling-silver Thorn bracelet from Mignon Faget's Armament & Exotica Collection. Darla is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: foundation in Diorskin Nude; blush in Rose Brazilia; lipstick in Zinnia Red; eye shadow in 1 Couleur in Argentie, Golden Spotlight and Flash Black; and mascara in Diorshow 360. Faith, holding a bottle of Diorissimo Eau de Toilette spray, is wearing a silk tank by Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti from Saks Fifth Avenue and 14-karat gold faceted citrine earrings with two satin rings by Jamie Joseph from Katy Beh. Faith is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: Nude Natural Glow Hydrating Makeup, Skinflash Primer, blush in A Touch of Blush, lipstick in Sensation Coral, lip gloss in Pink Silk, eye shadow in 5 Couleurs in Earth Reflection and mascara in Diorshow 360. Darla is wearing a trench coat by BCBG Max Azria and gold link necklaces by Kenneth Jay Lane, all from Saks Fifth Avenue, and a satin headband with feathers by Jennifer Ouellette, available online. Darla is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: foundation in Diorskin Nude, blush in Peechy Keen, lipstick in Designer Coral, eye shadow in 5 Couleurs in Gris-Gris and eyeliner in Trinidad Black. Faith is wearing a silk button-down pleated shirt by Elizabeth and James from Saks Fifth Avenue and a 14-karat yellow gold Cypress Forged Circle pendant with a diamond accent by Shaesby and 18-karat yellow gold Open Leaf Wire with Diamonds earrings by Barbara Heinrich, both from Katy Beh. Faith is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: Diorskin Nude Natural Glow sculpting powder in The Passion, blush in Peechy Keen, lipstick in Diorama, eye shadow in 5 Couleurs in Earth Reflection and eyeliner in Precious Violet.

INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN

Darla is wearing a silk tank with a ruffle detail by Marc by Marc Jacobs from Saks Fifth Avenue and bracelets and a ring by Alexis Bittar, available online. Darla is wearing all Christian Dior cosmetics: foundation in Diorskin Nude Rosy Beige, blush in Rosebud, lip gloss in Radiance Expert and mascara in Diorshow 360.



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Great White Way (p32)
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PRC Renaissance Awards (p66)

great white way

Lighter shades of pale take center stage in Kimberly and Clint Szubinski's happy family home.

BY LEE CUTRONE PHOTOGRAPHED BY SARA ESSEX



The Szubinskis remodeled the 1920s Spanish Revival home to have an open floor plan. The corner cabinet in the den at the right houses a collection of shelter magazines that Kimberly has accrued over the years and regularly uses for inspiration.



“I

love a house with character,” says Kimberly Szubinski, a lively blonde with a 1,000-watt smile and natural Southern-born hospitality. She is moving about her lovely, sunlit kitchen making coffee as she discusses life in the renovation fast lane. “It doesn’t matter what architectural style – just the more dilapidated, the better,” she pronounces enthusiastically. Her current home, a study in the timeless perfection of cottage white, doesn’t look at all dilapidated. But when she and her husband, Clint, a lawyer-turned-real estate developer, bought it in 2008, a palm tree had fallen on it; the slate roof had caved in; and it was infested with termites, covered with mold and inhabited by a family of raccoons.

While others might have found the project daunting, the Szubinskis recognized the charm and potential of the house’s 1920s Spanish Revival architecture right away. Kimberly recalls spying what she thought was a courtyard beneath layers of overgrown vines and mounds of debris, noticing original gas lanterns and detecting arched openings beneath French doors that had been squared off. The couple wasted no time digging in with the same talent and tenacity that had already seen them through 14 other renovations. With more than 3,600 square feet, including a basement level; a footprint that allows for both open and private areas; and a good-size yard, it provided ample space for their four children and an endless array of possibilities. “It’s hard to find a house with all those angles and roof pitches,” explains Kimberly. “New construction like that would be very expensive to build.”

Friends of the Szubinskis liken them to the fashionable Manhattan husband and wife featured in the Bravo reality television series *9 By Design*. Both couples have houses full of children, a love of family life and a nonstop passion for real estate development and design. While Clint works as an executive for Meritage Homes, a national home-building company based in Phoenix, Kimberly’s company, aptly named k.home, renovates residential and commercial properties at the local level. Katrina solidified her commitment to preserving and restoring the architectural beauty of the family’s native New Orleans, a task of which she never tires. “Even with several projects going on at the

FACING PAGE, TOP LEFT: A well-edited mix of inherited, found and purchased objects is displayed in a nook of kitchen shelves. The clock is from Little Miss Muffin. FACING PAGE, TOP RIGHT: Mercury glass vessels and metal books adorn the mantel, which was stripped down and layered with thick white concrete. FACING PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: A reproduction chair purchased online from Shabby Chic is paired with a small round table with a distressed finish. FACING PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT: On one side of the room at the front of the house, Kimberly placed a slipcovered *récamier* that she found.





same time, I'm always ready for the next thing," says Kimberly, who also gives due credit to her business partner, Donna Wolff, and to Iberia Bank, both of whom share her commitment to rebuilding the city.

Staying true to a house's individual architectural integrity is key to Kimberly's knack for renovating, but so is her skill for bringing a fresh, modern sensibility to each of the houses she tackles. The secret to both is in the details. Having developed a trusted stable of tradesmen and a hands-on approach that keeps her involved in everything from the nuts and bolts of the space-planning and framing processes to the finishing touches of the décor, she treats every house as if it were her own. It's a method that has served her well. Buyers appreciate the quality of her designs, the natural light that fills them and the all-white backdrops that are her trademark. "The white creates a blank canvas, and it makes things pop," she says. "The majority of people can picture their own style against a blank canvas."

The look Kimberly herself prefers against the clean backdrop is a perfect amalgamation of white-on-white: whitewashed floors; bleachable slipcovers; and pale, painted surfaces – all mixed with handpicked touches such as antique cypress doors and light-reflecting objects such as crystal doorknobs, chandeliers and mercury glass. Soft accents of color are incorporated with pillows, paintings, stacks of books and vintage china, some of it found serendipitously in houses that she has renovated; vibrant splashes of color are usually reserved for displays of fresh flowers, one of the few household indulgences with a less-than-lengthy life span. Green design, in fact, is an important component in each of the homes that are Home Energy Rating System, or HERS, rated and feature Icynene spray foam insulation; low-flow plumbing fixtures; energy-efficient HVACs, windows and appliances; tankless gas water heaters; and low VOC paint. Kimberly always uses as much of the frame and foundation structure as possible; purchases lighting, trim materials and hardware from local salvage shops; and frequently refurbishes curbside finds. Her attic is filled with mirrors, medicine cabinets and old doors torn out from previous renovations. The rusty *démilune* cabinet that serves as a sideboard on her patio was once a bathroom vanity, and the mirror in the entryway of her bedroom was found along the road in Palm Beach, Fla.



TOP: Kimberly and Clint Szubinski have four children: Kyla, 13; Tate, 5; Liam, 3; and Aiden, 1. LEFT: Kimberly purchased the antique dining table from Past Restored in Covington and paired it with chairs from Shabby Chic. She found the mirror and painted it. FACING PAGE: Clint's grandfather made the chairs to go with the kitchen table.





The heart of the Szubinski home is the roomy, centrally located kitchen, where the family gathers for meals and the kids do their homework, and the adjacent brick courtyard, which has a French country feel that's very much in sync with Kimberly's appreciation for the work of architect A. Hays Town. "The whole house kind of revolves around the patio, especially with the kitchen overlooking it," she says. But no part of the split-level house is off-limits to the couple's active brood. Kimberly covers the upholstered furnishings with inexpensive, washable slipcovers – Shabby Chic designer Rachel Ashwell is a favorite source of inspiration – and cherishes the memories and stories that daily wear and tear impart to her surroundings. "Scratches, stains and dents add character," she says, pointing out a cockeyed bit of crystal on a chandelier knocked about earlier in the day by an indoor game of soccer. "They show that a house is well-lived-in. With every gathering, every holiday, every birthday party, a home develops a pretty patina over time. You can update and restore a house, but a quality renovation is always a little eclectic and off." ■

TOP: When the Szubinskis bought their home, it was full of raccoons and termites and the roof was caved in. Veteran renovators, they saw its potential. LEFT: "I have fresh flowers in my house on a weekly basis," Kimberly says. "I love how hot pink balances against the grays and white." FACING PAGE: The all-white color scheme begins at the front of the house where the fireplace is complemented with painted French chairs and a pendant fixture from Eclectic Home.







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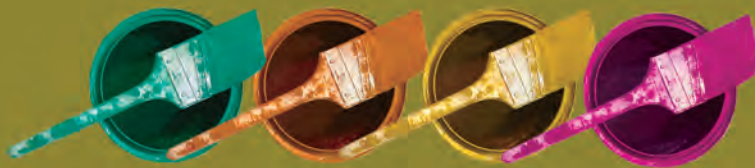
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Welcome to the 2011 Junior League of New Orleans Kitchen Tour.

This year the Kitchen Tour will be Saturday, April 16, 2011, and highlights 14 newly renovated kitchens in Old Metairie as well as the Garden District. Merisa Pasternak, Kristen Ponthier and Amy Rosato, the Kitchen Tour chairs, and Melissa Beough, vice chair, have been blessed with community support and an abundance of kitchen nominations. The kitchens featured on the tour are truly creative and unique.

The Kitchen Tour will kick off with a patron party on April 14 sponsored by Peoples Health and hosted by Latrobe's on Royal. Stephanie Boh and Skye Fantaci, Kick-Off Party chairs, and Jennifer Hawney, vice chair, have planned a fantastic evening in the heart of the French Quarter, with auction tables, delicious food and musical highlights. The evening will include food demonstrations and the cuisine of chef Nathaniel Zimet of Boucherie.

The Junior League Kitchen Tour is made possible by the more than 2,000 members of the Junior League who have been serving the New Orleans community for 86 years. Partnering with Ochsner, Capital One and the community, the Junior League has been fortunate to offer more than 50,000 hours of community service annually. The proceeds from the Kitchen Tour make these volunteer experiences a reality.

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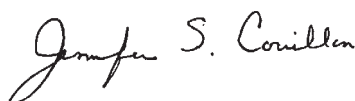


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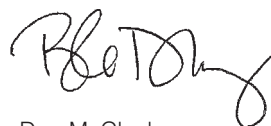
Wright, Stacey Lousteau, Connie Shannon, Charlotte Benton, Chris Zazulak and Mandi Frischhertz – we are honored to invite you to join us to celebrate and tour the city's most beautiful kitchens. We would also like to thank *New Orleans Homes & Lifestyles* for its partnership and for featuring the 2011 Junior League of New Orleans Kitchen Tour. We hope you will join us April 14 for the Kick-Off Party and again April 16 for this exquisite tour of the most innovative kitchen designs in New Orleans.

Please join us in raising a glass and toasting the New Orleans homeowners whose kitchens we feature this year. Congratulations to all!

With best regards,



Jennifer Couvillon
President, JLNO



Dee McCloskey
President-Elect, JLNO



Kitchen Tour chairs: Amy Rosato, Merisa Pasternak and Kristen Ponthier; *Kitchen Tour vice chair:* Melissa Beaugh

Kitchen Tour Co-Chairs: Merisa Pasternak, Kristen Ponthier, Amy Rosato. **Vice Chair:** Melissa Beaugh **Kitchen Tour Committee:** Lynn Aline, Amelia Arthur, Jennifer Banquer, Lauren Boyce, Shannon Briand, Amanda Brown, Kristen Cahoon, Shayna Connell, Rhonda Cook, Maribeth del Castillo, Meredith Duke, Lila Fox Ermel, Elise Guidry, Denyse Haddock, Emily Hammett, Sarah Hillery, Meghan Hoffmann, Sissy Judy, Deborah McLanahan, Ashleigh Pizzaloto, Brittany Stumpf, Lori Strosnider, Jennifer Young



Front Row: Amy Rosato, Kristen Ponthier, Merisa Pasternak, Skye Fantaci, and Stephanie Boh; *Second Row:* Rhonda Cook, Lauren Boyce, Callie Trahan, Jennifer Hawney; *Third Row:* Debbie McLanahan, Denyse Haddock, Melissa Beaugh, and Nicole Scontrino; *Back Row:* Jeanne deLaurel, Emily Hammett, Sissy Judy, Lila Fox Ermel, Therese Tournillon

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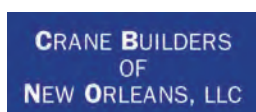
Junior League of New Orleans KITCHEN TOUR

Saturday, April 16, 2011
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Junior League of New Orleans Sixth Annual Kitchen Tour is a self-guided tour of 14 beautifully appointed kitchens in the Garden District and Old Metairie neighborhoods.

The JLNO Kitchen Tour supports community efforts to help rebuilding in New Orleans, improve children's well-being and education and encourage healthy families. Revenues generated from the Kitchen Tour and the Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party are invested in the JLNO's volunteer-supported community projects, which include Lafayette Academy Charter School, Samuel J. Green Charter School's Edible Schoolyard, Freret Neighborhood Outreach, Power Ties, PRC's Rebuilding Together, the Safe Sitter course, Second Harvest's Lagniappe Backpack Program, Kids in the Kitchen and Big Brothers Big Sisters. The funds also support the JLNO Community Assistance Fund, JLNO Senior League and the JLNO Get on Board Nonprofit Board Training. More than 1,000 people attended the JLNO Kitchen Tour in 2010.

JLNO wishes to thank its Kitchen Tour sponsors:



TICKETS:

Individual Kitchen Tour tickets

- \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door

Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party tickets

- \$100 in advance/ \$150 pair

Starting to Simmer!

\$200

- 2 Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party tickets
- 4 Kitchen Tour tickets

A Rolling Boil!

\$400

- 4 Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party tickets
- 8 Kitchen Tour tickets

Now You're Cookin'!

\$650

- 8 Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party tickets
- 8 Kitchen Tour tickets

Tour in Style!

\$800

- Tour the kitchens in style with eight of your friends in a chauffeured limousine! Package includes eight Kitchen Tour tickets, lunch, wine and more!

To purchase tickets:

- Go online to www.jlno.org/kitchentour
- Call 891-5845
- Purchase at each home on the day of the tour

As with any charitable donation, please consult your tax adviser for tax advice and the deductibility of the enclosed ticket packages. According to Internal Revenue Service guidelines, only contributions over the value of dining are tax-deductible. For all Toast of the Tour Kick-Off Party categories, the estimated nondeductible value of dining is \$50 per ticket. In the event of any cancellations, please consider your ticket purchase as a donation. No refunds will be given.

Please contact Junior League of New Orleans with any comments, questions or concerns about this section at 891-5845 or go online to www.jlno.org.

KITCHEN TOUR KICK-OFF PARTY

Sponsored by Peoples Health

- Thursday, April 14, 2011, at 7 p.m.
- *Latrobe's on Royal*
- This year's party will feature the cuisine of chef Nathaniel Zimet of Boucherie, live food demonstrations, specialty cocktails, live music and an exciting live/silent auction.
- You won't want to miss this exciting event.

Special thanks are given to all our sponsors:

*Water and Sewer Products; Magnolia Fleet, LLC;
Murphy, Rogers, Sloss & Gambel;
and Crosby Inspection Service*



CHERYL GERBER PHOTOGRAPH

*Kick-Off Party chairs: Skye Fantaci and Stephanie Boh
Kick-Off Party vice chair: Jennifer Hawney*

Kick-Off Party Co-Chairs: Stephanie Boh, Skye Fantaci
Vice Chair: Jennifer Hawney
Honorary Chairs: Patricia Denechaud, Jan Hayden
Kick-Off Party Committee: Jeanne deLaurel, Rebecca Harris, Heather Johnson, Shauna Johnson, Rachel Koenig, Carolyn Lanaux, Katherine Miles, Tricia Newton, Elizabeth Phillips, Nicole Scontrino, Kristen Stewart, Therese Tournillon, Callie Trahan, Chappell Williams

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CONTEMPORARY BRONZE COLLECTION

glenn and elizabeth hayes

111 Friedrichs Ave.

JNO
KITCHEN TOUR



Glenn and Elizabeth Hayes moved into their Old Metairie home in April 2009, and in eight months, they created a lavish kitchen at 550 square feet. Frances Schnare of Interiors by Frances in Georgia was the interior decorator. Artist Simonette Berry glazed the cabinets with a Benjamin Moore gray faux finish. The walls complement the earthy tones in the granite from The Stone Gallery. The Orchid Noce Listello backsplash trim from Rickert Tile adorns the Arctic Blend Rhomba Cushion Peruvian travertine backsplash from The Stone Gallery. The Hayes' pups relax on Pietra Sacra tile flooring in Arx from Rickert Tile. The rooster light by designer Tracy Porter from Lighting Inc. adds a welcoming touch to the Hayes' beautiful kitchen.



David and Greer Montealeone designed their 700-square-foot rustic kitchen, part of an Old Metairie home renovation after Hurricane Katrina, by themselves. The blue cabinets were made by Lagarde's: Kitchens by Jimmy Lagarde and are enhanced by the cream-colored paint from Sherwin-Williams. The custom tile backsplash suits the natural hues of the room, and French terra-cotta floors bring the dining room and kitchen together with a provincial look. The coffers, made of antique wood from Canada, create a warm harmony with the old brick fireplace. The antique chandelier – a great find by Greer – tops the room off. David thinks the room is cozy and welcoming. "It's where everybody hangs out," he says.

robert and alane nuzum
250 Vincent Ave.

3

JINO
KITCHEN TOUR



Robert and Alane Nuzum remodeled their lovely kitchen last year, with Alane doing all of the interior decorating. David Ruthem served as contractor for the kitchen and, with the help of Ronnie Scallan, installed the maple cabinetry from Lagarde's: Kitchens by Jimmy Lagarde. The cabinets are painted aquamarine with an antique wash; seeded glass in the upper cabinets gives the kitchen an immaculate look. The Kashmir white granite countertops with beveled edges from The Stone Gallery (installed by Infinity Marble & Granite) set a pleasant contrast to the mahogany plank island countertop from Lagarde's. The diagonal Salus Fiuggi floor tiles are from The Stone Gallery. The walls are painted Helm Paint Crystalline with a Helm Paint Wind Chime trim. The Argosy chandelier from Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights adds brightness to the room's natural lighting. The Oyster Bay marble backsplash has a basket-weave design, which unites the Nuzums' exquisite kitchen.



When they relocated from Houston in 2008, Scott and Jennifer Cheatham built a home with a beautiful transitional-style kitchen in Old Metairie. Interior decorator Jennifer of Jennifer Cheatham Designs worked with her mother-in-law, contractor Leslie Cheatham with LHC Builders, to create this elegant kitchen that blends traditional with contemporary. The maple cabinets are all custom-made by Houston-based E & H Originals in Wood and painted Benjamin Moore Bone White. The French château-inspired range hood is painted Benjamin Moore French Canvas with an antique wash finish. Diniz Design of Baton Rouge added sleek touches to the kitchen with an Absolute Black granite island and Carrara marble countertops. The lights above the island, originally from an old church, are more than 50 years old. The breakfast room light from Pine Grove Electrical Supply, which was installed by Louis Blanco with Blanco Electric, offers a French look and ties the two rooms together.

clifton and elizabeth leblanc
207 E. Livingston Place

5

JNO
KITCHEN TOUR



At 450 square feet, Clifton and Elizabeth LeBlanc's welcoming kitchen in Old Metairie makes for a great hangout. Terry Landrem of Landrem Construction was the contractor, while Paula Landrem chose the appliances and helped with the layout. The neutral kitchen shade, by Denise Pierce with Chrestia Staub Pierce, complements the cabinets by Top's Appliances & Cabinetry of Lafayette. The granite countertops are from Schiro Del Bianco in Metairie, and the flooring is Italian tile from Mediterranean Marble and Tile. Can lights by Lightolier were installed by Chris Ray Electrical Services to add brightness to an already-beaming room. The stucco hood vent, paired with the Benjamin Moore Sparkling Wine walls, completes this classic kitchen.



Bert and Me'me' Wilson began remodeling their kitchen in January 2009; the chic room was finished by May with the help of contractor Bubba Pharis of G.S. Pharis Inc. Interior decorating was done by Lisa Pharis Design LLC. The 600-square-foot kitchen contains flat-door cabinets from Classic Cupboards installed by G.S. Pharis Inc. The cabinets are painted Maple with a Chocolate glaze and have alternating inserts of glass and antique wire mesh. They blend well with the island, painted Maple with a Glacier glaze. Hidden spice racks are located on both sides of the stove, and the island holds two hidden chopping boards. Intrepid Stone provided and installed the silver travertine countertops, while Classic Cupboards supplied the dark teak island countertop. The classic ivory travertine flooring and the horizontal stone backsplash tile by Rockart Mosaics are from Perque. Copper gas lanterns with German glass by Legendary Lighting give the kitchen a bit of an antique feel.

dr. troy scroggins jr. and patrick miller

1330 Toledano St.

Sponsored by Source.

JNO
KITCHEN TOUR



Dr. Troy Scroggins Jr. and Patrick Miller began their Garden District home renovation in August 2009, and by May 2010, their divine kitchen was complete. Angelo LaMartina served as the contractor for the kitchen, installing all cabinets and appliances, while Scroggins did the overall design and interior decorating. The Brookhaven cabinets by Wood-Mode from Cabinets by Design are painted Opaque with a Charcoal glaze. Randy Duvenae of Signature

Stone Services made and installed the Calacatta Gold marble countertops from The Stone Gallery. The hardwood floors are original to the home and were stained and refinished by Elite Hardwood Floors Inc. The tile is from Stafford Tile & Stone, installed by G & A Tile Inc. All appliances are from Ferguson Enterprises Inc., many of them manufactured by Wolf. The brick double-oven base unit matches the table and hardwood, warming up the entire kitchen.



Wendell and Katie LeGardeur underwent a total home renovation in 2007, during which half of the first floor was completely gutted and second and third floors were added. The whole project took 10 months, resulting in a charming 468-square-foot kitchen that opens to the family room. AYSI General Contractors worked on the kitchen, and Curtis Herring did the interior design. Alternative Custom Cabinets & Millwork provided and installed the cabinetry. The LeGardeurs' refrigerator is by Sub-Zero, and the stove is by Viking. Kevin Boudreaux installed the Caribbean pine flooring with a Minwax Dark Walnut finish. The marble countertops from Capital Stone in Baton Rouge fit well with the chandelier and ceiling, tying the room together.


bill metcalf and cindy chassaniol

1228 Pleasant St.

Sponsored by Stafford Tile & Stone

9

JNO
KITCHEN TOUR



Bill Metcalf and Cindy Chassaniol created a contemporary white kitchen when they renovated their home in 2009. Alex Tefel of ATH Painter Contractors Inc. served as the kitchen's contractor, and Shawn O'Brien of Shawn O'Brien Interiors did the interior decorating. Cabinets by Design provided the white Brookhaven cabinets, installed by Becky Richard. The quartz and Corian countertops by Marques Countertops complement the pickled, bleached white flooring installed by ATH. The main lighting is by CX Design of New York and Jonathan Browning Studios of San Francisco, and there is also LED under-cabinet lighting. All appliances are from Cabinets by Design. The shattered glass backsplash from Stafford Tile & Stone tops off the immaculate modern look.



Living downstairs from her daughter and son-in-law, Anne and Bill Grace (see facing page), Anne Montgomery made a sleek modern kitchen after a fire caused by a lightning strike ruined her older one. The white Dynasty by Omega plain-door maple cabinets, stacked from the floor to the ceiling for additional storage space, have under-cabinet lighting. The DCS six-burner gas range allows for multi-tasking, as do the KitchenAid double oven and double dishwasher. The kitchen features a double bowl artisan sink with a Hamat faucet. Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs and Crane Builders worked together on the Montgomery's stylish renovation. The annual Rex toast takes place at this Garden District house.

bill and anne grace

1601 Third St.

Sponsored by Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs and Crane Builders

JNO
KITCHEN TOUR



Bill and Anne Grace remodeled the kitchen of their home after the lightning strike destroyed it in 2007. Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs led the kitchen design, and Crane Builders was the contractor. The Dynasty by Omega slab-door cabinets are painted an antique white on maple, which gives them a slightly pickled look – the wood is visible below the stain. Their commercial-grade stove and range hood were salvaged from the fire and reused. Both sinks, one oversize Elkay sink and one on the island, have Hamat stainless steel faucets. Sub-Zero made the drawers on the island, the refrigerator and the freezer, and their two dishwashers and microwave are by KitchenAid. The Graces' rope lighting and under-cabinet lighting are ideal for meticulous cooks.



Eleven years ago, Herschel and Anne Abbott threw a party, during which their inadequately built deck fell. The Abbotts then decided it was time for a renovation. They once had a small dining room and small kitchen; a half-year later the two merged into one long, beautiful room. Jerry Johnson of Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs designed the kitchen and configured its appliances, and Crane Builders was the contractor. Green granite countertops are hard to find, but the Abbotts made several trips to The Stone Gallery in Harahan until they came upon the Verde Costa Esmeralda. The cabinets, made-to-order by Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs, are a natural sinker cypress with a square raised panel. The recessed lighting opens up the kitchen and blends well with the Benjamin Moore Soft Fern paint, both done by Crane Builders. The Abbotts now can have a party in their peaceful kitchen without any worries!


nick mayor and jessica bride

1741 Coliseum St.

Sponsored by Nordic Kitchens and Baths

13

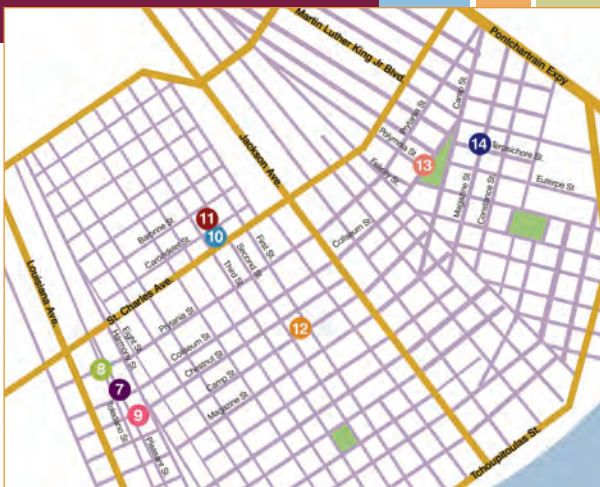
JLNO
KITCHEN TOUR



Nick Mayor and Jessica Bride completely gutted their Garden District home but were careful to save original architectural features, earning them a Renaissance Award from the Preservation Resource Center and *New Orleans Homes & Lifestyles*. After two years, their vision of a modern loft-like kitchen came to life at a grand 600 square feet. Bride, a graduate of New York's French Culinary Institute, works for the corporate side of restaurants, so the kitchen was a vital part of the home renovation. Randall Shaw of Nordic Kitchens and Baths Inc. and Bruce McNally of BKLN Design Studio in Brooklyn did the interior decorating. The CaesarStone Blizzard countertops combined with the "Glass" Venetian Plaster wall finish – a custom color created and applied by McNally – brightens up the room. Rounding out the modern look is the Cellula Chandelier from Design Within Reach on Magazine Street. The layout was perfect for Bride and Mayor because, they say, it allows kids to run around without fear of hitting an open oven door – contemporary is kid-friendly in this home.



Michael DeGeorge and Deborah Hinson picked the wrong time to move into their Garden District home – July 2005. A month later Hurricane Katrina tore their roof apart, resulting in a 22-month renovation, but their pristine new kitchen was worth the trouble. Local architect Kirk Fabacher of Terrell-Fabacher Architects designed the kitchen layout and cabinets, while Leah Christensen of Soren Christensen assisted with the color palette. Hinson and DeGeorge selected all of the other design elements. The poplar wood custom-made cabinets are Donald Kaufman Color 10, while the walls are painted Donald Kaufman Color 11. The Carrara marble countertops with a double-laminated bullnose edge match the Carrara subway tile backsplash from Chicago. The flooring is cross-cut travertine. A structural beam runs through the kitchen, so Hinson and DeGeorge added a second one for consistency and wrapped both in crown molding.



1 Glenn and Elizabeth Hayes
111 Friedrichs Ave.

2 David and Greer Monteleone
21 Nassau Drive

3 Robert and Alane Nuzum
250 Vincent Ave.

4 Scott and Jennifer Cheatham
225 Rosewood Drive

5 Clifton and Elizabeth LeBlanc
207 E. Livingston Place

6 Bert and Me'me' Wilson
357 Brockenbrough Court

7 Dr. Troy Scroggins Jr. and Patrick Miller
1330 Toledano St.

8 Wendell and Katie LeGardeur
1434 Toledano St.

9 Bill Metcalf and Cindy Chassaniol
1228 Pleasant St.

10 Anne Montgomery
2525 St. Charles Ave.

11 Bill and Anne Grace
1601 Third St.

12 Herschel and Anne Abbott
2432 Camp St.

13 Nick Mayor and Jessica Bride
1741 Coliseum St.

14 Michael DeGeorge and Deborah Hinson
1402 Magazine St.

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Patron Party
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Music by New Orleans Banjos + 2
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Music by Bobby J. and Stuff Like That
Cocktails and cuisine by the best restaurants in New Orleans

Tickets start at \$125.
For tickets or more information, call 504.581.7032 or visit www.prcno.org.

Through its educational and charitable works, the JLNO enriches the lives of so many in our area.

About the Junior League of New Orleans

- An 86-year-old organization with more than 2,200 women members
- The average age of its members is 36.
- Of an active and provisional membership of 721, 95 percent are college-educated and approximately 80 percent work full- or part-time
- JLNO is part of a network of 292 Junior Leagues comprising the Association of Junior Leagues International, with a total membership of more than 193,000 women. JLNO is the 10th largest of these leagues.
- Membership is open to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.
- With a primary focus area of children's education, JLNO provides volunteers and

financial support for its projects and activities. The JLNO has more than \$500,000 committed to its community programs annually. League members volunteer more than 50,000 hours of their time annually.

- Through a formalized training program and through their volunteer work, league members are trained for responsible community leadership and are empowered through the confidence gained in achieving league goals in a safe and supportive environment.
- For 86 years, JLNO has maintained a steadfast commitment of service to the Greater New Orleans community.
- In conjunction with its 75th anniversary, JLNO awarded \$75,000 to the Medical Center of Louisiana (Charity) to establish a Parents' Resource Center.
- JLNO was instrumental in the creation of numerous New Orleans organizations, including The Parenting Center at

Children's Hospital; the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans; the Louisiana Nature and Science Center; and, most recently, New Orleans Teen Court.

- JLNO has been involved in more than 100 different community projects, contributed more than \$5 million to our community and donated more than 2 million hours of volunteer time.

Our Vision Statement

The Junior League of New Orleans will improve children's education within the Greater New Orleans community through the dedicated action of trained volunteers.

Our Mission Statement

The Junior League of New Orleans is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

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Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Our Focus Areas

Focus areas for the Junior League of New Orleans include rebuilding New Orleans, children's well-being and education and healthy families.

History

More than 86 years ago, 10 New Orleans women dedicated to creating a women's group to work for community improvement met at the residence of Mrs. Hilliard E. Miller (later Mrs. George Francis Wright) to discuss the organization of a Junior League. In addition to Mrs. Miller, they were Mrs. W. E. Penick, Mrs. Charles Monroe, Mrs. George S. Clarke, Mrs. Charles B. Thorn, Mrs. Charles Seyburn Williams, Mrs. Donald Maginnis, Miss Josephine Witherspoon (later Mrs. John Rogers), Mrs. James Anderson and Miss Elise Mason-Smith

(later Mrs. Henri Howard).

In accordance with the requirements at that time for securing membership in the Association of Junior Leagues of America, this group was proposed by the Nashville League and seconded by the Atlanta League. On March 31, 1924, the New Orleans group was admitted to membership in the Association of Junior Leagues of America.

The Junior League of New Orleans was organized as an official body with a membership of 40.

Activities of the Junior League of New Orleans, from its founding to the present, include projects in the fields of health, welfare, education and recreation. They are funded by JLNO money-raising activities such as Bloomin' DEALs Thrift Shop, sales of the JLNO's award-winning cookbooks, Shopping Card and the Kitchen Tour.

Some of the JLNO's best-known projects, many of which have grown into

independent entities, include The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital, the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and Teen Court. Over its more than 85 years of service, the JLNO has created or supported programs at the Audubon Zoo, New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana Children's Museum, Charity Hospital, Children's Art Council, Kingsley House and various patriotic activities related to World War II. Current community activities are focused on Lafayette Academy Charter School, Samuel J. Green Charter School's Edible Schoolyard, Freret Neighborhood Outreach, Power Ties, PRC's Rebuilding Together, the Safe Sitter course, Second Harvest's Lagniappe Backpack Program, Kids in the Kitchen and Big Brothers Big Sisters. The funds also support the JLNO Community Assistance Fund, JLNO Senior League and the JLNO *Get on Board* Nonprofit Board Training. ■



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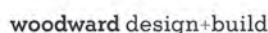
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march
25&26



New Orleans is a city full of hidden gems. From the food to the people to the landscape, every turn could lead to a beautiful new experience. The mission of The Secret Gardens Tour is to uncover the gems hidden throughout the private gardens of Uptown New Orleans. The tour also has another mission: to raise awareness and funds for brain injury recovery. All proceeds from The Secret Gardens Tour go to produce *The Greater New Orleans Resource Guide to Brain Injury Recovery* and provide support for local brain injury recovery programs such as the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana.

Traumatic brain injury affects nearly 1.5 million people every year. The recovery can be long, difficult and costly; the average lifetime costs for rehabilitation and treatment

range from \$600,000 to \$1.8 million, and the total cost for the U.S. is around \$60 billion a year. These numbers, however, can change. The Secret Gardens Tour is working to inform and educate the public about the ways in which brain injury occurs, how to prevent brain injury and what resources are available for recovery from brain injury. This year's Secret Gardens Tour and fundraiser will be Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. The tour will feature nine beautiful private gardens and the Arc garden. Their designs range from simple, tasteful minimalism to lush, ornate opulence. Visit www.secretgardentour.org to purchase tickets to this year's event – donors can choose from private guided tours on Friday led by landscape and design experts or self-guided tours on Saturday.

tour & ticket information

Private Guided Tours

Friday, March 25, 2011
1 p.m. to 11 p.m. every half hour
\$60 per person

- ◆ Exclusive previews of gardens with designers on Friday and then free on Saturday!
- ◆ Contact Marianne Mumford to schedule your tour at 734-8380 or marianne@landscapeimagesltd.com.

Self-Guided Tours

Saturday, March 26, 2011
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$25 per person in advance/\$30 at the door

- ◆ Gardens open to the public; go at your own pace and as often as you like!
- ◆ A wide variety of private gardens open for the first time in Uptown New Orleans on St. Charles Avenue and Arabella, Joseph, Hurst and Octavia streets

Tickets

Discounts are available for the following: advance purchase online or by check by March 23 for self-guided tours on Saturday, March 26 and in advance for both tour days for groups of 10 or more. The tour begins at 5631 St. Charles Ave.

- ◆ Online: www.secretgardenstour.org
- ◆ Call: 838-3098
- ◆ Send checks to:
SGT Tickets, 5500 Prytania St., #640,
New Orleans, LA 70115

featured gardens

1456 Arabella St.

From the street, a layered palette of blooming shrubs anchors the house to its surroundings and provides a sequence of blooms throughout the seasons.

1505 Arabella St.

From the patterned carpets of dwarf monkey grass to the intricate flagstone and brick ground plane, these outdoor rooms continuously surprise and delight visitors.

1624 Arabella St.

Enter the garden, and an elegant restraint is evident. Orderly and manicured, a simple plant palette of evergreen shrubs keeps the various outdoor rooms private and lush for year-round entertainment.

5509 Hurst St.

Symmetry has been meticulously executed in this garden. Originally designed in 1972 by prominent landscape architect Baby Hardie, this landscape still exhibits the original plant material.

5520 Hurst St.

Naturalistic and flowing, this garden is a collection of shared "pass-along" plants among the owner, friends and neighbors. These tried and true plants, placed at key locations, are allowed to carefully spread for easy maintenance.

1454 Joseph St.

Formal and yet full of textures and blooming shrubs, this carefully planned space is a series of outdoor rooms with carpets of dwarf monkey grass and evergreen walls of Japanese yew.

5531 St. Charles Ave.

Viewed from St. Charles Avenue, this formal tailored garden is rich with a Southern plant palette of camellias, azaleas, sasanquas and Japanese boxwood.

5603 St. Charles Ave.

This grand home is an arresting site on the Avenue. Formal gardens are purposely kept to the perimeter of the property to allow for views to flow in and out of this lovely estate.

5631 St. Charles Ave.

Beauty abounds in this magnificent garden that is surprisingly intimate and inviting – a delightful place to gather, relax, stay and play in the impressive pool overlooking the Avenue.

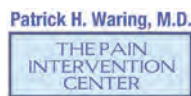
5700 Loyola (corner of Joseph & Loyola)

The Arc's Vintage Kitchen, Flower and Herb Gardens: Arc of Greater New Orleans provides services to more than 1,000 adults and children with developmental disabilities. On the large Uptown property, the gardens produce vegetables, flowers and herbs that are made into soups and other freshly made products for sale to the public, local restaurants and cafés.

committee

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Jim Barkate
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Anne Buescher
Cathy Burka
Catherine Chappuis
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THE THIRD ANNUAL renaissance awards

BY SARAH RAVITS PHOTOGRAPHED BY JEFFERY JOHNSTON

In the previous issue of *New Orleans Homes & Lifestyles*, we published the first installment of our third annual Renaissance Awards in collaboration with the Preservation Resource Center, honoring those who have added vitality and breathed new life into buildings while preserving their historic significance. The honorees were feted at a luncheon on Oct. 22, 2010, in the Grand Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton.

Each of these individuals has persevered in the face of

adversity and put great thought, effort and detail into their renovations. In a city that embraces the past and looks forward to a bright future, they are inspirations to all of us who have dealt with the trials and triumphs of restoring a damaged property and ultimately transformed it into something even better.

Sen. and Mrs. Joel Chaisson and Erika and Jude Olinger are presented in this final installment of the Renaissance Awards, and we applaud them for their tasteful reconstructions.

What was the reason for the renovation? Joel: New Orleans is full of so many wonderful old buildings that have tremendous potential to be restored to their original glory. I've witnessed the results of some magnificent renovations and have always had the desire to do one or more myself. After Katrina, I came upon these two great buildings for sale that over the years had become home to a sheet metal operation. The potential for transforming these buildings into something special was obvious, so I contacted my partner Jay Roberts, who immediately agreed to do it. So we bought the property and began a two-year journey to renovate and change the use of the buildings back to what they were originally intended to be.

What was your goal for the renovation when you started? Joel: Our goal was to incorporate modern features into these historic properties to make them functional and livable but to do it in such a way that respected the original architecture and history of the buildings. To do that, we hired local architectural historian Jimmy Blanchard, who has done a terrific job of seamlessly blending the old with the new to create an exceptional environment in which to live; entertain; and provide an exceptional venue for my daughter, Martine, to operate her wonderful new art gallery.

What challenges did you encounter during the renovation? Joel: To do this type of renovation right, it takes a lot of time and effort. The greatest challenge we faced was finding the patience not to rush the project and to realize that these types of projects take substantially longer to finish than new construction.

What is your favorite part of the renovation/your favorite feature or area? Joel: I love everything about the project, but my two favorite features are the large common courtyard, which sits above the parking garage and has a building-wide balcony with a view of St. Charles Avenue, and the huge ballroom in one of the units, which has been restored to its original grandeur and is now a great venue for parties and special events.



Sen. and Mrs. Joel
Chaisson
Camp Street





Jude and Erika
Olinger
Constance Street

What was the reason for the renovation?

Erika: It's funny how this worked out. We bought our house specifically because it did not need any renovation! But of course, the first thing that I noticed when we initially walked into the house was the annoyingly large fireplace in the middle of the front room that divided the front room of the shotgun. I thought, "If we buy this house, some day that fireplace is going to come out!" It took six months of living in the house before we started doing any work, and we thought that we would start with something as simple as adding recessed lighting and crown molding. Well, the joke was on us as we ended up with what we called the "might-as-well syndrome," a term that so appropriately defined how our renovation progressed.

What was your goal for the renovation when you started? Erika: The house had great bones, so the goal for our renovation was initially just to add lighting and give the house some larger walls to hang our art collection. As the owner of Cole Pratt Gallery, art is integral to the way my family lives. In order to light the house properly, we



ended up having to tear out the fireplace, which left us with a 4-foot hole in both the floor and the ceiling. Then in order to have the larger walls we were looking for, we closed in one set of pocket doors and opened up doorways in other walls to redirect the floor plan of the house in a way that made sense for us. That included expanding a master bathroom and an overall redo of what was a perfectly livable house in the first place.

What challenges did you encounter during the renovation? Erika: This is where the "might-as-well syndrome" came in. Since we started out without a concrete plan of what we were going to renovate, our project kept growing. We had no architect and only friends to use as a sounding board. We figured out that every previous owner of the house had done some renovation work

by the clues left behind – either in the walls or the change in the wood of the floors. We also figured out that our one-time double shotgun was once a four-plex! As we lived in the house while the work was being done, living amidst the chaos was the hardest part for us. There was not one room that we had not put our fingerprints on, so anyone that has lived through a renovation will probably tell you the same thing: We will never live in a house that we are renovating again!

What is your favorite part of the renovation/your favorite feature or area?

Erika: Other than it being complete, our favorite part of the renovation is coming home knowing that this is a house that we helped to design. It's very satisfying knowing that through all of the work involved in making the house what it is, it's truly ours. ■

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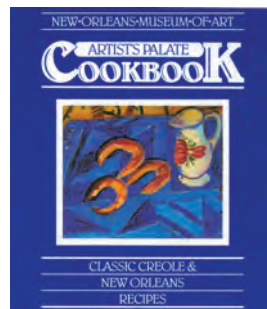
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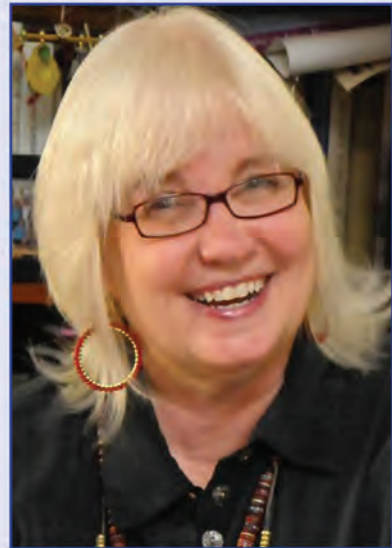
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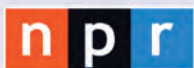
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Robert Anderson

built to last

By Peter Reichard

New Orleans is a city of old housing stock. Here are some tips to keep your house – and your family – healthy.

BY AMERICAN standards, the 75-year-old house I live in today is old.

The average age of owner-occupied homes in the U.S. is 32 years, according to the Census Bureau. The average American house was built in the heyday of Rod Stewart and Blondie and Jimmy Carter.

Mine was built in the heyday of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and Huey Long.

But by New Orleans standards, where one-third of the housing units were built before World War II, my house is a youngster. A Creole cottage I owned several years back was built nearly 100 years earlier, when people were playing Chopin on the parlor piano and voting for the Whig Party.

That old house is still rock-solid after 170 years, which makes me wonder: Will my current house, a century its junior, still be standing strong 100 years from now?

Robert Anderson is an engineer with 46 years of experience dealing with residential construction. He's known in his field as an expert on home foundation design. And he's a lifelong New Orleanian. Here's a man who ought to know how to make a home last.

As you might expect, Anderson believes a solid home starts with a good foundation. The challenges, he says, vary from place to place. On the south shore, for example, settlement is an issue, especially in low-lying areas closer to Lake Pontchartrain. This problem can be addressed by driving pilings prior to construction of a new home. On the Northshore, settlement issues relate to what is known as "highly plastic clay," particularly in the areas around Covington and Mandeville. Houses on the Northshore should be built on special slabs that can ride the waves as this special clay

expands and contracts, Anderson says.

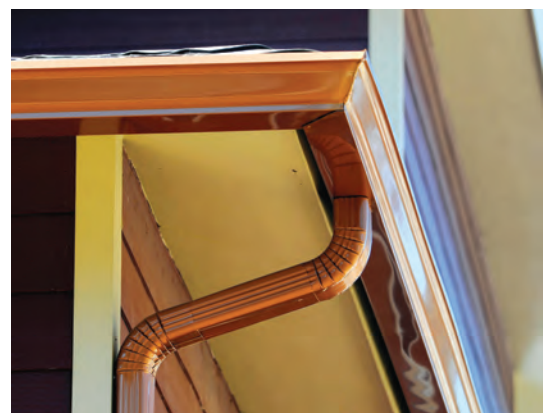
After preventing apocalyptic foundation problems, what can a homeowner do to keep a house healthy?

Rule No. 1, Anderson says, is to keep moisture away. Moisture invites the other three horsemen of the New Orleans residential apocalypse: rot, termites and mold.

So Anderson calls first for proper drainage around the house. The ground should slope away from the dwelling. If that's impossible, you should install French drains to capture the water flow. Up above, the roof needs gutters and downspouts, unless the eaves overhang the house by at least 18 inches. And you need to clean the gutters annually to ensure they're effective.

As New Orleanians rebuild, Anderson says, pier-supported houses are becoming more popular. But homeowners should ensure that the underside of the house has good ventilation. If it must be closed up for aesthetic reasons, Anderson suggests installing a power fan on a timer to circulate air underneath the house a few times a day. Otherwise, you'll be sealing in a destructively damp atmosphere.

One downside of pier-supported houses: cold floors during the winter. If you want to keep your tootsies toasty, you have to insulate the underside. Back in the days of the Whigs – or, for that matter, Fred Astaire or Rod Stewart – this was not an option. Standard insulation under the house acts like a sponge, trapping moisture. But very



CHERYL GERBER PHOTOGRAPHS



recent advances in technology offer a few options much less likely to cause moisture problems. If you want to insulate, Anderson says, splurge on closed-cell spray foam insulation. He also suggests putting Visqueen on the ground to block the dampness.

Anderson also recommends a yearly check of weather-stripping and caulking around windows. The seams around windows are vulnerable to aqua intrusion.

And go easy on the AC. Anderson says he often walks into homes he's inspecting, "and it feels like a refrigerator." Going overboard on air conditioning invites moisture problems, particularly on hardwood floors, commonly manifested in cupping of the floorboards. He suggests keeping the thermostat at 68 degrees in the winter and 72 in the summer to save money – and your floors.

Anderson emphasizes that moisture poses a risk not only to the health of your house but also of its inhabitants. He says health-conscious homeowners and those with respiratory issues should install a dehumidifier with a HEPA filter and a UV filter and keep it set at 45 percent. Mold, he says, cannot grow below 50 percent

relative humidity. He estimates it might cost about \$5,000 for a 2,500-square-foot house but argues that it will pay off in health benefits.

Along the same lines, Anderson recommends professional carpet cleaning once a year and changing the air filters on your HVAC system once a month. Fresh filters pick up more dust particles, pollen and mold spores. They also decrease energy consumption and make life easier on your blower system.

The climate being what it is, termites are likely to find a juicy morsel of wood somewhere in your house, even with protective measures. So another of Anderson's rules is to maintain your termite contract. "A lot of people could save a lot of grief if they did that," he says.

Beyond these measures, Anderson recommends putting together a regular to-do list with items such as oiling the garage door and annual pressure-washing to extend the life of your paint job.

With the right preventive measures, who knows? Maybe in the year 2111, somebody will be living in your house, wondering how it lasted so long. ■

resources

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ARTIST PROFILE, P. 14

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"GREAT WHITE WAY," P. 32

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"JUNIOR LEAGUE KITCHEN TOUR," P. 41

The Stone Gallery, 5600 Mounes St., Harahan, 733-5566, www.thestonegallery.com; Rickert Tile, 2412 N. Arnoult Road, Metairie, 841-3488, www.rickerttile.com; Lighting Inc., 8180 Earhart Blvd., Suites B-E, 486-5761, www.lightinginonline.com; Lagarde's: Kitchens by Jimmy Lagarde, 800 Metairie Road, Suite T, Metairie, 830-3440; Infinity Marble & Granite, 1915 Jeanfreau Drive, St. Bernard, 682-2007; Helm Paint, locations citywide, www.helmpaint.com; Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights, 521 Conti St. and 318 Royal St., 522-9485, www.bevolo.com; Jennifer Cheatham Designs, 952-7377, cheathamdesigns@gmail.com; LHC Builders



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LLC, 1912 Metairie Court, Metairie, 236-4689; Diniz Design, 11962 Lakeland Park Blvd., Baton Rouge, 225/755-0114, www.dinizdesign.com; Pine Grove Electrical Supply, 50 West Court, Mandeville, 985/893-4003, www.pine-grove-electric.com; Blanco Electric, 4725 Loveland St., Metairie, 885-5246; Chrestia Staub Pierce, 7219 Perrier St., 866-6677, www.cspdesign.com; Top's Appliances and Cabinetry, 5826 Johnston St., Lafayette, www.topswoodwork.com; Schiro Del Bianco, 750 Little Farms Ave., Metairie, 737-7277; Mediterranean Marble and Tile, 2538 Poydras St., 822-6868, www.medtilenola.com; Chris Ray Electrical Services, 80 Oakland Ave., Harahan, 737-6024; G.S. Pharis Inc., 5400 Wimbledon Court, 391-0423; Landrem Construction, 401 Bellaire Drive, 832-3073; Classic Cupboards, 5809 River Oaks Road S., Harahan, 734-9088, www.classiccupboards.com; Intrepid Stone, 1848 Industrial Blvd., Harvey, 348-2861, www.intrepidstone.com; Perque, locations citywide, www.perquefloors.com; Cabinets by Design, 5201 Tchoupitoulas St., 899-2300, www.cabinetsbydesign.com; Signature Stone Services, Kenner, 329-1852; Elite Hardwood Floors, 3918 Royal St., Apt.

A, 948-9373; Stafford Tile & Stone, 5234 Magazine St., 895-5000, www.staffordtile.com; G & A Tile Inc., 2305 44th St., Kenner, 467-7220; Ferguson Enterprises Inc., 901 S. Labarre Road, Suite 205, Metairie, 849-3060, www.ferguson.com; Source., 2103 Magazine St., 561-7558, www.sourcenola.com; Curtis Herring Interior Designs, 1639 S. Jefferson Davis Parkway, 866-7577, www.curtisherring.com; Capital Stone, 7973 S. Commerce Drive, Baton Rouge, 225/923-2323, www.capitalstone.com; ATH Painter Contractors Inc., 5500 Prytania St., 865-1500; Shawn O'Brien Interiors, 6063 Magazine St., 899-3282; Marques Countertops, 401 Magistrate St., Chalmette, 276-1627; Cameron Kitchen & Bath Designs, 8019 Palm St., 486-3759; Crane Builders, 3807 Magazine St., 891-5461, www.cranebuildersno.com; Nordic Kitchens and Baths Inc., 4437 Veterans Blvd., Metairie, 888-2300, www.nordickitchens.com; Design Within Reach, 3138 Magazine St., 891-6520, www.dwr.com; Terrell-Fabacher Architects, 1525 St. Charles Ave., Suite 300, 566-1320; Soren Christensen, 400 Julia St., 569-9501, www.sorengallery.com ■

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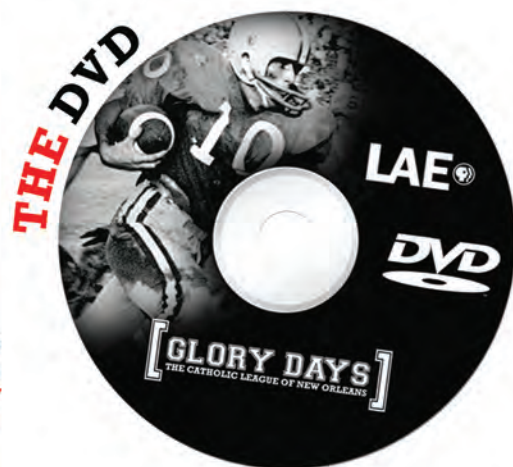
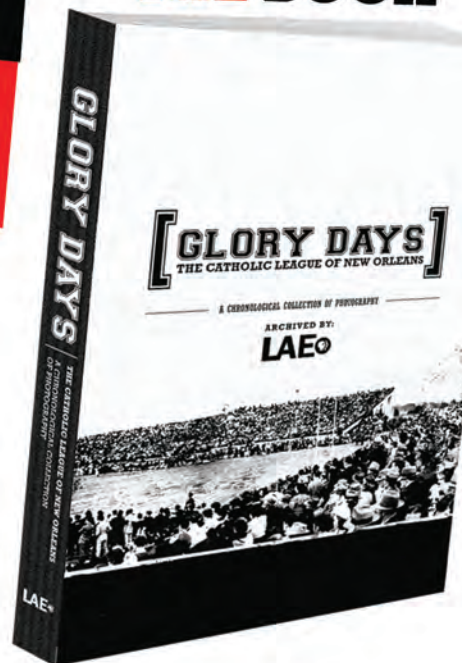
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Part 2

THE BOOK



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By Eve Kidd Crawford

AS INDULGENCES GO, pineapple upside-down cake is pretty simple. It's not Godiva chocolates or caviar; it's more potluck fare than spa food. But there's a lot to be said for its homeliness and accessibility, for how easy it can be to bring a little burst of the tropics into an otherwise-dreary day. Upside-down cakes, as a technique, have been around since the Middle Ages, but they did not expand to include pineapple until James Dole of the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. (now Dole Food Co.) perfected a way to can the delicious tropical fruit in the early 1900s. By the 1920s, this cake was a ladies' magazine staple – a simple one-layer cake without fillings or frostings or fancy ganaches. I spent years as a cake decorator at Baskin-Robbins, and I can make a frosting border in my sleep, but this cake doesn't need butter cream distractions: just a simple glaze of brown sugar and butter, some pineapple rings and cherries, and maybe some rum sauce if you're feeling fancy, and the dense, rich, moist cake is pretty as a picture and delicious to boot. As the weather starts to heat up and the calendar gets packed with one fun activity after another, this cheerful cake is the perfect thing to bring to a crawfish boil, a

Luscious but not lavish, pineapple upside-down cake is an easy everyday way to usher in the lighter days of spring.

Jazz Fest brunch or a Mother's Day picnic. And as tourist season gets into high gear and many of us find our guest rooms continually filled, it's worth noting that the pineapple is a symbol of welcome and hospitality. So cut a buttery slice of Hawaiian goodness, and enjoy it right here in your own backyard with friends and houseguests and family. Talk about paradise! ■



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