

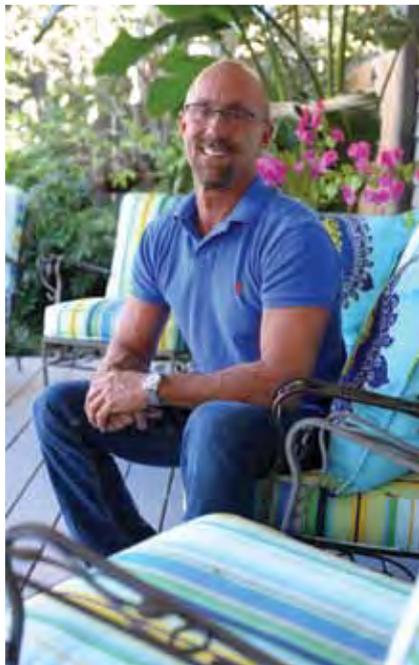


Custom Designed

Creativity blooms on the site of this former Bonnabel Plantation pecan grove

BY BONNIE WARREN

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHERYL GERBER





Facing page, top: Homeowner Neil Peyroux. Facing page, bottom: Once a part of the Alfred Bonnabel Plantation in Metairie, the house was built in the 1940s. This page and left: Interior designer Curtis Herring, ASID, styled the living room to provide maximum seating; the striped heavy cotton curtains are from Peyroux's workroom (Peyroux's Custom Curtains).

THE SECOND I WALKED INTO THIS HOUSE I HAD A GREAT feeling about it," says Neil Peyroux, owner of Peyroux's Custom Curtains. "Built in the 1940s, it had basically been untouched. The neighbors were worried that I may tear it down and build yet another 'McMansion,' but the thought never crossed my mind."

It is easy to see what captivated Peyroux. The house in Old Metairie had stylish arched doorways, cove ceilings and sound stucco walls, plus there were lots of windows that provided great light. "I quickly noted that even the backyard was big enough for a pool," he says.

"Once a pecan grove, many of the trees still remain in the area, although I have been told that a number came down during Hurricane Katrina," he continues. "The land was part of the Alfred Bonnabel plantation and his house still

exists a block away."

Peyroux called in his friend Curtis Herring of the American Society of Interior Designers, to help create the showplace his house is today. "It was pleasant to work with Neil because we've been personal friends as well as business associates for many years and I have consulted with him on all of his previous moves," Herring says. "I did the space planning, furniture placement, lighting and kitchen design, as well as the selection and specification of new furnishings, fabrics, window treatments and artwork. Sometimes my ideas were overruled and he did ☐



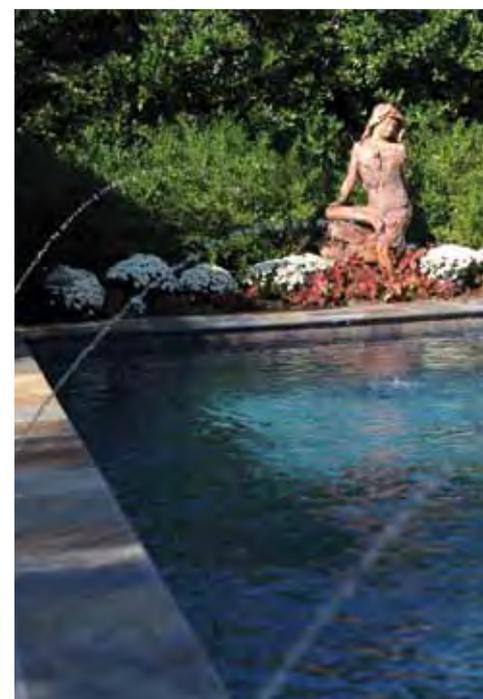
Top left: Alabaster lamps flank the handsome upholstered headboard that's featured in the front bedroom; the headboard, curtains, pillows and bedskirt were made by Peyroux's Custom Curtains. Bottom left: Art by Allison Steward is featured over the upholstered headboard that was fashioned by Peyroux's Custom Curtains as were the coverlet, curtains, pillows and bedskirt. Above, right: Alexandria furniture maker Glen Armand was commissioned to create the Signoret-styled chairs in the dining room.

his own thing since I'm definitely of the 'less is more' mindset while Neil is of the 'more is better,' but overall it was an amicable design process that yielded the results that pleased both of us."

"The living room is my favorite place to relax and read," Peyroux says, adding, "It's comfortable and I just love it, especially for entertaining." To take full advantage of the adjoining dining room, a round table on a round pedestal base was used. He adds that the table fits perfectly with the French Signoret reproduction chairs that Curtis commissioned noted Alexandria furniture maker Glenn Armand to create, The striped heavy cotton drapes in the living room and the cream-colored heavy cotton curtains with Greek key trim in the dining room were made in Peyroux's workshop.

Peyroux has an extensive art collect, most of which he has purchased from the Carol Robinson Gallery.

Herring designed a completely new kitchen across the back of the house adding luxurious Calcutta Gold marble for the counter top and backsplash. "I hand-selected the marble searching



for the slabs with the most gold veins," he says.

The three bedrooms in the house showcase the talent of Peyroux's workroom that made the bedspreads, pillows and curtains. "I like the bold patterns and rich colors," Peyroux says. "I wanted fabric that was handsome, masculine and durable."

Built on three levels, the downstairs features a comfortable den. "It's the favorite place for Wolfie and Sigmund, my dachshunds." It also adjoins the patio and raised deck facing the pool. Herrings made a major contribution on the swimming pool that was built by Paradise Pools and landscaping design as well as outdoor furniture.

"I wanted the pool to just blend with the yard and to be somewhat organic," Peyroux says. "Curtis agreed but urged me to add the four-foot tanning ledge that now exists. We both smile when we realize the tanning ledge actually turned out to be the favorite place for each of our pair of dachshunds to lounge when Curtis comes to visit." He adds, "The pool, deck, patio and backyard complete what I feel is the perfect home for me. It's a pleasant quiet retreat." ❀

Top: Wolfie and Sigmund's favorite place to lounge is on the sofa in the den that adjoins the patio leading to the rear garden and pool; the large photograph is of Red Gremillion, Peyroux's grandfather, who was an attorney and a member of the New Orleans Police Department. Bottom left: Calcutta Gold marble was selected for the countertop and backsplash in the kitchen; the windows above the sink provide a view of the pool and garden. Bottom right: Artist Tinka Jordy (Carol Robinson Gallery) created the sculpture at the rear of the swimming pool that was built by Paradise Pools.