



Evergreen Historic District residents show why they fell in love with homes

By Lisa Kelly Eason
 Posted April 24, 2009 at 12:05 a.m.



The home of Kristine Harrington and Tom O'Brien will be on this weekend's Evergreen Home Tour. Harrington and O'Brien say they were "wowed" when they first saw their home at 277 Kenilworth. Dave Darnell/The Commercial Appeal

Organizers of this weekend's Evergreen Home Tour wanted to focus on grand, historic homes in the neighborhood.

"We want people to walk into these huge, beautiful homes and think, "Wow! I wish I could live here," said Scott Price, coordinator of the tour, set for 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

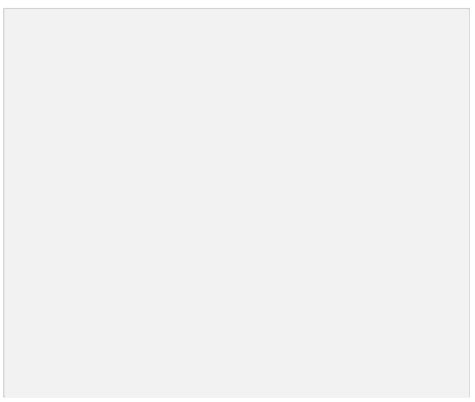
Evergreen Home Tour

The last tour several years ago featured mostly smaller "corridor" homes built in the past 20 years. This year, the



277 Kenilworth, which they purchased in 1993.

"I walked through the door, saw all that beautiful unpainted



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Elizabeth and Michael Rodriguez-Chapman have tried to remain true to the character of their Arts-and-Crafts-style home. The original mantel in the living room was restored. Their home is also on the Evergreen tour.

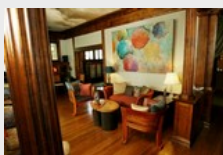


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When the Rodriguez-Chapmans married, Elizabeth set to work making the home her own and restoring it to its former glory.



Harrington and O'Brien are the third owners of the Kenilworth home, built between 1913 and 1923. The house was in good shape when they bought it, but the layout of the kitchen and den presented a problem. Dave Darnell/The Commercial Appeal



Dave Darnell/The Commercial Appeal

woodwork, and I said, "This is it," Harrington said.

Turnover is rare on the street overlooking Overton Park. Harrington said "everyone on this street knows everyone else," and residents usually have a block party twice a year. Several houses on the block remain in the families of the original owners, she said.

Harrington and O'Brien are the third owners of the home, built sometime between 1913 and 1923. The house was in good shape when they bought it, but the layout of the kitchen and den presented a problem. The previous owners had added a den onto the back of the house in the 1980s, and the original

kitchen had so many windows and doors that Harrington had problems with counter space, she said.

She "flipped" the rooms during a renovation in 2000, turning the addition into the kitchen, which now looks out over the backyard garden. The previous kitchen became a breakfast room, and the couple expanded on the addition, adding a second-floor bedroom above the new kitchen.

During the renovation of the kitchen, the contractor uncovered an "ice door," a small opening that Harrington later found out was used to deliver ice. Harrington said she also has unearthed several treasures in the yard while gardening, including several apothecary bottles and pieces of "the prettiest teacup I've ever seen."

The two-story, 3,500-square-foot home includes other unique features, such as a butler's pantry and bedroom suites, with separate dressing rooms and bathrooms. There's also a carriage house behind the main home that serves as a guesthouse, gym and gardening shed. The home still uses the original boiler.

Many of the home's furnishings are custom pieces created by local furniture maker Will McGown. One such item is a coffee table in a room that Harrington calls "the cave." Harrington spotted a scrap piece of red onyx at a tile yard, then had the tile cut to lose as little of the red onyx as possible, leaving it somewhat kidney shaped. McGown crafted the table base.

Harrington said she originally planned to furnish the home with antiques, but eventually discovered "I liked to look at them but I didn't want to live with them." Her association with McGown began when she had trouble finding a dining-room table she liked. She and her husband were visiting Chicago and went to a market where several furniture makers displayed their wares. Harrington decided to have a custom table made, and hired McGown.

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	<p>Currently</p> <p>71°</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p> <p>Wind: S 14mph</p>	<p>Today</p> <p>72°</p> <p>56°</p>
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<p>Sun</p> <p>02:00 AM</p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>Temp: 57°</p>	<p>Sun</p> <p>02:00 PM</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p> <p>Temp: 71°</p>	<p>Mon</p> <p>02:00 AM</p> <p>Mostly Clear</p> <p>Temp: 59°</p>
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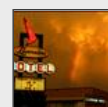
<p>Feels Like: 57°</p> <p>Humidity: 90%</p> <p>Precip: 1%</p>	<p>Feels Like: 71°</p> <p>Humidity: 61%</p> <p>Precip: 2%</p>	<p>Feels Like: 59°</p> <p>Humidity: 86%</p> <p>Precip: 13%</p>
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Untitled 9/28/09 9:51 a.m.



Storm damage to the Kohl's on Germantown Parkway 7/30/09 10:59 p.m.



Lorraine Rainbow 6/15/09 11:35 p.m.

The home of Kristine Harrington and Tom O'Brien includes unique features, such as a butler's pantry and bedroom suites, with separate dressing rooms and bathrooms.

Harrington said she loves her neighborhood and appreciates the work of the Evergreen Historic District.

"They work so hard to protect the integrity of these old homes," she said.

Elizabeth and Michael Rodriguez-Chapman have tried to remain true to the character of their Arts-and-Crafts-style home while redecorating almost the entire house in the last year and a half. Elizabeth and her sister, Merri Curry, have worked tirelessly on the project since the Rodriguez-Chapmans were married in November 2007. The sisters co-own Charming Chesterfields, an antique and interior design firm.

Curry points to Arts & Crafts and Mission influences throughout the home, including lots of oak, stained glass and straight lines, such as on the built-in china cabinet. The exterior of the home, located at 1862 Overton Park, has a "Tudor flair," Curry said.

Michael Rodriguez-Chapman bought the four-bedroom, 2 1/2 -bath home 10 years ago and lived there with his two children from a previous marriage. He had renovated and updated the kitchen, but other parts of the home remained in need of repair.

When Michael and Elizabeth married, she set to work making the home her own and restoring it to its former glory. She had all the trim, molding, ceilings, walls and flooring repaired, refinished and/or repainted, including stripping and refinishing all the wood molding that had been painted.

She and Curry also furnished much of the approximately 5,000-square-foot house with antiques of the Arts & Crafts period.

The couple's common love of antiques brought them together and continues to play an important part in their lives.

Elizabeth was living in Texas but visiting family in Memphis and helping out her father, Paul Fields, owner of Fields Antiques & Estate Sales. Michael was a customer who bought several antiques from Elizabeth.

"He came back the next day for two things -- a mirror for his daughter and my phone number," Elizabeth said. She didn't give him her phone number, but they did exchange e-mails and began a three-year long-distance courtship before marrying.

Now the couple incorporate antique shopping into many of their vacations, purchasing artwork and antiques and shipping them back home to Memphis. They also have several collections, including tribal masks, *netsukes* (miniature Japanese sculptures) and Black Forest pieces (German woodcarvings), most of which find a place in their decor.

Elizabeth and her sister have stepped up much of the decorating project to get ready for the home tour, but they also have long-range plans for the home. The Rodriguez-Chapmans recently replaced the dining-room ceiling with tin found at a historic building in Pennsylvania. They plan eventually to renovate the third floor of the home to create a family room and add another bedroom and bathroom.

Elizabeth, Michael and his children -- Natalie, 12, and Matthew, 10 -- frequently ride bikes in the neighborhood or walk to Overton Park.

"There's so much culture all around us," she said. "We've got great neighbors, and it's a great street. Our favorite time at the house is on the front porch with neighbors coming by and enjoying lemonade."



A tree in the Supermercado on Summer Ave.
6/15/09
9:13 p.m.



MLGW underground utility circuit blew up at Iroquois and Lombardy
6/15/09
9:13 p.m.



Light out on Lamar
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Tour details

The Evergreen Home Tour is 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased the day of the event at any of the homes on the tour or at Trinity United Methodist. For advance tickets or more information, contact Scott Price at 351-5515, or e-mail originalsin11@yahoo.com.

In addition to the five homes on tour, the event seeks to highlight the entire neighborhood, Price said. Local artists and craftsmen will have booths set up at Trinity United Methodist Church, and refreshments will be available at the church and at the Rodriguez-Chapman home. The event will also feature antique cars, complimentary carriage rides and pet adoptions, wrapping up with a performance by Double Shovel at the Levitt Shell in Overton Park, beginning at about 5:30.

Price suggests beginning at Trinity United Methodist at the corner of Evergreen and Galloway. Those touring homes are welcome to follow several routes and view the homes in any order, but Price suggests ending the tour at the Kenilworth home and then walking over to Overton Park and the Levitt Shell for the music portion of the event.

Homes on the Evergreen Home Tour:

Barbara Geater and Larry Townsend, 1699 Overton Park

Triena and Stephen Winbery, 1916 Autumn

Anne and James Apple, 1731 Galloway

Elizabeth and Michael Rodriguez-Chapman, 1862 Overton Park

Kristine Harrington and Tom O'Brien, 277 Kenilworth



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