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yourhome



in the hill country

A dream
home for
retirement
means aging
in place

Enjoying the present
with an eye to the future p.18

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KERRVILLE DAILY TIMES

YOUR HOME IN THE HILL COUNTRY TEAM

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EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS: Your Home staff invites readers and industry professionals to submit story ideas, articles and guest columns for publication. Editors suggest stories be no more than 500 words and be on the topics of real estate industry news, home improvement, landscaping and related areas. Photos may be included with submissions. Send real estate industry news and content submissions to yourhome@dailytimes.com.

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ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOME

Your Home in the Hill Country publishes the third weekend of every month by The Kerrville Daily Times. The deadline to submit advertising for the March edition is March 2.

Informed by the past *with an eye to the future*

When we first started this special section, the former managing editor, Carlina Villalpando, asked me to find “outstanding remodels,” and so I raced via the Internet, traveling miles upon miles through Hill Country Cyberspace, bouncing from one website to another simply by clicking on active links and always — always — orienting toward something that from my perspective met the criteria of being “outstanding.”

Then I landed on Diane Lohman’s Facebook page. Everything on the page was outstanding. But my mission was to acquire “before and after” photos for my boss — ASAP.

Diane was finishing up a project in Colorado at the time, and she is extremely protective her client’s privacy, which meant that for several months, Carlina and I just kicked this beautiful can of “before and after” photos down the road.

Time passed, and Diane Lohman and I chatted over the phone several times about possibilities. Our conversations reminded me a little bit of old-fashioned letters. Her manners — even over the phone — reminded me to slow down a little bit and consider the real people behind the scenes of those before and after photos.

When Lohman and Marcia Hartman agreed to be featured for this special section, however, everything happened too fast for me. When I met them, I realized that the before and after photos are the most uninteresting thing about this home. The very thing I tried for months to get hardly interested me anymore. It was the people who worked together on this home that I found fascinating and inspiring.

Years ago, before going into business for herself, Diane was part of a design team for Neiman Marcus, and she still uses *a pencil* to draw elevations for her clients. Diane enlisted Carolyn Learoyd to make the CAD drawings, who before starting her business earned a degree in electrical engineering at MIT and designed computers for a living — plus she’s a musician whose involvement with Hill Country Youth Orchestras is greatly valued by the Kerrville community. She will be providing a column for this publication similar to workshops she has taught at the Dietert Center. And then there is the builder, David Thompson, who has been in business for himself for five years and already has a great reputation for thinking on his feet and being resourceful.

And then there is Marcia Hartman, who welcomed me into her home, raved about the Nimitz Museum and offered me tea. She stood with me in front of one piece of art and then another describing the artist who created the work.

“Trompe-l’oeil,” she said while showing me a sculpture recently mounted to the wall. “It means ‘to fool the eye.’ She was a chemist.”

And then standing before a colorful metal wall hanging in the entry she said, “She used to work in fiber arts ... you can see it.”

As we stood together, she let me hold the smooth egg-shaped ceramics her late husband made as he experimented, perfecting a firing technique used by Native Americans, she said, “Terra sigillata. He figured it out, too. I keep them. No one will possibly appreciate them as much as I do.”

At that moment, I thought several things: In another time and place she would be a national treasure. Then I thought this is the best thing about my new job. It’s better than a hit of oxygen, better than a B-12 shot. It’s even better than chocolate.

Bev Barr
Special Sections Editor



Neda Al-Hilali

Enjoying the present with an eye to the future

by *Bev Barr*

If Marcia Hartman ever needs a wheelchair as she ages, the 1940s era home she helped redesign can already accommodate her needs.

Her kitchen has pullout boards that can double her counter space, and the bathroom is already equipped to accommodate any special needs she may have some day.

But Hartman didn't move to the Hill Country with that in mind. She moved here after working nearly 30 years as museum director at the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to be the "little old lady who rode around on the red Vespa."

"Instead, it turns out I live within walking distance to church — the church that I attend," she said.

Hartman described the challenge of adapting to other things that she hadn't planned on, and she takes those disappointments in stride, too. A massive stroke left her temporarily paralyzed on one side of her body, her brain doesn't work as it did before the stroke, and she can no longer use her right hand to make

ceramic art, a lifelong pursuit. These days, physical therapy is a central part of her life.

"I had to relearn so many things. I had to learn to use my left hand, to write with my left hand — I learned to peel an apple with my left hand," she said.

Hartman's original retirement home included a state-of-the-art ceramic studio, a medium both she and her late husband pursued their entire adult lives. But when it became clear that the use of her hand would be permanently limited, she donated the contents of her studio to Heritage School and made the decision to build a different kind of dream retirement home for herself, a home where she could live simply and independently, hopefully, for the rest of her life.

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ture

by Bev Barr



From far left and clockwise: Marcia Hartman’s bedroom includes built-in storage, bookshelves and mounted swinging lights. Marcia straightens a photo gallery of family and friends. Wall space is reserved for original artwork and below, a rusty privacy fence still developing color. Above, Marcia stands on her screened in porch.



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She hired her friend and designer Diane Lohman to work out details, confident that Lohman would bring high quality-visual aesthetics to a remodel as well as practicality to the design. Rather than avoiding thinking about the things one hopes will never happen, they boldly planned for “God-forbid” scenarios.

Hartman serves on the boards of numerous foundations and still needs an office, but the space will convert easily to an additional bedroom with access to the bathroom in the event Hartman ever needs live-in care. The whole house is wheelchair accessible, including the bathroom, which has a roll-in shower with a spacious 5-foot radius for easy wheelchair maneuvering.

One of the things Lohman values most about design work is accentuating the details that heighten the pleasures of daily living. She knew Hartman needed a place to live vibrantly — not just independently. Hartman needed a place to bake a lot of cookies, to play cards with friends, to enjoy an extraordinary collection of art and to crank up the music loud enough to make



Courtesy photo

According to Diane Lohman, above, good communication among all the players involved in a remodel is key for the success of the project. With Marcia Hartman’s home, Lohman took the lead and came up with several ideas.

“There really aren’t idea limitations on remodels,” Lohman said.

She and Catherine Learoyd frequently collaborate, each bringing a different set of skills to project. For Hartman’s home, Learoyd did the CAD drawings, some of which can be seen on the following pages.

After meeting with several good builders, they Hartman and Lohman chose David Thompson of Fusion Master Builders to do the work.

One of the things she loves most about her career is meeting folks and hearing about how they live and what their interest are. When it comes to remodels, she said she thinks it’s important to think about what you enjoy and your future. The possibility of resale is always a consideration, but first and foremost, this is a home where people live, Lohman said.

Diane Lohman has been designing homes for over two decades. A deft blend of fine art and handcraft, Diane’s work has received national media attention for its celebration of regional style and inventive use of antique materials. Projects begin with her sketches of client ideas, and most final plans are drafted by hand. Currently the Lohman Design Studio portfolio includes three local projects: a country retreat near Hill Top (with Sierra Homes), an addition to a 1913 Craftsman in Alamo Heights, and interior design for an artist’s workshop in Boerne. Call 830.456.7958 or visit lohmandesignstudio.com



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the neighbors complain.

“Oh, I love music. During Christmastime, I played Handel — to the heavens, right up through the rafters,” Hartman said.

The kitchen is a masterpiece of efficiency. Everything is within reach, even for a woman too tiny for a Vespa. Built-in pull-out cutting boards practically double the counter-space, very useful for baking all those cookies, and a sturdy, retractable open-face cupboard with its own electrical outlet is the permanent spot for heavy appliances, the mixer, food processor and toaster. Simple decisions provide a lot of pleasure, such as ample

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Above and top right: A rustic dining table in the center of the open kitchen and living area is where all the card playing happens. Keeping windows in existing place is an economy measure, which in this case, provided a perfect place to display colorful glasses.



Kristi Underwood

“Art is the Stored Honey of the Human Soul...” - Theodore Dreiser

What does February have in store:

- February 9-15th is **Random Acts of Kindness Week**
- February 14th **Valentines Day**

What is happening in the Art World:

Museum of Western Art, Kerrville:

February 9: **Artist of the Month-Karen Cooper**

February 5-12: **Kerrville Arts & Cultural Center** (Arts Sale)

San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio:

December 20-March 8: **Picasso**

McNay Art Museum, San Antonio:

January 13-May 10: **World War II Photographs**

February 18-May 17: **Rodin to Warhol**

kw CITY VIEW
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shallow drawer space to accommodate more than one setting of flatware, and a small pull-out storage pantry Hartman calls her “garage” holds a surprising amount of easy to access kitchen staples.

One of the biggest challenges in such a small house is wall space. Lohman used glass blocks high on the wall which let in an abundance of natural light, reduce the green house effect on a western facing wall and preserve the interior wall space for artwork.

“I can be a couch-potato, I can sit on the couch and watch the sunset,” Hartman said, describing the refraction of light that plays on the white walls every afternoon as the sun sets. “I love it.”

A chandelier with crystals placed near the glass block windows above an antique bed refract morning light, and Hartman never tires of it, never tires of watching the colors of the prism, she said.

Hartman spends a lot of time outdoors in her yard, too, which is framed by an intentionally rusty privacy fence reminiscent of an urban museum setting. Yellow dahlias are beginning to bloom in the front flower bed, and red tulips are pushing up through the soil. Hartman said she can hardly wait for the full display of two strong colors. In the summer, she’ll plant zinnias — “all colors.”

A good portion of her living space is a screened in porch attached to the back of the house where Tipps and Caesar, 12-year-old Maltese and Lhaso apso mix dogs, run in and out of doggy doors, with energy and playfulness that belies their age, very much like their master.



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Repurposing garage and barn doors

into stunning walls with a view

(BPT)— Have you ever admired a coffee table cleverly fabricated using a discarded door sitting on a frame? Or been surprised by the sight of an old refrigerator reborn as a bookshelf or TV cabinet? Even bathroom fixtures have been known to draw notice (and a snicker or two) when repurposed as garden containers.

A growing number of homeowners are taking utilitarian home elements and transforming them with creative flair into stunning home designs. Even the venerable garage door is experiencing new life as interior room dividers, exterior walls and other purposes yet to be discovered.

"Many homeowners are opening their homes to the great outdoors by using garage doors instead of sliding glass doors," said Vickie Lents, director of marketing for Entrematic, a



Diane Lohman incorporated two barn doors in Marcia Hartman's home to accommodate easy access for people in wheelchairs and large pieces of artwork. Plus, Hartman likes the look. A barn door hangs on a track in a hallway which requires much less space to open than a conventional door on hinges.



leading company in the garage door industry known for smart innovation and design."It's a particularly popular trend in coastal and mountain areas where the outdoor views are naturally incredible, allowing homeowners to enjoy the view from indoors as well as outdoors."

In addition to providing great views of the outdoors, using garage doors as exterior walls also provides the added benefit of offering a cross-breeze through the home in temperate climates. For many months of the year, a garage door that opens to the exterior can save on cooling costs. After all, when you think about it, a garage door that opens to the exterior serves as an enormous window.

Garage doors with clear glass held in place by an aluminum grid system are the common standard in residential applications. Homeowners gravitate to glass garage doors when used as exterior and interior walls because of their clean, modern look.

For interior use of garage doors, many architects and homeowners prefer using garage doors without electronic motors, which can be unsightly when suspended from the door's track system. Now, they can choose a track-less, spring-less and rail-less garage door system with an integrated opener for a state-of-the-art solution for the home: the Silvelox Trento Collection distributed by Entrematic.

Unlike traditional garage doors that operate via a series of springs, rails and tracks along the ceiling that can be cumbersome on the interior of a home, the Trento Collection of garage doors showcase revolutionary technology and Italian design, featuring a patented overlap design that allows the door to open by folding neatly in half without any ceiling hardware. This innovative design eliminates all the clutter behind a typical garage door and allows for a clean interior space, perfect when the door is connected to interior home living spaces.

Whether they feature a modern or traditional operating system, garage doors can serve as more than windows to divide indoor living space from the outside. Interior designers and homeowners have gravitated toward the trend of using garage doors to divide room space as well. Particularly when used as interior room dividers, garage doors with frosted or tinted glass offer privacy when closed but can be opened to create expansive indoor space.

"Garage doors make such a statement when incorporated into home designs. There's instant intrigue and excitement when guests see them," Lents says. "The doors are practical in function and offer the 'wow factor' that homeowners want."

A barn door decorated with lights slides open on a screened in porch next to a well used doggy door.



"TREES ARE AMAZING"

How many times have you looked at a tree and said WOW? Or wonder how such a small seed or acorn could turn into such a magnificent sight? I do that every time I look at a tree. I can "read" trees, and no I am not a tree whisperer. Looking at the canopy or the trunk can tell me a lot of how it has grown in the past. Has the tree had insect infestations? Woodpeckers? Fungal problems come in plain view of mushrooms. Yet they can also be hidden below the mulch on the base of trees. Is the bark on the trunk flaking or solid?

I have seen two of the same species of tree, planted at the same time, with one dying. Why did that tree die & the other didn't? Same maintenance, same amount of water, same fertilizers. What happened?

That is why having Rockoff Land & Tree in your phonebook is a safe bet. One day your tree can look great to you. Then the next day you look up & your tree is brown? We all know about Oak Wilt in Central Texas, but there are so many other disease & insect problems that can kill a tree. Even animals like porcupines do alot of damage. The signs & symptoms differ for each species of tree. I spend many hours in continuing education courses just to keep up on the changing issues of tree care. I rather have a client call me over a small problem, rather than get called when there is nothing I can do to help the tree. Safe, preventative care is the best advice we can offer. Taking in the age of a tree, the benefits it provides to you & your home. Email or call the office and we would love to visit your property.



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Marcia Hartman's home



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