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ADDISON

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NORTH DALLAS CORRIDOR

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Modern Pioneers

By Carrie Pierce

Marshall and Carole Edwards' Bent Tree Country Club home has withstood the test of time and two redesigns, both with designer Marty Baker. Nestled in the neighborhood of Bent Tree Country Club, one would not realize that Marshall and Carole Edwards' golf course-front home was built when Preston Road was only a two-lane road,

the North Dallas Tollway had not yet been imagined and Bent Tree Country Club was in its infancy. It's hard to imagine a time when the North Dallas Corridor area was just fields and trees, but the Edwardses said when they moved up to the area from their Dallas residence on Skillman and Abrams, Village on the Parkway was a horse stable, and there wasn't a grocery store or shopping center for miles.

Marshall, an avid golfer, knew about the development and had always dreamed of living on a golf course. He worked in the real

estate business and was part of assembling all the land, then a 500-700 acre cotton field, for the developer. The Edwardses bought their lot on Westgrove in 1972. The couple, who met while attending Southern Methodist University and were married in 1966, began building in the summer of 1974, and construction was complete in June of 1975. Their house was the sixth house in the Bent Tree development.

The Edwardses have since formed very close ties to the area. Marshall was president of Bent Tree Country Club for two terms

during the recent renovation of the golf club and course. Their two children are graduates of Trinity Christian Academy, where Marshall has coached the junior high basketball team for nine years. His home office pays homage to this through a multitude of photographs and trophies.

In the 33 years the Edwardses have lived in the North Dallas Corridor, they have had the opportunity to watch the area grow and thrive. Naturally, they have grown and thrived too. Along with time, life changes and an evolution in personal style, comes home redesign.

Marty Baker, an interior designer and member of the American Society of Interior Designers, said the Edwardses were true pioneers of the Bent Tree area. Baker had the opportunity to do not one, but two, complete renovation design jobs with the





"The redesign was a joint effort. It helped that Marty is our friend. She had done the house before and that made it comfortable to say yes and no to different ideas. She is wonderful because she is easy to work with."

- Carole Edwards, homeowner



Edwardses.

Marty has been in the interior design industry for 25 years. In the mid-1970s, she caught the interior design bug. She had no idea when she was renovating her old English Tudor home in North Dallas that it would become a career. While raising three children, Marty spent those rare spare moments transforming her house into a wonderful, charming home. She went back to college and graduated with a degree in interior design. After spending two years working with another designer and learning everything she could about the practical side of interior design, Marty started her own business. Today, she works with clients locally and nationally, helping them create a vision that reflects their interests and lifestyle.

Marty met Carole playing tennis and

they became quick friends. Their husbands shared a common interest in golf and began playing together at Bent Tree Golf Course.

"Beyond doing their house, we've built a camaraderie," Marty said.

Marty was the obvious choice when the Edwardses decided on redecorating in the mid-'80s.

"The first design job I did for them was in 1984," Marty said. "Typical of 1970s construction, the house had dark tile floors and lots of dark wood. It had, and still has, a wonderful view of the Bent Tree Golf

Course, but even with the view it was dark. We used lots of bright colors for the 1984 redesign: colors taken from a painting Carole loved."

Since the mid-'80s redesign, a lot has changed for the Edwardses. Their two children have moved out and started families of their own (the Edwardses have seven grandchildren) and they have fallen in love with the art and culture of Santa Fe, N.M. Their home needed to cater to their ever-growing family, and they wanted to incorporate the feel of Santa Fe and

the western art they had begun to collect on their many trips to the city. The latest renovation in 2000 came about after the Edwardses looked to buy or build a new home. After much looking, they realized they had a wonderful lot on a golf course and still loved the location.

The second redesign began in October 2000 and was completed May 2001. It started with an idea to repaint some walls and maybe add some new wallpaper. Like most redesigns, this was not the case.

"It evolved from a little paint and recarpeting to an entire redo," Carole said. "It started with nothing big and then turned into us gutting the place."

The main theme of the design centered on Santa Fe, and they decided to do something that is "formal Santa Fe," rather than rustic. The Edwardses began vacationing in Santa Fe in the mid-1990s.

"Marshall likes the climate, so we started going, and it all kind of evolved," Carole said.

Marty has actually accompanied the couple to Santa Fe on two occasions.

"The redesign was a joint effort," Carole said. "It helped that Marty is our friend. She had done the house before and that made it comfortable to say 'yes' and 'no' to different



The gathering place off of the kitchen works well as the frequent gathering place for Marshall, Carole, their children and grandchildren.

ideas. She is wonderful because she is easy to work with."

The redesign consisted of removing some pillars and lifting the ceiling. Carole said that anywhere they could raise the ceiling, they did. They were able to open the view more to the golf course, which inspired some of the interior's monochromatic color scheme.

The stairway has evolved from straight up and down to winding steps with gorgeous wrought-iron detail. Upstairs is a large, open room for their grandchildren to play.

The home also features a custom fireplace and mantle, as well as a large

collection of art, all from Santa Fe. Walking the halls evokes the feeling of being in an art museum. Other additions were crown molding, faux stone on the outside patio and a complete re-landscaping of the exterior. Many of the pieces, if not found in Santa Fe, were inspired by something you may be able to find there.

The end result was exactly what everyone had in mind: an eclectic atmosphere that was able to blend a lot of looks together.

"It is casual, yet has a feeling of formality to it," Marshall said.

There are many interesting artifacts and relics in the home, such as two lamps that belonged to Carole's grandmother. The lamps are about 80 to 90 years old, Carole said. They have been updated with new shades that reflect their antique look and design. Marty said having family pieces such as these adds interest to the design of a home.

An agreed-upon favorite is the chandelier in the formal dining area. Though Marshall says they sit at the table maybe three times a year, the Murray's Iron Work Chandelier is breathtaking and unique. It is one of the many artifacts in the home that Baker found on her trips to the Dallas Design District,



Besides a great view of the Bent Tree Golf Course, the Edwardses' living room features a custom carved wood étagère from Traditional Imports, a colorful rug from Pakistan, art found on a trip to Santa Fe and an antique floor lamp that belonged to Carole's grandmother.

many of which the Edwardses accompanied her on.


"I love the look of the dining room," Carole said. "It's just like Santa Fe and we love it there."

Another favorite room is the sitting room, which is attached to the Edwardses' master bedroom.

"It's very comfortable and quiet," Marshall said.

Needless to say, the neighborhood and the house have changed a lot over the years. The Edwardses watched the trees grow around them and spoke fondly of a time when their children would play on the golf course during the summer, and they could hear the coyotes at night. Now, as their lives have evolved, it is convenient that things are so close and the area feels like a neighborhood.

When asked if they had plans for another redesign, they said no. Whether or not they ever plan to move, they aren't completely sure, but Marshall seems enthusiastic about the idea of possibly moving to Santa Fe one day. For now, however, their family is very close by and the area has built itself into one convenience after another.

"We've lived here so long," Carole said. "It's hard to think about ever leaving." 


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