



CitiScapes

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
Metro Monthly

OUTDOORS IN THE NATURAL STATE

12 GREAT RIDES

Exploring Arkansas by train, plane, boat, board, bike, horse and more

CLICK, ZING, RUSH

State's first forest canopy zip line tour opens in the Ozarks

INTO THE WILDS

Gentry's Wild Wilderness Drive-Through Safari

ALFRESCO ENTERTAINING

Helpful tips for throwing the perfect garden party

also:

- Profile: Jim Swiggart Behind the Scenes
- Culture: Walton Arts Center's New Season
- Good Works: Walmart Gives Back
- StyleFile: What's Hot for Summer

JUNE 2010
\$2.50 VALUE



A LEGACY OF LOVE

JEANNIE FLEEMAN ENJOYS OPENING HER SPACIOUS AND LUXURIOUS HOME IN ROGERS TO OTHERS WHILE ALSO SHARING THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES IT PROVIDES OF HER LATE HUSBAND, BILL

BY BECKY GOSNELL | PHOTOS BY JOE WITTKOP



In 1993, Bill and Jeannie Fleeman began building the home of their dreams. The site they chose was a beautiful 247-acre piece of property in southwest Rogers. Unfortunately, however, Bill died on May 1, 1999, after a two-year battle with lymphatic cancer. And although Bill never saw its completion, his desire to have a lasting legacy came to fruition in 2003, after 10 years in the making, when Jeannie finally moved in to their dream home – a home that now serves as a precious

memory of their love for one another and the wonderful life they shared.

Jeannie says that the design of their French chateau style home was inspired by the elegant architecture of the chateaus they loved seeing when vacationing in Paris. She also explains that, after working with an architect in Houston and molding together several existing floor plans, “Bill tore up the original plan and just drew it on his own – detail was his middle name and he felt that he had to do it himself to get exactly what he wanted.”

The house overlooks a lush valley, and Osage Creek meanders gracefully through the property. Jeannie says there were two things that attracted she and Bill to this particular tract of land. “First, it had been foreclosed on by a bank in Kansas City so very few people knew about it, and it had sat there for six years without a single offer. It was on a dirt road at the time, and we were able to get it at a really good price. The second thing was that Bill had always wanted to own a place with a creek running through it.”



JEANNIE FLEEMAN



FORMAL LIVING ROOM



FOYER



DEN



A strong marriage and constant communication, according to Jeannie, was key to the successful outcome of such a large project. "I can't remember a single argument over this house...we worked so well together," she says. However, this wasn't their first building endeavor – in fact, it was job number 650. As owners of Dynamic Development, Inc., Bill and Jeannie built homes for first-time buyers and, in the 1970s, were building, finishing and closing approximately 100 homes a year in Northwest Arkansas. Jeannie still owns the company but shares the responsibilities with her sons, and the focus of the business has changed to larger property development.

After years of diligent planning, the spacious home is filled with breathtaking evidence of Bill's close attention to architectural design details and Jeannie's talent for selecting colors and décor. She also gives ample credit to local interior designer Chris Goddard for

his tremendous work on the home. "After Bill died I just kept putting off the rest of the decorating," Jeannie says. "But Chris called me one day and said that he had heard I was having a really hard time and wanted to know if I would like to have some help – to have a sounding board. And I said, 'Yes!'"

While Goddard's gift for interior design impressed Jeannie, it was his tendency toward perfection and brilliant flower-arranging skills that especially pleased her. "Chris is so meticulous and he does gorgeous flower arrangements," she says. "The flowers that he does for my parties are just incredible – so over the top!"

At Bill's request, Jeannie prefers to keep the home's exact square-footage out of the line of focus and instead laughs about how he once told her to "not get any wild ideas" because the house would not be larger than 5,500 square feet. "And that was just fine with me, but he still managed to do all of this," she says.



60% Off Closeout Bedding, Pillows & Runners
50% Off Closeout Fabrics
40% Off All Short Ends
30% Off In-Stock Trims & Tassels
20% Off All In-Stock Fabrics
10% Off In-Stock Drapery hardware

Corner of Walton Blvd. & J St - Bentonville
 479-715-6050 www.mgracenet.com
 M-F 10-6 Sat 10-4



FORMAL DINING ROOM



KITCHEN



KITCHEN DINING



MASTER BATHROOM



MASTER BEDROOM

As one approaches, it's obvious that numbers aren't needed to describe the grandness of the Fleemans' home. Passing through the property's gates, guests are treated to the beautiful sights of acres of manicured lawn and shrubbery, vibrant flowers and a stately fountain. Stepping inside, onto a sleek Botticino Classico marble floor and luxurious handmade Edward Fields rug, the splendor of the home continues. The foyer is awe-inspiring with its raised ceiling, 25-inch moldings and sweeping staircase wrapped in an impressive, handwrought iron rail. An antique player piano, a 25th wedding anniversary gift to Jeannie, made of wood from the Black Forest of Germany sits underneath the dramatic staircase.

A left turn takes guests into the formal living room, full of beautiful antiques and interesting stories. "During one of our trips to Paris, Bill and I visited a chateau in the lower valley where, once a month, the owners would turn off all of the electricity and use only candle light – just as it was lit when it was originally built," Jeannie says. "It was breathtaking." And, as a result of that experience, the formal living room is equipped with a beautiful chandelier that offers its warm light, not by electricity, but by candles.

Another fascinating element of this room is the antique fireplace surround that the Fleemans also purchased in Paris, made from pieces of a chateau that was being torn down. In lieu of wood, the fireplace is filled with large, decorative quartz logs and accent candles.

On the other side of the foyer is the formal dining room, anchored in the center with a basket style chandelier that, along with the matching one in the entry, was a gift from Bill to Jeannie for their 30th wedding anniversary. And, according to Jeannie, the medallion in the center of the dining room is an almost exact replica of the medallion in the formal dining room at the Palace of Versailles.

Both the formal living and dining rooms are lined with a soft silk fabric, not only providing a unique, elegant look but also meeting the practical need for sound reduction when filled with company. The downstairs powder room also has fabric-lined walls, complete with pearl accents for added elegance and texture.

As in most homes, the kitchen is the favorite location to gather for close friends and family. Mahogany cabinets and decorative, maple wood moldings combine to add charm and warmth to the room. The cooking range is framed with aged bricks, providing a casual, rustic appeal.

And while Jeannie says that the kitchen island is the preferred place to sit for a few, the kitchen table is equipped for a larger number and can seat as many as 12. "This table is four feet in diameter and was handmade in Colorado," she says. "And luckily the [furniture maker] thought to make this lazy Susan, otherwise we couldn't pass anything!"



before

"Truly life-altering!"

"Our new **WITHIN REACH** custom closet is a complete transformation...like night & day! Walking in went from crowded to calm. We even dress so much quicker. It's truly life-altering!"




- Dr. Andrew & Mrs. Amy Bain, Probie Grove

withinreachclosets . com
479 . 935 . 9501



after



Lifespring

women's healthcare

J. Todd Hannah, MD • Lawrence Schmitz, MD
Amy Fry, MD Lorie Oswalt, APN

- Complete Obstetric Care Including High Risk Pregnancies
- Novasure Endometrial Ablation for Treatment of Heavy or Prolonged Periods

- Complete Gynecology Care Including Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures
- 4D Ultrasounds
- Treatment for Urinary Incontinence

Office: 479.271.0005 • www.lifespringhealthcare.com

1200 S.E. 28th Street, Suite 2 • Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

**Lifespring Inspiring Changes
in Women's Healthcare**

Lifespring would like to welcome Lips & Lines to our practice.

Now offering Botox, Juvederm, Radiesse and Latisse • Free Consultations • Referral Rewards



Lips & Lines

Cosmetic Injections



479.330.1201 • www.lipsandlinesllc.com

The main level also plays host to the den, library and master suite. And, of all of the spaces, Jeannie says that she spends much of her time in her bedroom area. "It's got everything I need and is on a generator so if the electricity goes out, I will be fine," she says, before adding with a laugh, "If there is an ice storm, I can just live in my room until it all melts."

Her spacious master suite is both graceful and opulent, decorated in soft neutral tones and fabrics that set the relaxing feel for the space. A large window by the Jacuzzi tub in the master bath lets light flood the room, and like so many other elements of the home, it is sentimentally significant to Jeannie. "I had this window made after Bill died," she explains. "It has a circle in the center that represents never-ending love, a spire that points to heaven, two little doves representing our love for one another, and four points coming out of the center to symbolize our four children."



Upstairs there are three lavishly and comfortably decorated guest bedrooms for her visiting friends, children, grandchildren and great-grandson. The home may be sumptuously decorated, but Jeannie insists that, "This house is my home and I live in it that way, my kids are here a lot and we just have a great time. I want it to be comfortable for everyone."

The lower level is designed for fun and is less formal, but equally attractive, as the rest of the home. This downstairs, or garden level, has a full kitchen, eating area, media room, game room, guest bedrooms and bath—additionally, the exterior gardens and pool are easily accessible right out the back door.

"We knew we wanted the gardens and the pool to have a very formal feel like so many we had seen in Europe," Jeannie says. They were able to achieve exactly what they envisioned by strategically positioning their home on the property and carving out the

hillside, allowing them to terrace both sides and plant flowers and flowering shrubs, and by using architectural pieces as focal points.

The house, reminiscent of another place and time, holds a lifetime of treasures and memories for Jeannie. And she graciously and frequently opens the doors, not only to close friends and family, but also to organizations and charities. She shares her home by hosting events, both big and small. However, there is one event—the one closest to her heart—where her home is not the venue: the annual Bill Fleeman Gentlemen of Distinction Fashion Show and Gala, held each October to benefit HOPE, Inc., a regional cancer support agency.

"This house is the culmination of our lives and our marriage," says Jeannie. "It serves as a reminder to me every day how [Bill] loved me and it's something to honor our lives together." ■

HOME PROS USED BY THE FLEEMANS

Interior Decorator: Chris Goddard,
Goddard Design Group, Northwest
Arkansas; 479.521.2592

Appliances: **Metro Builders Supply**,
Springdale; 479.750.2200; www.metrobuilderssupply.com

Cabinets: **Verser's Cabinet Shop, LLC**,
Rogers; 479.636.3941

Décor/Furnishings: **Goddard Design
Group**, Northwest Arkansas,
479.521.2592; and **French Metro
Antiques**, Fayetteville, 479.587.0804,
www.frenchmetro.com

Doors: **Kerr Millwork**, Lockwood, Mo.;
417.232.4522; www.kerrmillwork.com

Garage Doors: **Overhead Door
Company of Springdale**, Springdale;
479.751.5921

Concrete: **Ozark Patterned
Concrete**, Lowell; 479.756.2319; www.ozarkpatternedconcrete.com

Paver Installation: **Designer Tile**, Colcord,
Okla.; 918.422.4264

Drapes/Fabrics: Chris Goddard,
Goddard Design Group, Northwest
Arkansas; 479.521.2592

Shower Doors/Mirrors: **Precision Glass
& Mirror, Inc.**, Rogers; 479.631.6121;
www.precisionglassandmirror.com

Home Theater: **Audio Express**,
Fayetteville; 479.582.3344

Insulation: **Ozark Foam InSEALators**,
Harrison, 800.665.3242, www.ozarkfoam.net; and **JBS Siding & Cellulose
Insulation**, Rogers, 479.925.4265

Landscaping: **Terravista Landscapes**,
Bentonville; 479.271.0234

Plumbing: **Dynamic Enterprises, Inc.**,
Bentonville; 479.254.1151

Fixtures: **Carr Plumbing**, Bentonville;
479.273.7393

Pool & Fountain: **Seaside Pools**,
Springdale and Bentonville; 479.756.6543
or 479.217.9933; www.seasidepools.com

Windows: **Meeks**, Rogers; 479.621.8900

Wiring: **Blount Electric**, Centerton;
479.903.0889

Alarm System: **Central Security
Group**, Tulsa, 888.642.4567; and
Bulldog Security, 479.957.0462, www.bulldogsecurity.info

Framework: **Preston & Company**,
Bentonville; 479.273.2266

Exterior Lighting: **Illumiscaping**,
Greenwood; 479.996.2444