

Dunwoody Home Tour is a feast for the eyes

By Ellen Fix
For The Crier

Would you like to glean some fantastic interior design ideas from real-world homes? Are you the kind of person who would jump at the chance to peek inside some of Dunwoody's most unique residences?

If so, you won't want to miss the Dunwoody Lemonade Days Home Tour 2001, April 27 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. It's your chance to do some "design eavesdropping" on eight recently-renovated, historically-preserved and newly-built Dunwoody homes—like Lee Dunn's 1989 formerly country-style home which was renovated in 2000.

Dunn was her own interior designer on the 8,000 square foot project, which took just five months to complete—in time to toast the millennium on December 31. "Because I chose my contractor well, everything else just fell into place," she says.

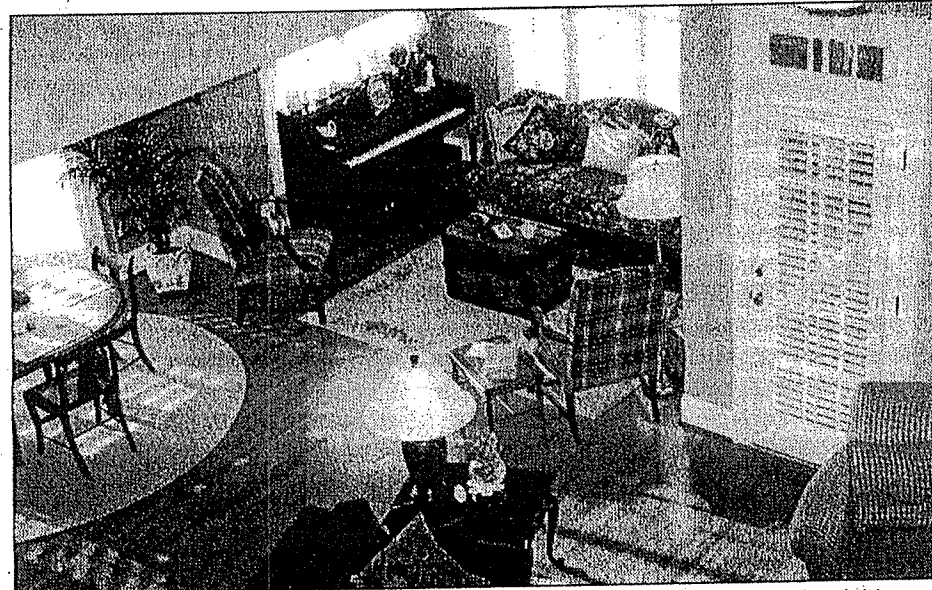
Walls were torn down, carpets were replaced with hardwood floors, arches and columns were added for drama, and the ceilings were coffered.

The colonial brick of the fireplaces was updated with light, natural stacked stone. The kitchen/family room, Dunn's favorite space in the home, now features a generous (12 feet in diameter; we measured it!) curved, granite-topped island/eating bar. While the custom, solid cherry cabinetry, along with poured concrete counters, are elegant, the overall effect is tasteful and unpretentious.

"I love the kitchen because it functions so well. Before, we had what felt like an apartment kitchen. Now people can cook and be in the center of the

action and see what's going on, plus there's plenty of room for guests."

Dunn chose a neutral warm palate of gold, yellow, beige, white, and cream tones that is carried out from room to room. The walls are bathed in various shades soft green, echoing the 2.75 acres of woodland in which the house nestles. And numerous recessed lights highlight



The home of Laurel Sybilrud features warm woods and traditional furnishings.

paintings collected during Lee and Michael Dunn's thirty years of marriage. What ultimately makes the home special is, as Dunn puts it, "It's me. We've lived in homes in five states, and this is our last; it's truly our dream home."

Laurel Sybilrud, on the other hand, started from scratch. Her vision of an English cottage style home has come to life on the site of her early 60's house, which was battered during the 1998 tornado that swept through Dunwoody. On the evening of the storm, at 12:20 a.m.,

Sybilrud had pulled into her driveway from an out of town trip. Her car was filled with china from her late mother. Ten minutes later, she was huddled in an interior hall with her daughter. They—and the china—miraculously survived. But the house, 90 percent of her belongings and car (the chimney fell on it) were history.

Sybilrud was intent on building a home that "didn't look like a brand new house." She achieved that effect with the weathered Tennessee limestone and hardy plank cedar shake siding exterior, plus well-chosen furnishings and hardwood floors that exude a special coziness and warmth.

"I'm not real fond of new furniture," she said, "I looked for pieces that had an aged look, and I've bought some things at estate sales." Laurel also added some notable personal touches, including a rug

she painted herself.

Though she suffered an estimated \$42,000 tree loss from the tornado, Sybilrud made the best of it by calling in her landscaper before she even broke ground. This forethought paid off, and while her lot is devoid of shade, she appreciates "having a back yard now, and a vegetable and cutting garden." She also appreciates her new basement, where forethought prompted her to build a room with two concrete walls, and two reinforced interior walls. Sybilrud has filled it with wine, a corkscrew, batteries, flashlights and a radio—just in case.

The next time it thunderstorms, this room may well become a favorite—with both her and her neighbors, to whom she has extended an open invitation.

The Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc., extends a special invitation to view these homes, plus six others, during the Dunwoody Lemonade Days Festival Home Tour 2001. You may purchase tickets (\$15 ea./\$10 groups of ten+) at the following Dunwoody stores: Two Creative, Marimay, C. Alexander Jewelers, David Long Interiors, Lampshades Plus, The Farmhouse Tea Shoppe, Ace Hardware (Jett Ferry and Dunwoody Village locations) and Hastings Garden Center, Brookhaven. For full information, call (770) 668-0401.

A 5K race (2 p.m. start) and One-Mile Family Fun Run (3 p.m. start) will bring Lemonade Days to a close on Sunday, April 29. Arrive early at the parking lot behind the Dunwoody Towne Hall to register; all participants will receive colorful t-shirts and will have the chance to win big prizes. Enjoy food and live entertainment! Race info: (770) 920-2881.