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features

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021



26

Kitchen Revision

From contemporary designs to more classic takes, this roundup of showstopper kitchen renovations will inspire you.

34

Where to Live Next

A snapshot of some of the best towns and neighborhoods in Acadiana. Did yours make the list?



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10 **NOTE DE L'ÉDITEUR**
Editor's Note

14 **NOUVELLES DE VILLES**
News Briefs



16

l'Art

Artist Jerome Weber captures the beauty of the South Louisiana landscape

18 **RECETTES DE COCKTAILS**
Canons of a celebratory classic are elevated with a fresh improvisation at Fire and Oak

60 **LETTRES D'AMOUR**
A designer ponders the way 'Cajun ingenuity' impacts regional architecture

62 **PLUS ÇA CHANGE**
Where do you go when home leaves you?

64 **EN FRANÇAIS, S'IL VOUS PLAÎT**
Construire sa maison sans oublier où elle est



22

La Maison

Lafayette couple preserves a midcentury masterpiece and its creators' legacy



20

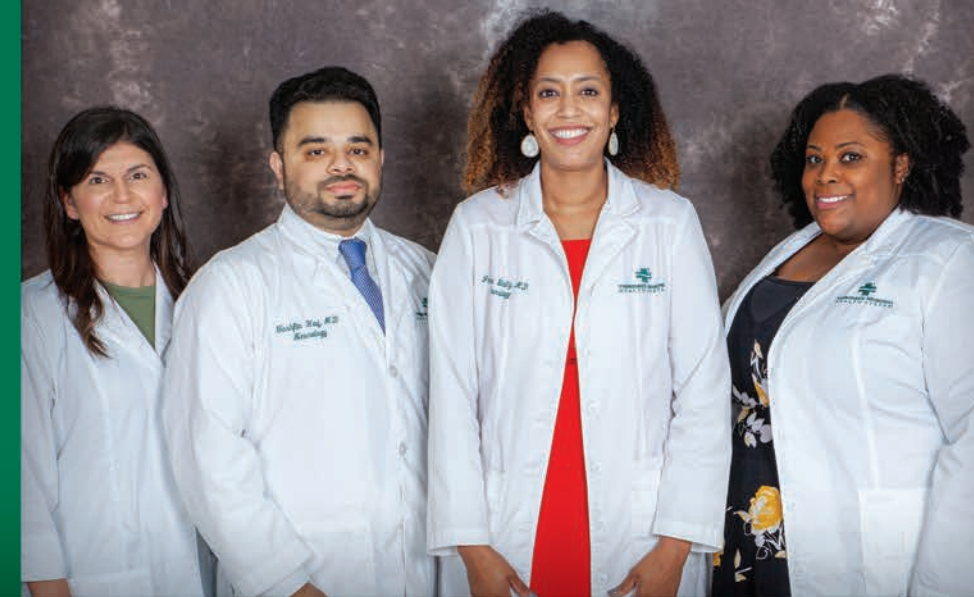
De la Cuisine

Dishes to make between summer's dog days and crisp, cool fall

Do You Suffer From Migraines or Severe Headaches?

Memory Loss?

Numbness or Tingling of the Feet?



Pictured from left to right: Hannah Tranchina, FNP-C; Tashfin Huq, MD; Jessica Baily, MD and Ebony McKinnies, MD

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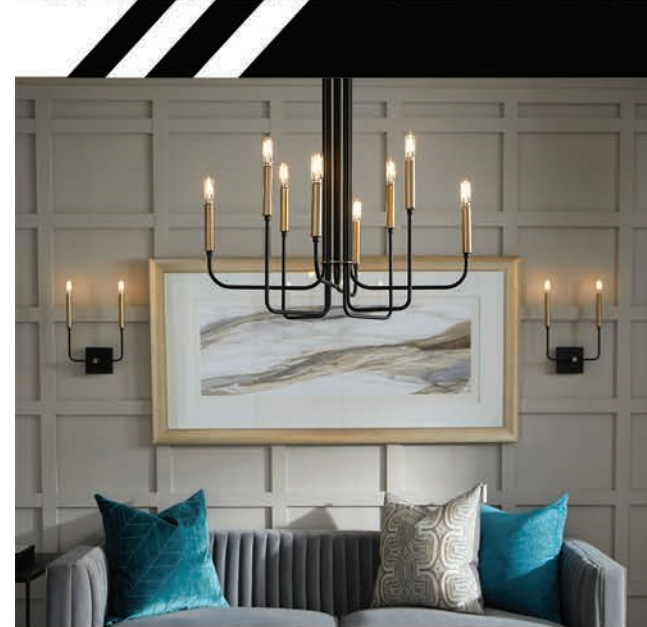
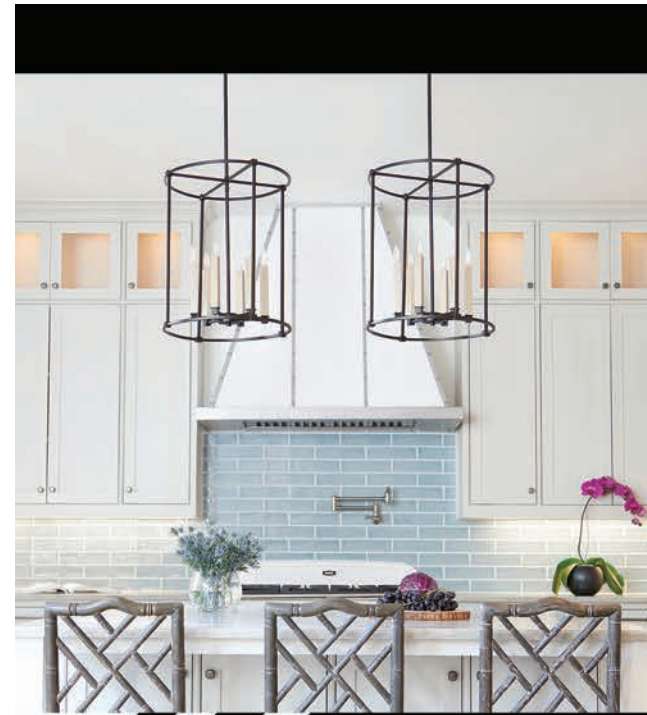
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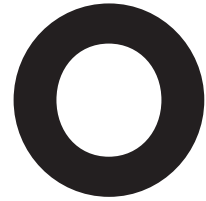
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NOTE DE L'EDITEUR



Over the past year, home became the setting for every aspect of our lives. Not only was it the place we relaxed and rested our heads at night, but also it was work, daycare, school, restaurant and bar, playground and all-around

refuge from the deadly COVID-19 virus. Or for those who contracted the virus, home was the infirmary in which we fought to recover. With all of that time spent at home, many of us came to appreciate it anew, while others felt the walls closing in — or a combination that changed with the day or moment.

Many industries shut down or slowed during the pandemic, but the home business wasn't in either group. Countless homeowners realized, after spending 24 hours, seven days a week in their domiciles, that the kitchen needed to be updated, the living room required reimagining to accommodate work from home, that patio project was long overdue and the bathroom, well, it just needed to be torn up and rebuilt from the studs out. Real estate agents, builders, contractors, designers and home design and improvement retailers continued to work and homeowners with means continued or embarked upon all manner of projects.

In that spirit that we present to you the home issue. We've taken our popular kitchens spread and folded it into a volume celebrating our place of refuge, comfort, healing and fun —home.

From the best neighborhoods in the region and a comprehensive listing of real estate agents to help you find a starter, dream, second or investment house, to kitchens that will have you reevaluating the space where you cook and gather and several essays exploring what home means to Acadianians, we're confident that there is



BEHIND THE SCENES: Homes photographer Haylei Smith always finds the perfect angle. Her creative eye was integral to the home issue.



Melanie

Melanie Warner Spencer
Managing Editor
Melanie@AcadianaProfile.com

something for you to explore, even if your nest is feathered exactly how and you want it and has location, location, location.

Last October, my husband and I moved out of our apartment of seven years into a more spacious dwelling. It was an unexpected move due the redevelopment of the property, but one that we were already planning, albeit post-pandemic. Moving during the pandemic was a little nerve-racking, but our real estate agent, the movers and the other experts we relied upon helped ease our anxieties and — literally and figuratively — lightened our load. Once we were settled and got to the fun part of decorating and arranging the rooms, we began to embrace what a godsend it was to make this move. What seemed like bad timing actually ended up being great timing. We got everything on our wishlist, which included a quieter street, more square footage, a porch and a yard. Suddenly, we had a true refuge and one that enabled us to visit

safely with loved ones in our outdoor spaces. In a world where many go without shelter or have lost everything due to the pandemic, we are grateful beyond measure to have a place to call home, particularly one that seems so luxurious. As we venture out of the house and back to life as we knew it, I hope to hold onto this sense of gratitude.

Meanwhile, as you take in this special issue, I invite you to explore what home means to you. We're glad you're here. Welcome home.

AWARDS

International and Regional Magazine Association

2020

Gold Overall Art Direction
Silver Art and Culture Feature
Silver Recreation Feature

Bronze Food Feature

Bronze Profiles

Bronze Art Direction of a Single Story

2019

Winner Magazine of the Year

Gold Overall Art Direction

Gold Art Direction Single Story

Gold Photo Series

Silver Photographer of the Year

2018

Gold Overall Art Direction

Gold Magazine Photographer

Gold Art Direction of a Single Story

Gold Food Feature

Gold Department

Silver Magazine Writer of the Year

Silver Hed & Dek

Silver Photo Series

2017

Gold Overall Art Direction

Gold Magazine Photographer of the Year

Gold Art Direction of a Single Story

Gold Food Feature

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2016

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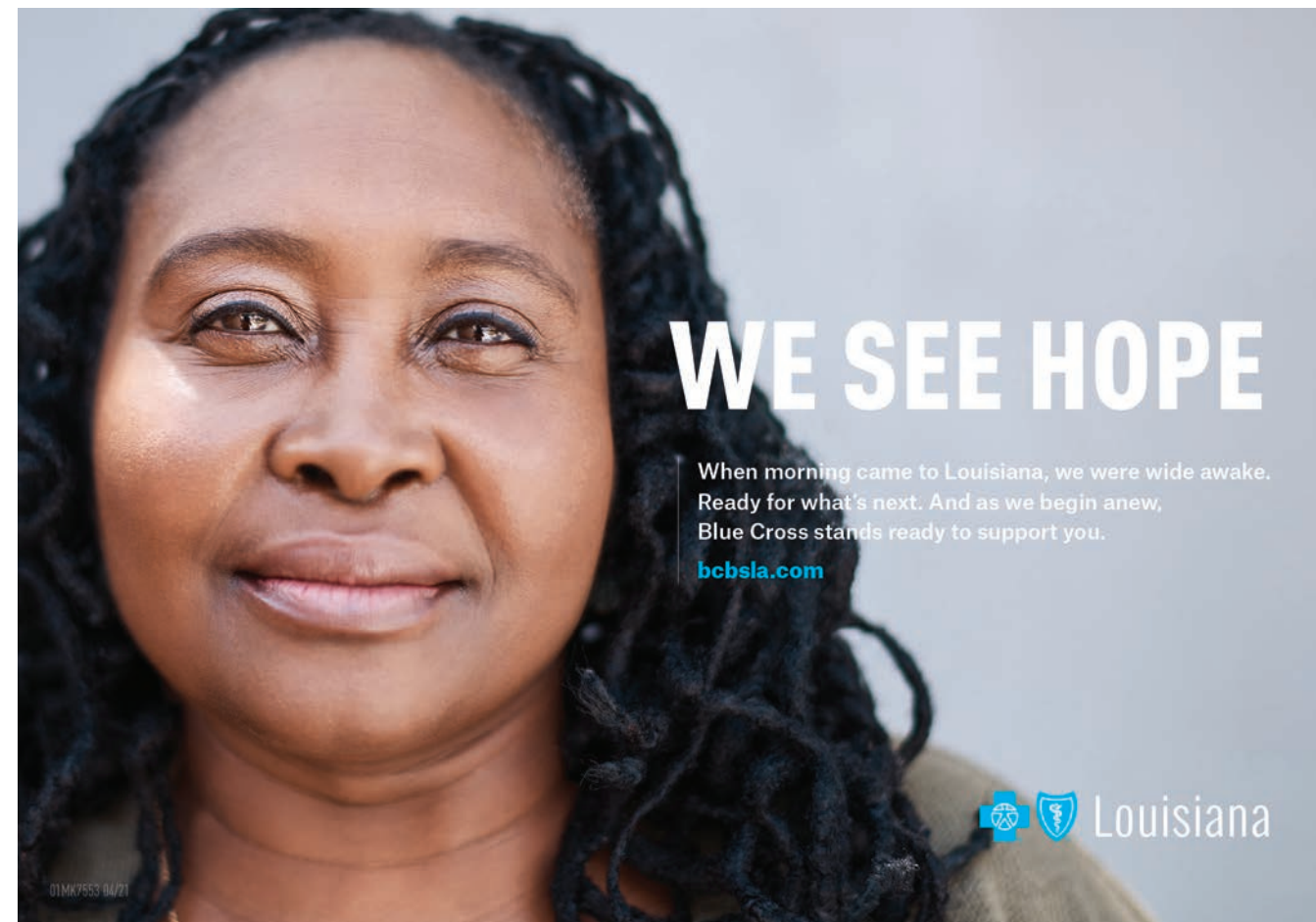


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NOUVELLES DE VILLES

by Lisa LeBlanc-Berry



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Those Lucky Winners

Broussard, Maurice, Cut Off, Youngsville, Lafayette, Opelousas This year, Acadiana raised \$1,334,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The winner of the 2021 (\$650,000) St. Jude Dream Home in Broussard: Hunter Boynton of Maurice. Other winners: Gable and Paula Mejia of Cut Off (\$1,000 Visa gift card); Brenda Melancon of Lafayette (\$2,500 AmEx gift card); Tracy Biggerstaff of Youngsville (\$10,000 Visa gift card); and the 2021 Buick Encore GX went to Juanita Fontenot of Opelousas. A \$100 ticket rendered each win.

Inspired House of Cards

ARNAUVILLE, GRAND COTEAU This fall, UL-Lafayette architecture students are building a diminutive structure they designed, named the "House of Cards" (with slanting walls) in the Frozard Cultural District as a retreat for artists/writers. Located on the Corridor des Arts between Grand Coteau and Arnaudville. Facilitated by NuNu Arts Collective (nunucollective.org).

LAFAYETTE

A Taller Skyline

Plans were recently unveiled for a new Seven16 Lafayette Towers that will feature two identical 20-floor, high-rise structures flipped opposite from each other. The 8th floor will have a luxury restaurant space with rooftop patio dining; floors 17-20 will include residential condos or a luxury hotel. Tentative construction start date on the first tower is early 2022 (seven16lafayettetower.com).

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SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY



(facing page) "Fishing in the Atchafalaya Basin" (left) "Delcambre Shrimp Boats at Port" (bottom) "Superior Bridge, New Iberia" (right) Jerome Weber



houseboat on Bayou Teche, or in shrimp boats lined up in port at Delcambre. The atmosphere, the mood, everything is idyllic. No mortgage rates, interest rates, recessions or foreclosures here, just the beauty of Acadiana and one artist's imagination committed to canvas.

To capture those moments, Weber, who now teaches art in New Iberia, paints mostly with oils. They dry slowly, which enables him to rework a painting as he progresses. And like many landscape artists, he enjoys painting outdoors on location, or "en plein air." But because sunlight and atmospheric conditions are ever changing, he takes photographs as field notes to complete

the painting back in his studio. Almost a decade ago, Weber's interest in plein air painting led him to create New Iberia's annual Shadows-on-the-Teche Plein Air Painting Competition that has drawn artists from across the nation.

Those moments when Weber retreats into the Acadian landscape and his memories have, as he says, changed his life.

"I made a decision to do like the Hudson River painters," he says. "They painted as much in that area as they could because it was so beautiful. I started to paint as much as I could in south Louisiana to leave something for people to see how beautiful it is."

That's quite a legacy.

Weber's paintings can be seen at Bernel's Art & Framing Gallery in Lafayette and A Spot for Tea Art Gallery in New Iberia. ■

Going Home

Artist Jerome Weber captures the beauty of the South Louisiana landscape

by John R. Kemp

To New Iberia artist Jerome Weber, the land in south Louisiana's Acadian parishes, filtered through warm, humid sunlight, is the most beautiful landscape in the United States.

"Even before I became an artist, I loved the Louisiana landscape," says Weber, who was born in New Iberia in 1954 and was inspired by the

landscape paintings of the late Louisiana artist George Rodrigue. "The bayous and swamps are like nothing else in the U.S. I have painted around the country and I still think Louisiana is so unique that I can't wait to paint the scenes. When I'm painting, I think of nothing else."

To Weber, a senior vice president at Community First Bank in New Iberia, possibilities are everywhere. He finds his art in everyday life along the bayous, towns and in the vast sugar cane fields that blanket the local landscape. He and his artist wife Michael (pronounced Michelle) travel up and down Bayou Teche painting and taking photographs of familiar scenes that are rooted deep in the shadowed memories of his younger days growing up in New Iberia.

"That is what I try to capture in my painting," he says. "Things I

grew up with — going down Bayou Teche with my dad; going into a cane field, cutting down a piece of cane and tasting the sugar; sitting next to a giant live oak with the trunk as big as a car; painting the Superior Bridge (crossing Bayou Teche) in my boat, called the 'Cajun Monte & Company,' with my wife. All these things remind me of home."

Going home is exactly what Weber had in mind when he began painting over a decade ago during the Great Recession of 2008. A friend suggested Weber try painting as therapy and refuge to deal with the economic crisis. Since then,

creating art has become something more to him. His impressionistic images are transcendent journeys into a world of beauty and peace. One can see it in his images of fall colors in Breaux Bridge, a pecan grove in Cade, a small wood-frame



VIEW MORE PAINTINGS
BY JEROME WEBER AT
ACADIANAPROFILE.COM



A Cosmo Comeback

Canons of a celebratory classic are elevated with a fresh improvisation at Fire and Oak

by Lisa LeBlanc-Berry
photo by Romero & Romero

There may be a debate over who created the cosmopolitan, but the sweet-tart, rosy-hued cocktail that remains inextricably linked to the 1990s “Sex and the City” HBO show has been making a comeback.

Call it nostalgia. Its ubiquity has spurred countless riffs. In New York’s Greenwich Village, Linden Pride of Dante (listed as the “World’s Best Bar” in 2019 by Tales of the Cocktail) has added eight cosmo varieties while launching a line of bottled cosmopolitans.

In Lake Charles, Fire and Oak’s refreshing raspberry cosmo addition tops the must-try list. It replaces the standard cranberry juice with house-made fresh raspberry syrup, while also switching out both liqueur and garnish.

“The natural pectin in the raspberries gives the cocktail excellent viscosity,” says proprietor Andrew Green. Spoken like a true chef.

Best known for his fine dining haven, 1910 (shuttered after hurricane Laura), Chef Green opened Fire and Oak (5656 Nelson Road Suite 2, Lake Charles) in late February following a five-month, hurricane-related delay. He is now planning to reopen 1910 while also planning to restyle Fire and Oak.

“My goal is 100% to reopen 1910 and return it to its former glory,” says Chef Green. “Planned Fire and Oak upgrades include adding mirrors in the bar and expanding the patio while creating a better floor plan to give it some personality.”

Beyond craft cocktails, Chef Green’s cuisine dazzles. Begin with fried oysters, crisped by potato flakes, fancifully stacked atop Rockefeller sauce with pickled purple carrots and radishes or the baked canoe-cut beef shank bone cradling creamy bone marrow, served with grilled artisan country bread. Next, order Chilean sea bass with pineapple fried rice and wasabi beurre blanc and end with “Something Chocolate,” an unforgettable cardamom cake filled with frothy white chocolate amaretto mousse crowned with a bourbon chocolate mirror glaze. Like the festive raspberry cosmo, the alluring sweet sensation is both complex and approachable. ■



RECIPE

Raspberry Cosmo

①

Muddle **4 ounces fresh raspberries** and **.5 ounces Pierre Ferrand dry curaçao** together. Add **1.5 ounces Wheatley vodka**, **.75 ounces lime juice** and **1 ounce chilled raspberry syrup**.

②

Shake vigorously with ice. Double strain into a martini glass. Anchor a **fresh rosemary sprig** with a few **raspberries** as garnish.



GET THE RECIPE FOR RASPBERRY SYRUP AND WATCH A VIDEO OF A RASPBERRY COSMO BEING CRAFTED AT ACADIANAPROFILE.COM

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Cooking Ahead

Dishes to make between summer's dog days and crisp, cool fall

by **Marcelle Bienvenu**
photo & styling by **Eugenia Uhl**

During the hot, humid days of late summer, my mother used the phrase “the dog days of summer.” I didn’t think much about it, assuming, that the days were so hot even dogs suffered the heat. Recently I was leafing through a 2015 issue of *National Geographic* and found this tidbit:

“To the Greeks and Romans, the ‘dog days’ occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year, a period that could bring fever, or even catastrophe.”

As much as I like the languid summer, I’m ready for the first nip of cool weather, so I can enjoy the bounty of fall. I eagerly wait for a Houma friend to bring a tub of oysters, fresh from the bays along the coast. I always set some aside to eat raw with crackers and spicy cocktail sauce, but also favor a creamy soup of oysters that my mother often prepared on Sunday nights when the cold winds were blowing. ■



You can serve the dish with buttered noodles but I sometimes opt to offer small red potatoes tossed with butter and minced flat leaf parsley. Steamed asparagus is also another good side.

STARTER

Oyster Soup

Serve with oyster crackers or hot French bread.

MAKES 6 TO 8 SERVINGS

1 stick (8 tablespoons) **butter**
4 tablespoons butter plus 4 more tablespoons butter

4 tablespoons **all-purpose flour**

1 cup finely chopped **onions**

1 quart warm **cream** (or half-and-half)

4 dozen freshly shucked **oysters**, drained and oyster liquor reserved

salt and freshly ground **black pepper** to taste

3 tablespoons chopped **Italian parsley leaves**

COMBINE 4 tablespoons butter with flour in a large, heavy pot over medium heat. Stirring slowly and constantly for about 4 minutes, make a light brown roux.

ADD onions and cook, stirring, until soft, about 5 minutes. Combine cream with reserved oyster liquor and add slowly to roux mixture, stirring constantly. The mixture will thicken slightly. Bring to a gentle boil, then reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 2 minutes.

ADD oysters, parsley, and remaining 4 tablespoons butter and simmer until the edges of the oysters curl. Remove from the heat and serve.

MAIN COURSE

Beef Tenderloin With Stroganoff Sauce

There are several stories as to who created the dish and for whom it was named. It is believed that a French chef named Charles Briere won a St. Petersburg cooking contest in 1891 with a dish he called Beef Stroganov, perhaps named for Count Pavel Alexandrovich Stroganov who was a member of the oldest and wealthiest Russian families under the czars.

MAKES 6 SERVINGS

1 (3-pound) **beef tenderloin**, trimmed

¼ cup **olive oil**

1 tablespoon **kosher salt**

1 tablespoon **coarsely ground black pepper**

¼ teaspoon **cayenne pepper**

Stroganoff sauce (recipe online)

PREHEAT oven to 450 F. Tie meat with kitchen twine at one-inch intervals to hold the shape of tenderloin. Rub meat with olive oil, and season generously with salt, black pepper and cayenne.

HEAT a large, heavy ovenproof skillet over high heat. Add tenderloin and sear on all sides, rotating it about 1 minute per side to brown evenly. Transfer skillet to oven and roast for 10 to 12 minutes, then turn roast over and cook another 10 minutes or so, or until the internal temperature reaches about 125 F for medium rare. Remove from oven and cover loosely with aluminum foil. Allow to stand at least 10 minutes before carving into 6 portions to serve with sauce.

DESSERT

Frozen Caffe Latte

Serve in wine glasses that have been pre-chilled in the ‘fridge or freezer. Garnish with sweetened whipped cream.

MAKES ABOUT 6 SERVINGS

½ cup **sugar**

3 cups freshly brewed **espresso or strong coffee**

1 cup **whole milk**

CHILL a 13-inch by 9-inch baking pan in the freezer.

IN A MEDIUM BOWL, stir sugar into coffee until dissolved. Let cool completely. Stir in milk. Pour mixture into the chilled baking dish. Freeze for about 30 minutes, then stir well with a fork to incorporate the ice. Continue freezing, stirring every 30 minutes until liquid freezes completely, about three hours.



TO GET THE **STROGANOFF SAUCE RECIPE**, VISIT ACADIANAPROFILE.COM



Homeowner Renee Landry enjoys the unique indoor loggia-styled space, with stepping stones traversing a pond flanked by found and made art pieces. According to designer Robin Thibodeaux, she and her team were careful to keep the resident goldfish fed throughout the duration of the project.



2013, his widow Andree, also an artist, held Iggy to his promise. The two developed such a close bond that she referred to him as her “chosen son.”

Andree passed away in 2017, leaving the Landrys her home and its contents, including thousands of art pieces and objects she and her husband created and collected. Andree asked them to keep everything, a promise the Landrys felt compelled to honor as a tribute to the Stansburys’ remarkable legacy.

The midcentury home, built in 1963 on land fronting the Vermilion River, presented a massive undertaking. The structure needed a complete renovation, the artistic treasures required thoughtful display, and the waterfront bulkhead was failing, with land sliding into the river.

According to Renee, structural engineers advised them to level the house and start over. The Landrys refused.

“We made a promise, and we would never go back on that promise to her,” says Renee. “So, we said no. We will do what we have to do to renovate it.”

The couple brought in designer Robin Thibodeaux and her team, including Taylor Glorioso who served as the project’s design lead. Along with builder Keith Bates and other

The Art of Not Letting Go

Lafayette couple preserves a midcentury masterpiece and its creators’ legacy

by Rebecca Friedman photos by Haylei Smith

Iggy and Renee Landry thought they had their retirement mapped out. The former nurses — Renee in a local OB-GYN’s office and Iggy in hospice care — built a home in Lafayette for their next chapter, never anticipating a transformational twist.

According to Renee, Iggy’s dying patients often asked him to look out for their loved ones — and Iggy always said yes. One of these patients was Mike Stansbury, a Lafayette artist and fitness enthusiast who had owned one of the city’s first health clubs. After Mike died in



Instead of a formal dining room, the Landrys opted for a more casual kitchen nook, with a custom-built zebra wood table attached to the granite countertop.



TO GET MORE OF THIS HOME AND SEE THE ART COLLECTION VISIT ACADIANAPROFILE.COM

committed craftspeople, they spent the next 10 months striving to preserve the former owners' legacy while creating a comfortable home for Renee and Iggy that didn't feel like a museum.

"There was so much to take into account," says Thibodeaux. "The original artwork, the wood pieces in the house, stones, amethyst pieces, carvings — some of them weighed hundreds of pounds. We had to have huge hydraulic dollies come in to lift them and move things around."

The team created a layout that separated the home into living areas for Mike and Renee and gallery spaces for much of the artwork. They also worked with the Landrys to choose transitional furnishings that would meld their more traditional style with the midcentury space, choosing fabrics and colors to serve as a bridge.

The project culminated with an open house that gathered friends, family, local government officials and others to celebrate the historic home and its owners, past and present.

"My husband said, 'If we're going to have this house ... we're going to share,'" says Renee. "I still have people call [to ask], 'Can we come and tour the home and see the artwork?' I know that's what Andree wanted ... Her legacy is living on by us sharing the house with people." ■

Homeowners Renee and Iggy Landry revel in the exterior and interior spaces that showcase the original owners' artwork, from sculpture to paintings to natural objects collected over decades. The barrel roof houses a series of arched stained-glass panels, 16 on each side, crafted and installed by former owner Andree Stansbury.

★ Design: Designs by Robin, Robin Thibodeaux and lead designer Taylor Glorioso, dbrlafayette.com

Builder: Bates Construction LLC

KITCHEN

REVISION

From contemporary designs to more classic takes, this roundup of showstopper kitchen renovations will inspire you. *By MICHELLE MASTRO Photography by HAYLEI SMITH*

A mix of metals, the cabinet hardware hails from Top Knob and works with the pendant lights to offset the room's predominately lighter hues.

As the heart of any dwelling, a great kitchen not only enhances one's home life, but it may also very well transform it. That is what the owners of the kitchens featured here realized after their spaces were updated to include everything from better organizational devices to stylish finishes and hardware. Hence, if your goal is to create your own dream kitchen, a room not only for cooking but hosting momentous get-togethers, look no further than these examples to help you spruce up your cooking spaces. ¶ Each kitchen incorporates major trends, whether it be an overall style or the space's approach to reigning in the chaos of cooking up a feast. Rolling cabinet drawers, anyone? What a great new way to store cooking gadgets and doodads. Three Acadiana designers have helped transform each kitchen into the mainstay of their clients' homes — and with staying power to boot. Read on to discover every element to getting the looks, along with a few ideas for how to make the styles your very own.



ANTIQUE TOUCHES

While predominantly traditional in style, this all-white kitchen gets a modern update in its accessories.

Were it assigned a category, this kitchen would probably fall under transitional, says designer Brianne Jenkins. Modern quartzite countertops suggest a more modern view of things, yet the refinished red brick floors and oak beams hugging the ceiling clearly link the space to the classic Southern kitchen. Not to mention, the all-white cabinets feel more timeless than the recently popular bold blue and green cooking spaces cropping up all over social media feeds.

But an all-white kitchen also offers the homeowner a brilliant foundation for endlessly changeable accents and accessories. In this kitchen, the hardware is minimal and clean. The faucet is a polished nickel, for instance, while the cabinetry pulls are either gold finished or antique brass — not stained to look antique. Jenkins chose to mix metals and finishes, blending the different colors to create a collected look that feels strikingly modern. “Homeowners should avoid anything too matchy-matchy,” says Jenkins. Building layers in this way will prevent the kitchen from feeling like it needs a refresh years down the line.

(Interior Design by Grayson Carter Design)



Adding to the crisp feel of this all-white kitchen, Shaker style cabinets offer clean lines that allow the refinished red brick floors and oak beams to take pride of place.

Fabricated locally in Lafayette, the stainless steel and nickel range hood was designed by Robin Thibodeaux and ties together the differing tones in the kitchen.



(Left): In the bar, the main tile is a picket shaped antique glass framed with a white quartz from Rickert Tile. Meanwhile, inside the bar cabinet itself, Thibodeaux used an oblong hexagon-shaped tile from Anatolia Tile to help bridge the kitchen and bar areas. To further jazz it up, she selected a Urethane grout from Bostik. This grout provides a softer look with subtle shimmer.



COASTAL CASUAL

A 25-year-old kitchen needed a little TLC in the form of a beach getaway.

Glance through this kitchen too quickly, and you may overlook the clever references to balmy beach weather and seashore shades. “The homeowners wanted a beachy look without the seashells,” says designer Robin Thibodeaux. “They wanted allusions and textures recalling the beach, but not scream, ‘I am at the beach!’ — this could feel a little dated after a while.”

Therefore, Thibodeaux brought in round shapes, undulating textures and hues evoking the sea’s rippling waves. The kitchen surround is a white Spanish tile by Equipe Ceramicás with a curved surface, providing a sense of movement and flow. The tile is likewise used in a grey color above the sink to create an accent wall and seemingly drifts up to the wall’s crown, affixing a dynamic look. As it would happen, this wall’s window peers out onto the backyard pool, further amplifying the feeling of flowing water in the kitchen.

Colors play a significant role to creating a beach feel. The island is painted a bluish-grey and complements the white marble countertops that includes a waterfall edge. The kitchen is centered with a statement hexagon mosaic (behind the stove) from SOHO Studio and features Carrera marble and moonstone. “All these little details make the look come together so perfectly,” says Thibodeaux.

(Interior design by Designs by Robin)

(Above) This unique Basketweave Panel comes from Fabrica, known for their hardwood. Ushering in an instant textural effect to an otherwise smooth surface, this 12 x 24 pre-woven panel, when assembled, creates a large-scale accent piece not to be missed. Craftsmen who assembled the panels also created and stained the finishing pieces and cased openings to match and complete the look.



Designed by Lisa Bourque and built by Cabinets Unlimited, the new maple plywood cabinetry includes a clear satin finish to highlight the wood's beautiful, natural wonders.



Being on the smaller side, this kitchen space was not only designed with pleasing aesthetics in mind, but also functionality. Tucked away inside the larger cabinets, rows of shelves make organization a cinch. At the same time, the appearance of counter clutter is reduced significantly by cabinet doors that hide numerous kitchen necessities, like the homeowner's coffeemaker, cups and other items.

CLASSICAL CONTEMPORARY

Subtle colors make this kitchen's collection of artwork pop.

Once cramped and gloomy, this now cheerfully airy kitchen bears little resemblance to what it once was. The challenge, says designer Lisa Bourque, was matching the kitchen with its accompanying family room. Both rooms shared the same footprint, so making them correspond automatically tricked the eye into seeing a bigger space. New maple cabinetry with a clear satin finish, designed by Bourque and built by Cabinets Unlimited in St. Martinville, would correspond to the living room's maple built-in shelves, while ushering in a sense of warmth.

To illuminate the kitchen further, bricks painted white were freshened up with a new gloss coat. The instant shine set a calmer tone, while working as a backdrop for the cabinets' honey-eyed hues and the curated collection of artwork. "The homeowner wanted cleaner lines and uncluttered spaces," says Bourque, who points out myriad creative ways the kitchen renders organization a cinch. Built-in rolling drawers host all manner of cooking tools, while the lowered countertop functions as a quasi-desk. The large cabinet conceals a computer and printer. The lighter wood, popular in the 1990s, is currently making a return in the design world. But to keep the look timeless, Lisa opted for antique touches, like the satin brass pulls and other hardware — "These really elevate the wood. They're like little pieces of jewelry you can touch."

(Interior design by Lisa Bourque Design)



TO SEE MORE
PHOTOS OF THESE
CHIC KITCHENS VISIT
ACADIANPROFILE.COM

While we can't explore every great neighborhood in the 22-parish region, in the pages that follow, we offer you snapshots of some of the best towns and neighborhoods in Acadiana, based on everything from great schools and historic architecture to cultural attractions and outdoor activities.

Where to Live Next

PLUS A Listing of the Region's Top Real Estate Professionals

BY **LISA LEBLANC-BERRY**
PHOTOS BY **HAYLEI SMITH**

➔ While the value of a good neighborhood is usually defined by its location — proximity to downtown, jobs and school districts, Acadiana's best neighborhoods are often defined by access to churches, good neighbors, food and a vibrant, living history. Since the ecclesiastical parish preceded the formation of civil authority in Acadiana, many areas were built up around a church, such as Vermilionville (present-day Lafayette) and Royville (present-day Youngsville). Hence, historic churches remain the cornerstone of many Cajun communities with surging housing demands in 2021.

Lafayette Parish is the driver of Acadiana's record-setting real estate market and Youngsville is still the fastest-growing community. Adjacent towns with historic churches and cultural attractions such as Broussard and Carencro offer comparatively lower home prices. When the massive new Amazon center opens, Carencro is predicted to "become the next Youngsville" via rapid expansion.



Sugar Mill Pond



➔ From urbanite couples relocating with children to descendants of the original settlers seeking dream homes, we find Youngsville (formerly Royville) has wide appeal for its safe, upscale neighborhoods, excellent schools, historic churches and affluent, small-town feel. The expanding 509-acre traditional neighborhood development (TND) of Sugar Mill Pond arose from French settlers' farmlands. One of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Lafayette, St. Anne emerged in 1859 when Desiré Roy donated nine arpents of farmland with a chapel to New Orleans Archbishop Antoine Blanc for the area's first church. Desiré was the eldest son of prominent French planter Charles A. Roy, founder of Royville in 1839. After Desiré's tragic cotton gin explosion, a younger sibling, Pierre Bienvenu, became mayor and helped organize FNB of Lafayette. The family's 1760s New Orleans roots were revived when Marie Althea Roy, Pierre's daughter, married Jules Alciatore of Antoine's in New Orleans. Through wars and hurricanes, Royville thrived and was reincorporated in 1908 as Youngsville, earning its city moniker in 2006. From a flourishing village to a booming city with borders broadened by Sugar Mill Pond, Youngsville continues to attract families devoted to their heritage, hearth and home.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Schools

One of Louisiana's leading school systems, Youngsville's schools include Southside High and Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy. Prodigy Early Learning opens in 2022.

Famous Local

Youngsville native, Senator Dudley LeBlanc ("Couzan Dud"), donated the life-size St. Therese statue fronting St. Anne Catholic Church.

Highest Income

Youngsville has the highest median household income (\$95,395) in Lafayette Parish (\$51,462); and more than double New Orleans (\$37,146), Louisiana's largest city.



At A Glance

YOUNGVILLE'S NAME
In 1908, the U.S. Postal Service asked village leaders to change Royville's name to avoid confusion with Rayville in North Louisiana.

CITY OF ROUNDABOUTS
Known for its roundabouts, Youngsville was the first city in Lafayette Parish to use traffic circles instead of red lights to ease congestion.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS
The circa 1875-1899 Roy-Dupleix mansion; the 162-year-old St. Anne Catholic Church, founded to serve five neighboring villages.

Youthful Attentions

Structured for safety with roundabouts instead of red lights, kid-friendly golf carts instead of cars, top schools and world-class youth sports

➔ **SUGAR MILL POND**

People enjoy riding golf carts to get around in this picturesque, walkable TND featuring myriad parks, bicycle and jogging paths and a diversity of upscale residences near chic shops and eateries, a town center, an amphitheater and a central pond frequented for boating, special events and firework shows. Expanding since its inception; currently in Phase 10 (sugarmill-pond.com).

➔ **SAFETY AND OPPORTUNITY**

"We don't have a single red light in town," says Jessica Willis, executive director of Youngsville's Chamber of Commerce. "It's all roundabouts. They call it Roundaboutville. Also, we're the only town without a single highway running through it. We only have two-lane roads. It's very safe. People ride golf carts to get around. Since there's so much to love here, including great schools, there are currently 2,800 vacant lots in the process of being developed for new houses."

➔ **TOP SPORTS COMPLEX**

The 70-acre Youngsville Sports Complex features numerous tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, little league world series and youth sports programs in partnership with top sports organizations (including one created on-site by Drew Brees). Sugar Beach volleyball, playgrounds, pavilions and fully stocked fishing ponds are among the perks (youngsvillesportscomplex.com).

➔ **CREATING PRODIGIES**

A sister of Charter Schools USA, the 12,000-square-foot Prodigy Early Learning's newest location in Youngsville opens in early 2022 (ages 8 weeks to pre-K), featuring a STEM lab and enrichment activities like yoga, sign language and foreign language education. Equipped with safety cameras and codes, hourly ionization filtration systems and ZONO Disinfecting Cabinets that sanitize toys in minutes (Acadiana@ProdigyLearn.com).

TOP REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

➔ **METHODOLOGY** The agents in this feature were selected through a submission process analyzed and vetted by Professional Research Services. Agents were asked to submit their sales volume over a specified 12-month period. Sales volumes were required to be accompanied by proof (MLS numbers/letter from broker/letter from accountant). Submissions were open to residential real estate agents working within Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vermilion and West Baton Rouge parishes. Once the submissions were collected, PRS established a cutoff based on the top 5 percent to 10 percent of volumes submitted. All agents above this cutoff were named Top Real Estate Professionals for 2021. Additionally, the selected agents had the option to endorse up three mortgage professionals within the market area. The mortgage professionals listed were added to a separate list of Top Mortgage Professionals.

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Bendel Gardens



➔ **New York fashion tycoon and Lafayette native, Henri Bendel (1868–1936),** died before he could build his Lafayette dream house after purchasing 213 arpents along the Vermilion River, formerly Walnut Grove Plantation. Once it was on the market, developer Harry Bentlif acquired the 150-acre property to create the exclusive Bendel Gardens neighborhood, revered among arts patrons for its easy access to Lafayette's top performing arts venues. We admire the neighborhood's conveyance of grandeur, from 19th-century landmarks to transformed modern mansions. Historic treasures include a grand Queen Anne (circa 1893) landmark that was split in two, moved intact from Abbeville to Bendel Gardens, precisely one hundred years after Simonet LeBlanc built the two-story home, carriage house and stables for his bride, Elia Roy (daughter of French planter Desiré Roy). Accented with a generous wrap-around columned porch and lacy gingerbread trim, it was later refurbished and expanded. In architectural contrast, the stunning G. Richard and Nicole Young house was transformed from a traditional home into a modern masterpiece with a minimalist vibe by architects/designers, Gil and Tanya Zaunbrecher, via unique glass wall systems between interconnected rooms and exteriors. Live oaks, camellias and azaleas line neighborhood streets.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Magnolia Row

Planted by Henri Bendel in the early 1930s, southern Magnolia Row begins on Marguerite Boulevard and extends to the river with mature magnolias in full bloom from May–June.

Flower Power

A springtime attraction since the 1930s, the Lafayette Historic Azalea Trail is a winding drive through downtown, the Oil Center and historic neighborhoods ([azaleatrail.org](#)).

Location

Near UL–Lafayette, the Oil Center, downtown galleries, museums, chic boutiques and chef-driven restaurants; theater, symphony and ballet venues.



At A Glance

NOTABLE STREETS
Developer Harry Bentlif named the streets after his children: Marguerite, Marjorie, Laurence, Beverly, Stephanie and Bernice.

NEAR GIRARD PARK
Home to Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, the 33-acre park is enhanced with tennis courts, playgrounds, pavilions and jogging trails.

FOR YOUR HEALTH
Enjoy easy access to Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center.

RELIGIOUS ROOTS
Vermilionville grew up around a church after Jean Mouton donated a portion of his land to establish (present-day) St. John the Evangelist Cathedral.

Art in Context

Rising like a phoenix from Walnut Grove's ashes, Bendel Gardens' community emerged with arts patrons and creatives near museums, galleries and performing arts venues

BIRTH OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

The 150-acre Bendel Gardens was originally owned by Jean Mouton and Charlotte Odeide Mouton, daughter of Gov. Alexandre Mouton. In 1863, federal troops seized their plantation, forced out Charlotte and her six children, and burned it down. The property changed hands until Houston oilman, Harry Bentlif, developed the sprawling Bendel Gardens neighborhood.

SYMPHONIC SOUNDS

Nearby is the Heymann Performing Arts Center, home to concerts by the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and other community functions ([heymanncenter.com](#); [acadianasymphony.org](#)).

FOR ART LOVERS

Nearby Acadiana Center for the Arts serves the entire region though arts education, outreach, concerts, more than 40 annual exhibits and 150 annual events including every genre of performing arts ([acadianacenter-forthearts.org](#)).

MUSEUM OF MASTERS

The Hilliard Art Museum at UL–Lafayette's permanent collections includes 18th–21st-century European, Asian and American artworks. Changing exhibits showcase regional, national and international art ([hilliardmuseum.org](#)).

THEATRICAL CROWD

Cité des Arts is a non-profit arts incubator featuring a variety of theater productions staged in the recently remodeled Robert Sidman Theater that flanks a dance studio equipped with a floating dance floor ([citedesarts.org](#)).

FOR HISTORY BUFFS

The Alexandre Mouton House/ Lafayette Museum, named for Louisiana's first democratic governor, was once the home of Jean Mouton, founder of Vermilionville, renamed Lafayette in 1884.

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Margaret Place/ Shell Beach Drive



At A Glance

MINIATURE MANSIONS
Many Shell Beach Drive properties have boathouses overlooking the water that resemble the adjacent mansions.

CULINARY SUCCESS
Catherine LeBleu's descendants still live in the area as owners of the popular LeBleu's Landing restaurant and oyster bar (lebleuslanding.com).

RASCAL REMEMBERED
Charles Sallier (never seen again after shooting his wife) is memorialized at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum's 375-year-old landmark, The Sallier Oak.

➔ **Southern sophistication is at home** in the luxurious Margaret Place/Shell Beach Drive neighborhood, where some of the most opulent historic mansions and grand estates in Lake Charles are nestled along the 1.7-mile scenic stretch of Shell Beach Drive bordering the Margaret Place subdivision's eastern terminus, formerly Old Spanish Trail. Among the many grand historic homes is the neoclassical Stockwell mansion on Shell Beach Drive. Built in 1937, it was wedding present from Dr. R.G. Hocombe Sr. for his daughter, Roseina, and son-in-law, Oliver P. Stockwell. The city's oldest house with the oldest legend is the Sallier-Barbe mansion on Shell Beach. The Charles Sallier cabin's original bousillage walls (circa 1802) were discovered 75 years ago, hidden in the Sallier-Barbe mansion walls. Brought to Louisiana by pirate Jean Lafitte, Sallier was jealous of the audacious womanizing privateer. After finding the handsome Lafitte in his lakeside cabin with young wife, Catherine LeBleu, Sallier shot her with his pistol, then fled and never returned. His bullet lodged in Catherine's brooch, a gift from Lafitte. Tales of Lafitte's buried loot, including a large cache of gold coins found near a grove of trees east of Old Spanish Trail, are still circulating like the howling spectral winds that lurk around the notorious cabin, forever hidden on the water's edge.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Pirate Celebration

Jean Lafitte favored the shores of Lake Charles to bury treasure. Celebrate Lafitte's legend for two weeks during the annual Louisiana Pirate Festival (louisianapiratefestival.com).

A Lake Named Charles

The lake bordering Charles Sallier's cabin was called "Charles' Lake." The surrounding area became Charles Town, later Charleston in 1861 and renamed Lake Charles in 1867.

Margaret's Ascent

In 1911, the Hi-Mount Land Company advertised residential lots in Margaret Place. One of the landowners allegedly traded the undeveloped land for two blankets and a bottle of rum.

Of Legends & Lore

Local accounts of the Shell Beach Drive area add to the unfathomable legends of lost beachfront landmarks, ancient oaks and trajectories of pirate Jean Lafitte

► PRIOR PARTY PLACE

On the lakeshore near the intersection of Lake Street and Shell Beach Drive (the wooded land that's part of the Barbe family homestead) was the famous Barbe Pleasure Pier, complete with a casino, theatre and dance hall that extended 200 feet into the lake at the turn of the century. The city's prime center of recreation and entertainment, the popular pier was situated at the terminus of the streetcar line.

► FAKED DEATH REVEALED

Beloved in Lake Charles, Jean Lafitte was supposedly buried at sea in 1823. But a new book published by UL-Lafayette Press, "Jean Lafitte Revealed: Unraveling One of America's Longest-Running Mysteries" by professors Ashley Oliphant and Beth Yarbrough, takes a fresh look at all the legends, from Lafitte's rise in Louisiana and the Gulf through his eventual disappearance in the Caribbean, with new evidence of Lafitte's 1839 arrival in North Carolina and death in Lincolnton in 1875 at age 96 under an assumed French name.

► CELEBRITY OAK

A celebrated live oak tree in the Margaret Place/Shell Beach Drive neighborhood has its own personal caretaker, and its seedlings are so revered that they're harvested to create other oaks and for coastline conservation. Known as the Calcasieu Manor Tree, the 170-year-old live oak that resides on a grand estate is registered with the Live Oak Society and the Louisiana Garden Club Federation.

► WHERE TO STAY

Situated on the Shell Beach Drive lakefront with cool breezes and amazing views the 10,000-square-foot luxurious Della Belle Bed and Breakfast is situated on a 9-acre property with five elegant guest suites in the mansion. Built in 1925, the Greek-influenced B&B reopens this fall. A grand parlor, billiard room bar, tea room, a pharmacy bar, formal dining and breakfast rooms, a garden house, a carriage house with an upstairs suite and a boathouse with panoramic views attract regulars (thedellabelle.com).

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Saints Streets



At A Glance

GOING FAST Homes in the Saints Street area don't stay on the market for long, data shows. Limited inventory has motivated some buyers to make offers above asking price.

SCHOOL DAYS The French-immersion program at Myrtle Place Elementary is known for its high ratings and widespread success (greatschools.org).

HISTORIC SUBDIVISION Elmhurst Park (developed in 1905-1907) is one of several historic subdivisions that span the Saints Streets neighborhood.

➔ **Known for its close proximity** to UL Lafayette, the Cajundome, Cajun Field and downtown, the popular Saints Streets area is a magnet for creative millennials and Gen Zers seeking affordable, centrally located housing with easy access to casual eateries, hip music havens, trendy shops and Ragin' Cajun games. Beyond its location, we also favor the nostalgic allure of the quiet, walkable neighborhood replete with picturesque cottages and colorful bungalows intermingled with chic modern farmhouses, historic homes and churches. St. John Street, the oldest of the "saintly" lanes, anchors the church that launched Lafayette in 1840. St. John the Evangelist Cathedral is graced with the commanding 126-foot-tall, 500-year-old St. John live oak. The neighborhood's oak-lined streets, named for favorite saints and flowering foliage, traverse subdivisions from Johnston to beyond Congress, and from Cajundome Boulevard to University Avenue. It's a safe, people-watching milieu. You'll recognize the busy young professionals walking to work and students biking to campus. On autumn evenings, you can smell the hickory smoke from backyard barbecues. Neighbors bond over front-porch beers, entertained by toddlers on trikes and Gen Zers on 'cross bikes heading for Blue Moon Saloon's bounce night pop-ups, Wurst Biergarten's open mic hook-ups and Rock'n'Bowl's two-stepping Cajun coteries.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Capers for Kids

Kids enjoy the Children's Museum of Acadiana's full-size ambulance (childrensmuseumofacadiana.com) and the planetarium at the Lafayette Science Museum.

Quick Bites

Grab an overstuffed oyster half-loaf at the iconic Olde Tyme Grocery, then loop out back to find those classic Murph's snowballs (oldetymegrocery.com).

Twists of Time

Pamplona Tapas Bar (pamplonatapas.com) is housed in the historic Grado Building. Tsunami (servingsushi.com) calls the original Abdalla's department store home.

Of History & Hadacol

Attractions range from historic homes and churches to a Cajun senator's downtown landmark built for Hadacol "medicine" that yielded millions

➔ DIVERSITY BY DESIGN

Frequently misconstrued as a neighborhood limited to modest midcentury classics, the area is graced with architectural variety. The Saints Streets' Elmwood Park subdivision, which was originally part of the vast land holdings of Basil and Maxime Crow, has notable historic landmarks. The Crows gifted the area to their daughter, Maxime, and her husband, Michel Girard. The Girards' imposing circa 1857 manse was built a block away from their son's circa 1900 Queen Anne domain (the family's land donations instigated the original UL Lafayette campus and Girard Park). Beyond Elmwood, the La Maison Française was designed in the Classical Revival style by famed fashion tycoon, Henri Bendel, for his sister, Louise Bendel Meyer. In another area, Tanya and Gil Zaunbrecher (Zaunbrecher Design) transformed the Lauren and William Poche home into a modern interpretation of a sprawling Queen Anne farmhouse. The duo also designed their own, eye-catching modern farmhouse on a vacant narrow lot in the Saints Streets neighborhood.

➔ LAFAYETTE'S MOTHER CHURCH

The soaring 50-foot ceiling of the Romanesque-style St. John the Evangelist Cathedral (completed in 1916) is a far cry from the rustic ceiling that covered the original l'Église St-Jean du Vermilion when it was built in 1821 on land donated by prominent French planter Jean Mouton. The cathedral is the third structure on the site that's lauded as the dawn of Vermilionville (present-day Lafayette). The original church doubled as a government hub since it was the only place frequented by the area's early settlers. The second church was built in the 1850s by Father Antoine Mégret, founder of Abbeville's St. Mary Magdalen church, established in 1842 from the remodeled Joseph LeBlanc home.

➔ GOOD FOR FIVE MILLION

The historic Tribune Building, known as the old downtown printing plant, was actually built by Senator Dudley LeBlanc to bottle his famous Hadacol patent medicine. The colorful Cajun's boozy "vitamin" elixir became wildly popular "for pep" in the late 1940s.

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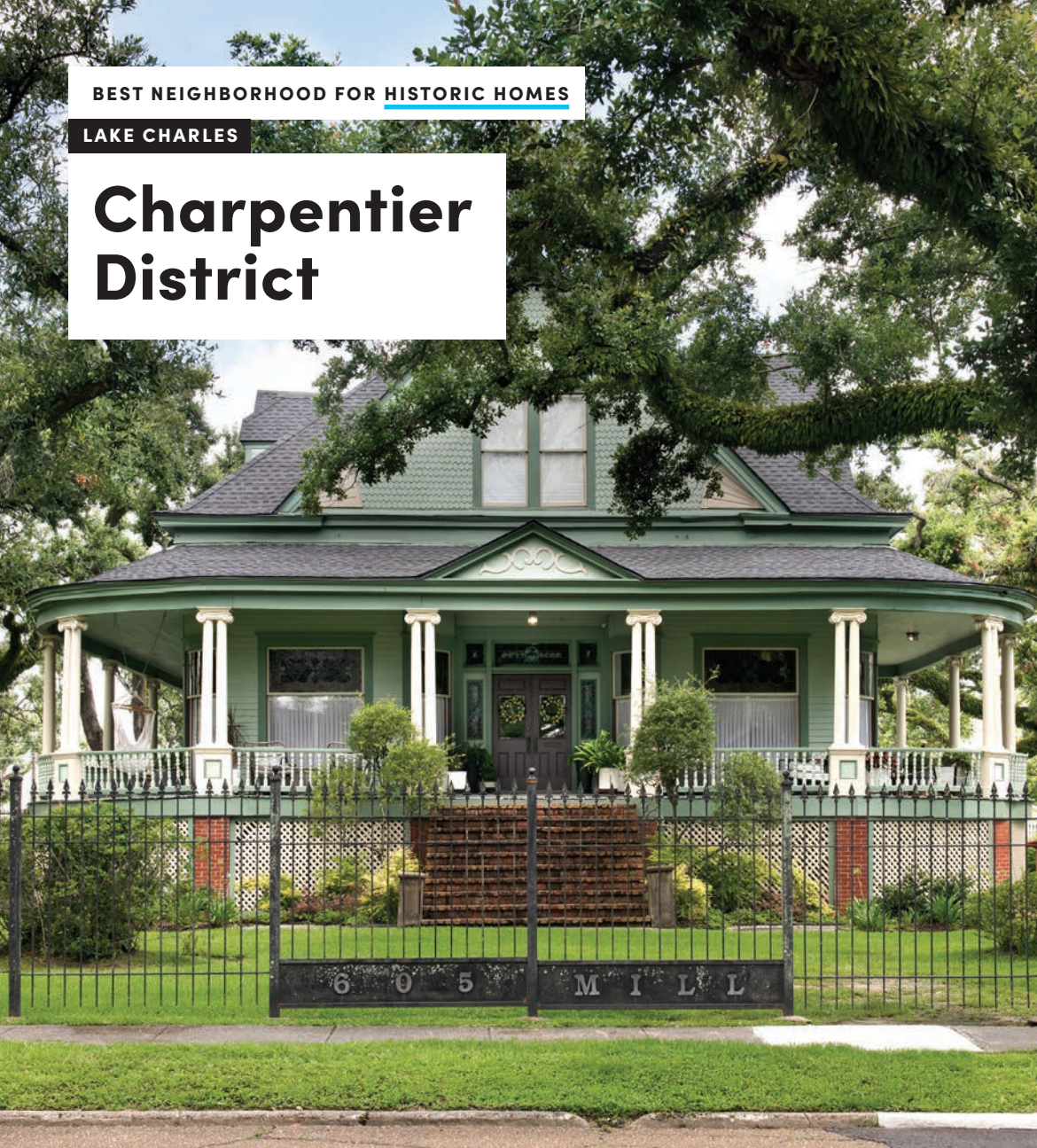
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Charpentier District



At A Glance

HISTORIC HOMES VERIFIED
The 40-block area is on the National Register of Historic Places.

LOCAL LUMBER
Fueled by the vast woodlands in the area, the 1880s lumber boom led to the rapid growth of the city and the extensive use of solid pine and cypress for homes.

WORTH VISITING
The nearby Civic Center Seawall and Park has added attractions with Millennium Park, Veterans Memorial Park and the PPG interactive fountain.

OFF THE RAILS
In 2011, a section of downtown's original streetcar tracks (discontinued in 1926) was uncovered during replacement of the Python Coulee Bridge.

➔ **The heart of Lake Charles** is the historic Charpentier District, covering more than 40 blocks of turn-of-the-century residential and commercial buildings distinguished by various architectural styles and accents. After the Civil War, the city transitioned with the influx of immigrants from northern and midwestern states, precipitated by the lumber boom that came with the northern lumber barons. Mill workers settled in the area east of downtown in what is now the Charpentier District (French for "carpenter"), named for the self-made carpenter-architects who freely designed as they built, since there were no available architects. They borrowed different elements from myriad architectural styles that gave rise to the unique Lake Charles style that prevails. We feel that if you spend enough time exploring the eye-catching, unique homes while strolling beneath the huge oaks, real estate listings will soon follow. The historic district is adjacent to the beach and boardwalk, popular for afternoon sailboat-watching, jogging and catching dreamy sunsets.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Culinary Diversity

Get a taste of the town at 121 Artisan Bistro, Restaurant Calla and the new The James 710 for upscale dining, Steamboat Bill's for casual seafood, and Cajun fare at LeBleu's Landing.

Carnival Forever

The reopened Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu is filled with lifelike costumed mannequins with distinctive physiognomy that makes each Carnival scenario vivid.

District Genesis

Calcasieu Parish was created out of St. Landry Parish in 1840 and "Charleston" became the parish seat in 1852 at the urging of Jacob Ryan.

Architectural Perspectives

Profiles of historic homes that convey how a lumber boom shaped Lake Charles architecture and the historic Charpentier District's varied styles and cultural roots

A STUDY IN STYLES

Houses in the Charpentier District were constructed between the late 1800s and the early 1930s. The Edgar Miller House (circa 1914) is a sterling example of a craftsman airplane bungalow built of longleaf pine, brick and stucco with five windows in the "cockpit" dormer and a broad front porch roof acting as a "wing." The Samuel Woodring House (circa 1907) has hand-selected lumber for the massive show house (he was manager of the Calcasieu Longleaf Lumber Co.). Originally built in the Queen Anne style, it was remodeled to add fluted columns and the wrap-around porches. The Ernest Bel House (circa 1890) was built by J.A. Bel for his son as a wedding present with 17 rooms, a five-room carriage house and a hidden widow's walk above the attic.

RAILROAD ROOTS

Lake Charles had electric streetcars as early as 1894 and one of the lines ran from downtown via Kirby and Kirkman streets to serve the residents of upper Lake Charles and Central Place, resulting in a prestigious neighborhood that developed with large, elegant homes.

LUMBER TO THE RESCUE

For more than 100 years, sailing schooners from Lake Charles traded with Galveston and other Gulf port cities with cargoes that included lumber and other commodities. As late as 1900, after a great storm destroyed much of Galveston, Lake Charles lumber was used to rebuild the Texas coastal city.

GERMAN INFLUENCE

The Germans were experienced lumbermen and shipbuilders and left a tradition of excellent woodcraft exhibited in houses and structures in Charpentier District's Germantown area. Featuring a grand portico supported by massive "Lake Charles columns," the Walter Goos house (circa 1903) is a 3-story Colonial Revival gem built of cypress. The Captain Simon Jacobson cottage (circa 1885) follows the traditional shape of a seafarer's cottage. The Charles Fitzenreiter house is a Victorian raised cottage with turned columns supporting the front gallery. The Alfred Reid House (circa 1891) is known for its witch's hat turret. A mirror-flipped twin of this house is on Moss and Division (minus the hat).

TOP REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

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Coldwell Banker Ingle Safari Realty
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eXp Realty
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Deborah Pierce and The Red Star Team
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Get Sold Team
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Phyllis Miller
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Blake Neveaux
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Fabio Passos
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Metairie
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2021 PROFILES

TOP REAL ESTATE PROS

acadiana
PROFILE

TOP
REAL
ESTATE
PROS

acadiana
PROFILE

“
Real estate
is in my
DNA—as an
agent, I am
committed
to building
a God-filled,
genuine
and trusting
relationship
with each
and every
client.”

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Wendy McCombie

REALTOR
LATTER & BLUM



Part of what makes Wendy McCombie so successful as a local Realtor with Latter & Blum is her ability to help clients see beyond what they are seeing.

“I relish the opportunity to help them envision their new home by either showing them how to make improvements to the design, changing the style with simple tips, or even to realize how conducive a particular home is to their lifestyle,” says Wendy.

As a listing agent, Wendy helps create interior and exterior environments that maximize the home’s potential to attract every type of buyer. Wendy’s passion for design and cutting-edge market knowledge allows her to sell quickly, efficiently, and for top dollar.

With 17 years’ experience in real estate, Wendy is consistently recognized as a Top 10 Latter & Blum agent in Acadiana and a Top 30 Latter & Blum agent in the state of Louisiana.

LATTER
& BLUM

TOP
REAL
ESTATE
PROS

acadiana
PROFILE



It's our greatest wish to be our clients' real estate resource for life!

The Red Star Team

FOUNDER
DEBORAH PIERCE



Founded six years ago by Deborah Pierce, the top producing realtor at Keller Williams Realty Acadiana, The Red Star Team is Acadiana's number one team specializing in residential, commercial, and income producing real estate.

"One reason I launched this team was to be around other like-minded, professional, growth-oriented realtors who were committed to performing at a high level and who had a heart for their clients and their profession," says Deborah. "It's ingrained in the culture of The Red Star Team to make sure that whatever the circumstances are, our clients know and feel that they are being taken care of every step of the way."

A Lafayette native, Deborah has an extensive understanding of the local and regional markets and the buying/selling processes. She has a proven track record of excellent service, sales, negotiations, and results.

As Owner & CEO of The Red Star Team, Deborah is surrounded by well-respected professionals: Director of Operations Kathryn Weaver, Director of Sales Logan Bowers, a strong administrative team, and a host of top producing agents.

"The entire team feels such personal responsibility and privilege in partnering with clients," says Deborah. "We're mission-minded with our clients needs always in focus, evidenced by eighty percent of our business being repeat clients and referrals."

THE RED STAR TEAM
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instagram.com/redstarteam
myhome@theredstarteam.com



Standing (Left to Right): Deborah Pierce, Ginger Dykes, Walter Campbell, Kathryn Weaver, Alexis Gibbens, Logan Bowers, Nick Tate, Harley Hilburn; Sitting (Left to Right): Shannon Owens, MaryBeth Walsh, Jeannie DelGreco, Jeanne DeClouet, Danielle Touts; (not pictured Jennifer Lambert and Daniel Todd)

The Red Star Team is ranked in the top one percent of teams in the US by trusted news source *Real Trends*, Deborah ranks in the top one percent of all realtors in the country across all brokerages, and two of the team's top producers—Jeannie DelGreco and Logan Bowers—are in the top two percent in volume among Acadiana realtors across all brokerages.

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS.
REALTY ACADIANA
337.735.9300
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED



Left to Right: Deborah Pierce, Logan Bowers, Jeannie DelGreco

TOP
REAL
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acadiana
PROFILE

“
I am
passionate
about
Acadiana,
its growth,
and its
people—the
relationships
I make are
my favorite
part of the
job.”

LULU DAVID & CO
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Lulu David

REALTOR® AND TEAM LEADER
LULU DAVID & CO. TEAM



Lulu David & Co. is a team of local, experienced Realtors with expertise in the local real estate market and incomparable luxury credentials and accolades. Brokered by Rhodes Realty, this team places priority, value, and care onto each client, offering personalized support.

“Our clients are not just a transaction, they are friends and family to us,” says Lulu David, REALTOR® and Owner. A full time Realtor, Lulu is backed by a team that includes a local marketing director, transaction coordinator, administrative assistant, home interior stager, photographer, videographer, architect, inspector, and a full team of contractors.

Lulu is in the top 1% of agents in Acadiana, the #1 Top Producing Realtor for Rhodes Realty Brokerage (2019, 2020), and is one of only 12

Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialists in Acadiana. She is an Accredited Buyers Representative, Real Estate Negotiation Expert, and is GUILD Recognized.

Service + Community + Integrity
+ Excellence are our guiding principles to
Lulu David & Co.

We look forward to serving you Acadiana!



TOP
REAL
ESTATE
PROS

acadiana
PROFILE

“
My clients’
wants,
needs,
and best
interests
always
come first.”

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Paula Hornback

REALTOR
LATTER & BLUM



Simply put, Paula Hornback loves making clients happy.

“A happy home is a happy life,” says Paula. “Happy clients are my goal and my priority.” To that end, she listens carefully, answers questions and concerns clearly and completely, and responds to calls, emails, and texts promptly. To eliminate worry and stress about what comes next, Paula walks her clients through the entire process from beginning to end.

A Lafayette native who knows the area and its people well, Paula worked in accounting for twenty years and ran a flooring company before making the switch to real estate. During these early pursuits, she honed her skills in organization, customer service, negotiation, and paying careful attention to detail.

“Being out and about, working with people in person, and helping them realize their goals—I find it all so rewarding,” says Paula.

LATTER
& BLUM

Cindy Bailey

REALTOR
LATTER & BLUM



“
Love what
you do and
you will
never work
a day in
your life!

Cindy Bailey brings to every real estate transaction 15 years of expert negotiating and problem-solving skills. She is known to be a true professional, passionate and enthusiastic about her profession. With a tireless work ethic, Cindy is committed to one thing only: customer service.

When representing a seller, Cindy maximizes the property exposure with professional photography and videography, social media marketing campaigns, and extensive networking for a quick sale. When representing a buyer, she always makes herself available for showings and answering calls and questions.

In 2020, Cindy closed 101 transactions in the Acadiana market with a total of 28.9M

in sales. She was awarded the #3 spot with Latter & Blum amongst their 3,700 agents in 2020 and continuously named as a member of their Top of the Latter award, a prestigious award within Latter & Blum across many states. Cindy is unceasingly recognized as a top realtor not only in Acadiana but across Louisiana. She is ready to serve you.

**LATTER
& BLUM**

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cindybaileyhomes.com

Phyllis J Miller

NMLS #99169

MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR
STANDARD MORTGAGE CORPORATION



“
Developing
relationships
and meeting
new people
are some of
my favorite
aspects of
the job.

Having grown up in Church Point and studied business at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Phyllis Miller is more than familiar with the landscape of Acadiana. With over 30 years of experience in the mortgage industry, Phyllis loves helping her clients—and their children—purchase homes in Acadiana and across the state of Louisiana. Phyllis makes sure to keep up with rapidly changing products and guidelines to offer the best service for her clients.

Standard Mortgage, a local Louisiana mortgage company, is known for its exceptional service over 90 years. Standard prioritizes their customers' experience during loan origination and throughout the life of the loan as a mortgage servicer.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Phyllis loves cheering on the Ragin' Cajuns, traveling, and visiting the beach.



STANDARD MORTGAGE
CORPORATION

STANDARD MORTGAGE
CORPORATION,
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“ Honors are meaningful, but my greatest pride is the referrals I regularly receive from current and former clients across Acadiana.

Lindsey Reed

REALTOR
DISTRICT SOUTH REAL ESTATE

Whether helping purchase or sell your home, Acadiana-native Lindsey Reed approaches her job with the zeal of a newer agent but the extensive experience of a seasoned one. A full-time real estate agent for 13 years, she offers a vast wealth of knowledge and will work tirelessly to find each client that perfect home no matter the size. When selling, Lindsey puts forth enormous resources to aggressively market your home. Awards for her successes include District South Real Estate #1 Producer for 2020, Top Producer, Times' Best Realtor of Acadiana, and Daily World's "Best of" Award.

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Lindsey@districtsouthre.com
#listwithlindsey

DISTRICT SOUTH
REAL ESTATE CO.



“ Deciding where you live and raise your family is a decision essential to your peace, safety, and happiness.

Sylvia McLain & Cody Musgrove

REALTORS
LATTER & BLUM ACADIANA

A professional Realtor group with Latter & Blum Acadiana, Sylvia McLain and Cody Musgrove have 30 years of combined experience helping individuals and families with existing home sales, new construction, land development, and rentals.

“Confident decision-making is important when buying or selling, so we work closely with clients to provide the guidance and expertise needed to achieve that confidence,” says Cody.

Evidence of their success, Sylvia and Cody won the 2020 Latter & Blum Elite Award and are in the Latter & Blum Hall of Fame as a \$75 Million Dollar Lifetime Producer.

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SYLVIA MCLAIN
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LATTER & BLUM



“ I truly enjoy what I do, especially when clients become friends and part of my circle.

Arla Slaughter

REALTOR
LATTER & BLUM

Arla provides prompt, professional real estate services with the mission of being the most referred Realtor in Acadiana. Reliable and available, she goes the extra mile to make clients' buying and selling as smooth and successful as possible, whether a move down the street or across the country. Evidence of her success includes recognition in Latter & Blum's Top 10, Top of the Latter, as an Elite Award Winner, and as #1 Listing & Selling Agent. A Louisiana native with a Marine Biology background, Arla's known to answer the phone and even close a deal while shelling at local and loved Rutherford Beach.

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arlaslaughter.com

arla slaughter
Love Where You Live
LATTER & BLUM



“ The greatest compliment I receive is when clients refer their friends or family—it's always an honor to be welcomed into their trusted circle.

Sara A. Whitney

TOP OF THE LATTER AWARD
LATTER & BLUM

A native of Ville Platte, Sara understands the unique needs of South Louisiana families' when purchasing or selling a home within Acadiana or well beyond the region. Sara is known for making each client feel as though they are her only one. Her knowledge, experience, honesty and professionalism have led to numerous awards over the last 15 years, beginning with Rookie of the Year and extending to several Gold and Platinum awards, Top Referring Agent, Top Ten Producer, and the prestigious Top of the Latter Award, a statewide honor.

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LATTER & BLUM

TOP REAL ESTATE PROS



“ The most rewarding thing about my job is assisting individuals and families in achieving one of their greatest goals every day.

Mary Bui McCullough

FOUNDER
PARC LENDING

With over 25 years of lending experience, Mary Bui McCullough founded Parc Lending in 2018 and is already being recognized for her exceptional, industry-leading closing times. Parc Lending offers residential, land, construction, and commercial lending, diligently shopping the best products to find clients the lowest rates and helping them realize the dream of property ownership. A devoted mother, Mary understands the needs of families and is available to discuss options, answer questions, and show clients just how easy it can be to secure a loan for their dream home. With a business background, Mary serves on the board for the Broussard Chamber of Commerce.

PARC LENDING
1921 Kaliste Saloom Road,
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parclending.com



TOP REAL ESTATE PROS



“ What separates me from other agents is my expertise in new construction and resale—I manage all the steps to ensure a timely closing.

Jessica LaCourse

TOP 5 AGENT
LATTER & BLUM (2019, 2020)

A Top 5 Agent with Latter & Blum (2019, 2020) and a Top of the Latter designee, Jessica LaCourse specializes in new construction home sales across Lafayette. Not only can she help clients navigate their real estate transactions, she also offers expertise in choosing a lot and the selections and finishes of a home that will keep their dream home on budget. Engaged to builder Chad Broussard of Signature Series Homes, Jessica has extensive experience in new construction home building and walks buyers through every step of the process to ensure a seamless purchase and quality build.

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JessicaLaCourse.Latter-Blum.com



TOP REAL ESTATE PROS



“ If you don't love where you live, I haven't done my job—I won't quit until we've secured your dream home.

Yvette Naquin - Guidry

REALTOR
DISTRICT SOUTH

A consistent District South “Capper” with over \$5M in sales and production for the year. Yvette Guidry is a trusted professional and is known as a fearless representative for her clients, a realtor who gets results by giving her all. With a background in sales and marketing, Yvette knows people—not only does she have an extensive network and community, she understands and truly cares about her clients’ goals and circumstances, whether first time homebuyers, investment seekers, or commercial entities. Buyers get the negotiation expertise of a proven Multi Million Dollar Producer while sellers get a competitive pricing plan to market and sell their home for top dollar.

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TOP REAL ESTATE PROS



Lana Soileau

REALTOR®
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY ACADIANA

After 37 years in the legal profession, Lana stepped out to pursue her passion of serving others and helping them achieve their real estate goals. “Communication is one of my most prioritized tools,” says Lana. “It’s not all about buying/selling—it’s about developing relationships and giving clients my all.” Lana’s professional team delivers continued customer satisfaction and high-level service. Lana has been a consistent Keller Williams Top Producer since 2013 and is designated a MegaAgent by Keller Williams.

KELLER WILLIAMS
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TOP REAL ESTATE PROS



Setareh Mirian-Delcambre

REALTOR®
LATTER & BLUM

Setareh Sells Real Estate. “She’s all around town, but her heart is Downtown!” Recognized as a “Top 10” Latter & Blum Realtor representing clients throughout Acadiana & specializing in Downtown, Lafayette. Simply put, Setareh helps her clients get what they want & is honored to be a chosen and trusted confidant for Buyers and Sellers since 2007. Residential & Commercial

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MORTGAGE COMPANY

Rayne Building & Loan Association

HOME MORTGAGES
MEMBER FDIC AND EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Rayne Building and Loan has been building better communities since its inception over 100 years ago. The company's focus on supporting the development of homes, neighborhoods, and communities has been ingrained in its culture since the beginning.

"Our team has worked with Acadiana families and individuals through all stages of life, from first homes through retirement," says Claire Benoit, President & CEO.

With competitive rates, low closing costs, and excellent personal service, Rayne Building and Loan specializes in home mortgages, including construction, real estate lending, savings, CDs, and IRAs. A mutual association owned by its depositors, the company answers to customers, not shareholders. In 2019, it was named the Rayne Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year.

RAYNE BUILDING & LOAN
200 N Adams Avenue
Rayne
337-334-7535
RayneBuildingLoan.com



“Our goal is always to build relationships that last a lifetime.”



TITLE COMPANY

Standard Title

VETERAN-OWNED
STANDARD TITLE

Standard Title, a veteran-owned real estate title company, celebrates its 20th year in business this year. Serving all of South Louisiana, Standard Title specializes in residential and commercial closings, escrow services, and title insurance.

"Standard Title sets the standard higher for the whole industry, striving to go above and beyond to improve our practice," says Ramon Fonseca, Jr., Attorney at Law and Co-founder.

With locations in Lake Charles, Jennings, Lafayette, New Iberia, and Baton Rouge, the company continues to expand their expedient, high-quality service.

"It's a very rewarding job—we love celebrating our clients' successes," says Sadie Shamsie, Title Insurance Agent and Co-founder of Standard Title.

STANDARD TITLE
921 Kaliste Saloom Road,
Lafayette
337-232-8777
standard-title.com



“We're helping people achieve the American Dream of home ownership, and it's an honor to assist them in that endeavor.”

TITLE
COMPANY

“Making our clients' dream of homeownership a reality—it's like being a fairy godmother!”

CYPRESS TITLE
3312 Kaliste Saloom
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337-446-2601
2002 W. Walnut St.,
Ste. 3, Lake Charles
337-240-7023
cypresstitle.com

Cypress Title

ATTORNEY OWNERS
MITZI MAYEUX AND PETER JOHN MARSHALL

Photo by E. Schoeffler Photography

Local attorneys Mitzi Mayeux and Peter John Marshall were drawn together to breathe new life into an industry they felt was behind the times for the way people live today. Managed by Peter John Marshall and Mitzi Mayeux, their two Cypress Title offices in Lafayette and in Lake Charles handle both residential and commercial real estate transactions.

"We pride ourselves on our commitment to customer service," says Mitzi. "Our team provides a well-coordinated and efficient response to clients and we thrive on taking the closing experience to the next level, all while managing to have lots of fun. We feel like the closing table should be a celebration for all parties involved." says Mitzi.

"Practicing real estate law may sound boring, but it is very exciting," says Peter. "Closing day is a busy day where keys are exchanged, checks are distributed, and celebratory bottles get popped."





My Utilitarian Acadiana

A designer ponders the way 'Cajun ingenuity' impacts regional architecture

by Joel Breaux
illustration by Sara Willia

I grew up next to a shipyard in a small village boasting three of them; no small achievement considering Loreauville has about 1,000 citizens. In addition to the shipyards, it had the first living cultural museum in the Acadiana area, a history of airboat development, a history of developing farming equipment and two outboard engine companies. Having been raised in a part of Acadiana that seemed the epicenter of creativity and entrepreneurship, it comes as no surprise that my career trajectory would be a multitude of design disciplines. I am a product of my environment.

As I drive around south Louisiana, I'm continually amazed at random applications

of what most people call "Cajun ingenuity." There are no shortages of old bathtubs half submerged in the ground sheltering the Virgin Mary. Drive around and you'll find outdated satellite dishes being used as low-tech gazebos. A little further down the road, a galvanized metal tank (the kind used to provide cattle with water) is now a child's swimming pool. I passed a house the other day and a trampoline was being used as a chicken coop.

In reality, it's less about ingenuity and more about appropriation. The Cajun and Creole people have always been willing to take an object intended for a particular purpose and apply it towards a different usage: A washboard can be used as a musical instrument. An airboat is, basically, an airplane propeller attached to a car engine mounted onto a boat — the Turducken of transportation. Boudin could have easily been Boudreaux's attempt at making Marie's leftover rice dressing a finger food by placing it in sausage casing.

Early settlers of the area didn't use mud in walls (bousillage) for visual effect.

"Dang Marie, that mud and moss combo, that's pretty yeah!"

* **JOEL BREAU** is a designer in the disciplines of architecture, furniture design, public art, memorial design, educational installations and environmental/architectural graphics. His firms include Krievanek+Breux/Art+Design (Chicago) and broDesign (Loreauville/Lafayette). Instagram: fauxbro1

I don't think so.

So why approach building a home in the most generic American manner possible: For appearances? A contemporary Acadian home can facilitate the rich experience of south Louisiana, not separate us from it.

It's culturally relevant to look at existing regional archetypes and choose the best elements when designing a home. Adopt the social and cultural experiences from a camp. Borrow the durable materials of agricultural buildings for their cost effectiveness. Learn from offshore platforms' infrastructure and adaptability. Retain historic building practices that are still applicable regarding the environment (floods, hurricanes and so on).

Why stop at archetypes? Appropriate industry itself. There is a unique abundance of laser-cutting and waterjet-cutting companies, shipbuilders, welders and other craftsmen in this region.

In the same way a window reveals a view of a bayou, sugarcane field or oak tree; creating a house can provide a view into Acadiana's cultural landscape. It's time to stop keeping up with the Joneses and start keep up with the Boudreauxs. ■

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Migrating Places

Where do you go when home leaves you?

by David Cheramie
illustration by Sara Willia

The story of south Louisiana is one of constant flux and migration, going all the way back to the end of the Pleistocene Epoch when the melting Laurentide Ice Sheet

allowed the freed waters to carve what would eventually become the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The receding ice also left behind rich sediment that formed the Mississippi Valley, the end of which we inhabit today, allowing for fertile harvests and a healthy ecosystem. It was nonetheless a harsh environment, filled with animals that would just as soon eat you as look at you, where people decided to make their home for thousands of years, adjusting and adapting to their surroundings, long before Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle planted a flag to claim all the land that drains into this vast delta for the far-off king of France. Not surprisingly, upon their arrival, the early French explorers' first accounts mention the size and quantity of the mosquitoes, which according to one Jesuit chronicler "have already caused more Christians to curse than

in all of history." Yet, we decided to stay here, make it our home, raise our families and bury our dead in and on this ever-shifting, never-a-dull-moment, slow-motion roller coaster ride of a country. We have tried to tame the landscape and the waterways through levees and canals to accommodate our needs and desires, all the while being molded by the limits and constraints nature has imposed upon us.

Our sense of place comes from events that preceded our arrival, whether by birth, choice, force or exile, and will continue to influence those who, hopefully, will occupy this land after us. But that proposition is by no means a foregone conclusion. The natural phenomena that formed the land beneath our feet are now working to take it away, despite our best efforts to engineer ourselves out of the seemingly inevitable. Recurrent hurricanes and flooding, land erosion, rising sea levels and simple subsidence, not to mention the damage we have incurred ourselves in the exercise of our livelihoods, are all pushing us away not only from the land, but also from the means of living we extracted from it. Home, that physical and emotional space our forebearers have provided for us and hopefully we will pass on to those who will follow us. Where we go next will be determined by our answers to the same questions the residents of Isle de Jean Charles are facing. Mostly descendants of the people who roamed this land alongside mastodons and bison, they are the first official American climate refugees and some refuse to leave. Who's to blame them? As one of the last holdouts says, "We were born here. We are going to die here." Most have decided to move further inland. Our idea of what home means to us in south Louisiana may just one day boil down to, as The Clash sang, "Should I stay or should I go?" Whatever we chose, we will still have to make it our home. ■



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L'architecture et la nature

Construire sa maison sans oublier où elle est.

par David Cheramie

La maison de mes parents, là où j'ai grandi, était juste derrière celle de mes grands-parents. Avec mes yeux d'enfant, je voyais une maison énorme, un palais presque, avec un escalier en briques qui montait jusqu'au ciel. En réalité, c'était une maison modeste, mais montée haut sur pilotis. Sa hauteur était plus le résultat d'une élévation supérieure à celle des autres maisons du voisinage que d'une vie de grand luxe menée par mes grands-parents. Mes cousins et moi passions des heures à jouer dans la fraîche pénombre du grand espace sous cette maison, les toiles d'araignée en prime. La raison pour laquelle nous avions ce terrain de jeu couvert était due au fait que mon grand-père, un survivant de l'ouragan de 1893 à l'âge de six ans, respectait la nature. C'est pour ça qu'il l'a faite bâtir si haut, au moins quatre pieds, avec une citerne qui collectait l'eau de pluie en plus. Il savait de quoi la nature était capable, pour le meilleur et le pire. Des années après, ma mère m'a raconté comment Pépère secouait tristement la tête en voyant la construction de maisons dans le style « ranch » à même une dalle en ciment. « Ils sont fous, ce jeune monde » se lamentait-il. Et il avait raison, comme les inondations successives l'ont prouvé. Les vieilles maisons restaient au-dessus des flots, tandis que « ce jeune monde » écopait les leurs. Avec l'entrée dans la modernité américaine, nous avons oublié ces leçons et nous nous sommes éloignés des types de maisons qui considéraient les forces que la nature pouvait porter.

Arrivés au 18e siècle en Louisiane, les Acadiens ont connu quatre générations différentes de construction. Selon Jay Edwards, en Acadie, ils ont utilisé des méthodes qui leur ont bien servi dans le climat froid du Canada : petites fenêtres, petites portes et la construction directement dans le sol, une technique appelée « poteaux en terre ». Sous les tropiques, ils ont vite compris que c'était le contraire qu'il fallait faire. Les premières habitations étaient temporaires, construites dans le style des huttes des Amérindiens en lataniers. Ensuite, des cottages qui rappe-



laient les constructions en Acadie, mais qui étaient aussi temporaires. Puis, le style créole, qui existait avant leur arrivée, commence à faire sentir son influence en ajoutant entre autres un espace en-dessous de la maison pour laisser passer l'air frais et les crues des bayous. Enfin, la généralisation de la galerie devant a marqué les maisons de la quatrième génération. Avec la « garçonnière », cette pièce dans le grenier réservés aux jeunes mâles qu'ils avaient

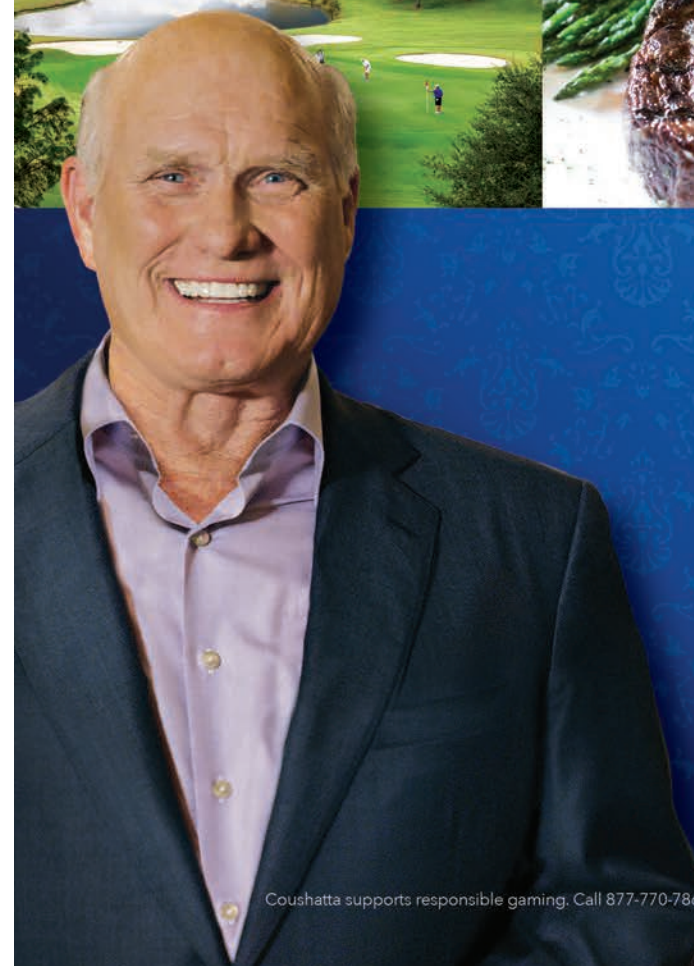
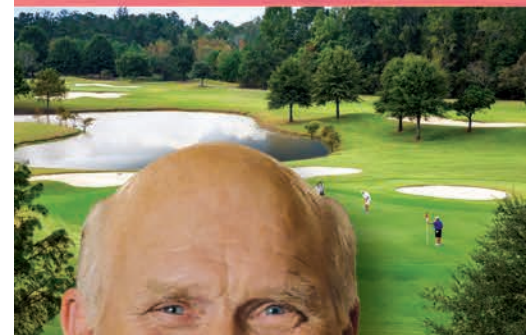
déjà en Acadie, devient probablement la caractéristique la plus connue, ils ont donné le style qu'on associe à présent avec la maison acadienne typique.

Si on veut continuer à construire et vivre dans la région, il faut réimaginer notre relation avec l'environnement et voir la nature non pas comme une bête sauvage qu'on peut dompter, mais comme mon grand-père l'a vue : Avec les yeux de quelqu'un qui a vu de quoi elle est capable. ■



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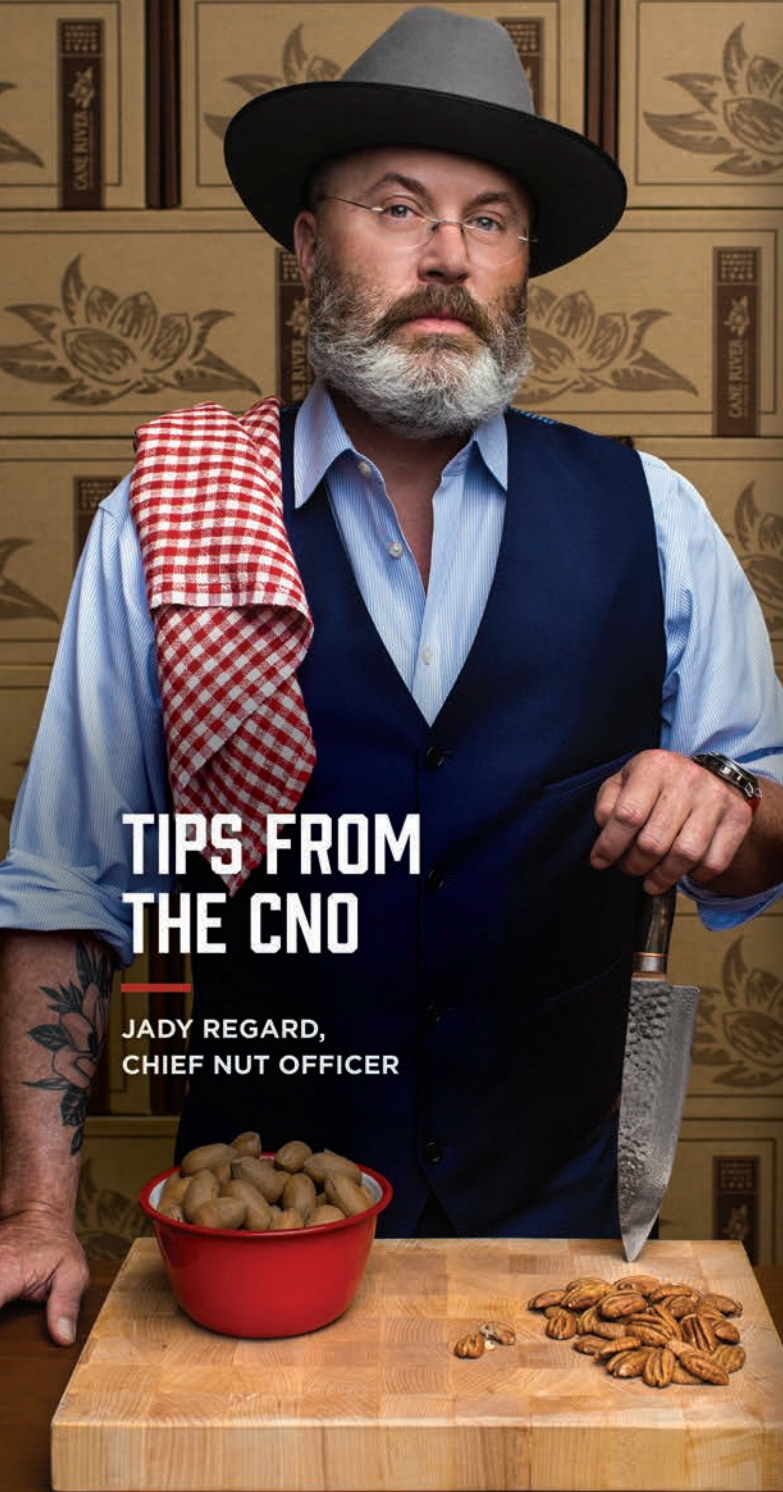


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