

March/April 2009

from the executive editor

"Do I have a house for you!" she said, putting down a plate of appetizers to grab my arm. Jackie Warren is known for her enthusiasm, but that night the director of ARTichokes, the gallery and studio at Mission Farms, was on fire.

Other conversations at the open house dimmed as she described a doctor who was acquiring art for his lake home, which was under construction. Original art is often the tip-off that a property is one we want to see. She'd been out to view the home just that week and—arms constantly moving—described wall niches for artwork and furnishings to come, dramatic doorways and customized treatments.

Jackie, an artist herself, knew the completed home would be spectacular.

A few weeks later, another cocktail party... Scott Bickford, one of Kansas City's most celebrated architects, introduced me to a guest who began to passionately describe the house he was building on a lake. This gentleman had found both Scott and his interior designer, Madden-McFarland Interiors' Pat Conner, through the pages of our magazine. He talked of niches, artwork.... "Wait," I said, giving him a bear hug. "You're Jackie Warren's doctor?!" The enthusiasm was warranted; serendipity had struck.

An open house at Black Bamboo was the occasion of yet another home find. This time I began a conversation with a woman whose necklace I'd admired. As we walked through Tim Butt's space in the Crossroads Arts District, she said Tim jokingly calls her home "Black Bamboo South" because it's filled with furnishings from the store. My eyebrows

raised slightly. Each spring, the region's most talented architects, designers, florists and retailers vie for the most over-the-top tablescapes at Dining by Design, the annual tabletop extravaganza hosted by Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA).

Truth is, we always stands and retailers vie for the most over-the-top tablescapes at Dining by Design, the annual tabletop extravaganza hosted by Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA). Last year I was lucky to be seated at the breathtaking environment (right) created by Marc Blackwell for Beringer Wines, one of Dining by Design's national sponsors. This year's gala takes place on April 25; visit diffakc.org for details.

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