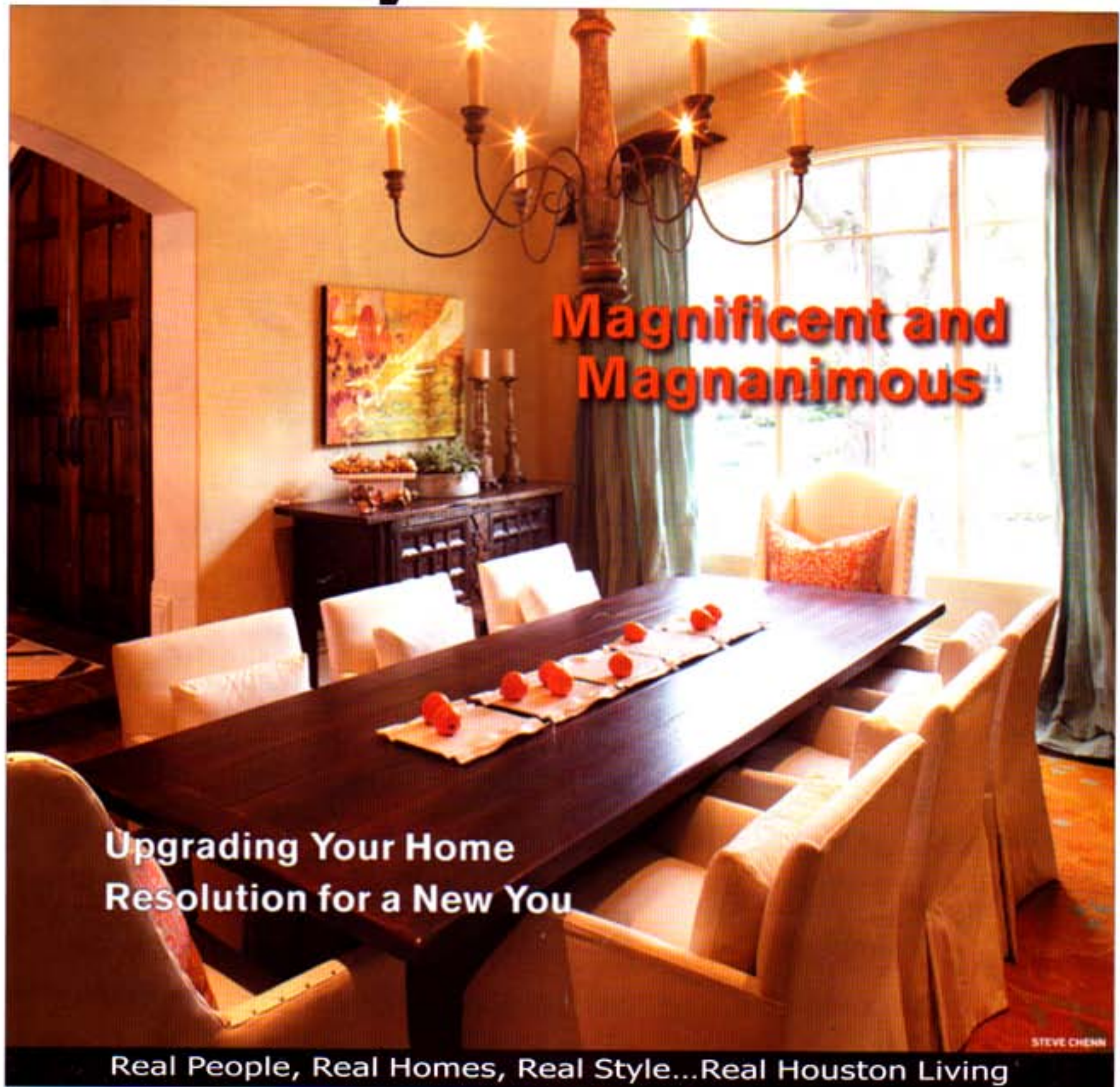


July 2008

# Houston

## Lifestyles & Homes



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# Magnificent and Magnanimous



2008  
Pink Ribbon House  
raises the roof for  
breast cancer  
research



Text by: Cheryl Alexander  
Photography by: Steve Chenn  
Builder: Covington Builders Ltd.,  
Architect: Ernest Cole  
Interiors by: Lissa Debes, Chandos Dodson,  
Julie Dodson, Trisha Dodson, Suzanne Duin,  
Katie Galliano, Janet Gust,  
Peggy Hull, Shannon Mann, Lori Shellist,  
Nancy Albritton, Karen Phelps

From April 3-20, Covington Builders Ltd., along with a bevy of talented vendors, subcontractors and designers opened the doors of the 2008 Pink Ribbon House to the public. This designer showhouse benefiting breast cancer research at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and located in the heart of Tanglewood is, according to Dr. C. Kent Osborne, director of the Breast Center at BCM, a wonderful example of the synergy circulating around the ongoing research surrounding this disease. Community leaders and volunteers stepped forward to raise money to help support





**PREVIOUS PAGES:** The family room reflects the sophistication of the luxury home with the oversized stone fireplace, large chandelier, leather-upholstered doors and impressive art. | The 2008 Pink Ribbon House, a \$2.9 million, 6,300-square-foot luxury, custom home, was built by Mina and Robert Covington of Covington Builders.

**THESE PAGES:** From left, across the foyer from the dining room, the formal living space offers calm and elegance amid impressive antiques. The Regence period walnut buffet a *deux corps* serves as the focal point and the anchor in the room.

| In the foyer, the ceiling height, large door, ornate staircase with iron balustrade and hand-molded terra-cotta floors set the stage for the grandeur to follow. | Through pocket doors from the living room, the study of this old world Italian villa blends the old with the new. Clean lines in the oak paneling and furniture are accented and made contemporary with the whimsical hanging glass lighting fixture. | On right, just off the entry is the dining room. Clean lines in the furniture serve to highlight the beautiful Odegard rug and art, which were the inspiration pieces for the room.



Lester and Sue Smith have underwritten all expenses for the 2008 Pink Ribbon House project and matched all funds raised for the initiative.

research directly targeted at a killer that touches all of us.

Since its inception and with the assistance of its generous partners, the Pink Ribbon House project has generated more than \$1 million for breast cancer research at BCM. One of the major contributors to the fund is The Smith Foundation. Through the Smith Foundation, Lester and Sue Smith have underwritten all expenses for the 2008 Pink Ribbon House project and matched all funds raised for the initiative.

The results? Magnificent and magnanimous. Upon first impression, the scope of the project is unmistakable. It is a multi-million dollar

home in an outstanding community. The 6,300-square-foot home was modeled after a Tuscan country villa and created by Mina and Robert Covington, owners of Covington Builders. The couple gave 100 percent of their effort to construct the gorgeous \$2.9 million home, and some of Houston's most acclaimed designers donated their talents and time to transform the villa into a showcase highlighting the most exciting trends in interior design.

The exterior of the home is exquisite—a design influenced by the Covington's love of Italian architecture. They recently traveled as a family to Tuscany to gather inspiration specifically for this project.





**THESE PAGES:** In the game room, comfortable furniture choices and lots of room to move about invite the family to really live in this space. | The hobby room includes everything a crafter needs: bulletin board, chalk board, ample storage and plenty of counter space on which to work, all neatly organized and well-lit. | The kitchen exudes rustic elegance and brings the Tuscan exterior into the home. Ambience is heightened by including such details as handmade arabesco backsplash tiles, concrete countertops and distressed wood on the island. | The expanse of the hallway is intensified by the row of stark white columns against the dark reclaimed wood floor.



The entryway and dining room are the work of Shannon Mann, ASID, of Mann Designs. She set the old-world tone with plastered walls, hand molded terra-cotta floors and an iron balustrade. The unique hand-carved wood and iron lighting fixtures are original designs by Brown. The dining room is anchored, as it should be, by beautiful furniture. A handcrafted Mortise & Tenon table and slip-covered seating provide an edgy style that was inspired by the detailed craftsmanship of a hand woven Odegard rug and the textural illusions displayed in Eric Peters' art.

Peggy Hull, ASID, of Creative Touch Interiors, designed the living room of the home. By using impressive antiques back-dropped by muted tone-on-tone color, Hull was able to create a calm, elegant feeling of intimacy in this space just off the entry. The faux finish on the walls provides texture and dimension without overstatement, allowing the focal point of the room to be the Regence period walnut buffet a deux corps. Its rich wood tones balance beautifully with the rich fabrics in the room: cut velvets, linens and the soft texture and pattern of the rug. Accessories here are minimal, so that nothing distracts from the beauty of each piece. The choice of contemporary art juxtaposed with the antique furniture keeps the look fresh.

The home's study lies beyond the living room through a pocket door, and the room's inspiration hangs gracefully from the ceiling: the Amber hot glass chandelier. With the chandelier's color and modern style, Katie Galliano, AISD, of Katie Galliano Interiors, blended the old with the new. Playing off the clean lines of the oak paneling and furniture, she was able to emphasize the fun and whimsical shape of the lighting. Whether the homeowner is reading, working or sitting with friends, this room is enjoyable. With the old oak floors, wood paneling, limestone

The ambience is enhanced with handmade arabesco backsplash tiles based on a 16th century design, concrete countertops and the distressed wood of the kitchen's island.



fireplace and wooden beams, the designer successfully created satisfying and aesthetically pleasing contrast by selecting bold silk draperies and modern furnishings to achieve just the right degree of warmth one would expect from a study.

Julie Dodson, of Dodson & Daughter, is the interior designer behind the master suite's style. She began with the concept in mind that the master bedroom should be a place to unwind and relax and says the space was intended to feel fresh and warm at once. In order to achieve this effect, warm rich woods were mixed with neutral texture fabrics and carpeting.

Beyond the master suite and finishing out the downstairs, Julie's mom and partner at Dodson & Daughter, Trisha Dodson, lent her expertise in the design of the home's kitchen, breakfast room and family room. Trisha played off the elements inherent in the home's Tuscan-inspired exterior. The plastered walls, heavy distressed beams and iron fixtures mirror the refined Italian theme. The ambience is enhanced with handmade arabesco backsplash tiles based on a 16th century design, concrete countertops and the distressed wood of the kitchen's island. The theme flows flawlessly into the family room with its comfort and sophis-







Above, the master bedroom was designed with relaxation in mind. Every detail of the room, from the textured floors to the rich, wooden ceiling, lends luxury and elegance to the homeowners' private retreat. Spa-like luxury and custom craftsmanship set a distinct style for this master bath suite. From the slate-tile shower, deep Roman bath and stone sink, the touches here lend opulence and elan to the retreat.



fication, and the massive stone fireplace, large iron chandelier and leather upholstered doors beneath tiled arches effortlessly reflect the home's Tuscan roots.

In this sophisticated guest suite, the darker walls offset the neutral linens and drapes, which in turn emphasize the rustic bed and side table, specially commissioned for this room by Reclaimed Boutique.

Up a flight of stairs is more living space and more bedrooms, with each bath ensuite. First, you'll encounter the gameroom and hobby room, which are the work of Suzanne Duin, owner of Maison Maison and designer with GB Design, Inc. Her concept began with the iron gates, which comprise the entrance to this more informal private living area. Her focus was to provide a comfortable, elegant, relaxing environment utilizing durable materials, which allow an active family to enjoy the space without much concern.

In bedroom two, Chandos Dodson of Chandos Dodson Interior Design worked her magic using an antique Oushak rug as inspiration to create a classically feminine guest room that also provides warmth and glamour. The 18th and 19th century antiques set the tone for a timeless traditional interior that fits elegantly within this Mediterranean-style home. The mirror surround on the bed is a 19th century French panel that Chandos broke apart to make the etched, silver mirrored headboard, and the chests in the room are



This guest bedroom is both comfortable and elegant, with plush fabrics and beautiful antiques, most notably the 19th century mirrored headboard.





The Jan Barboglio bed is the focal point of this guest room, which is grounded beautifully by the textured rug and complemented by the draperies and art. Guests enjoy the amenities of this beautiful bathroom, especially the elegantly tiled wall, antique sink stand and ornately carved mirror.



18th century from Carl Moore Antiques. The contemporary art by Esteban Vicente and local artist Karen Broker and the accessories—the leopard pillow and the handmade lace from Plush Home on the bed linens—juxtapose nicely against such a classic setting. The materials used here—grass cloth, silks, linens and velvets—both soothe and engage the senses.

Bedroom three was designed by Janet Gust of the Janet Gust Design Group. She worked to make this guest room feel comfortable and warm by using natural, affordable materials that relate a casually elegant feel. The handmade materials and natural fibers Janet used as her foundation were artistically altered with hand painting and create a unique environment. The bed and side table were commissioned by Reclaimed Boutique to bring a sense of old world to match the design of the overall house.

In the fourth bedroom, best friends Lissa Debes and Lori Shellist of L&L Interiors pooled their images of old world Tuscan style—rolling landscapes, rich warm hues, rustic finishes dashed with luxurious textiles, bold furniture pieces and aged iron accents—and blended these together to create a warm, lived-in atmosphere. With color as the backdrop, earthy olive greens, grey-blues, rich reds, creams and buttery yellows were selected to drench the room in visions of hillsides and vineyards. The dark, heavy iron bed by Jan Barboglio is the focal point in this space, and its boldness is softened by a luxurious mixture of off-white and cream-toned linens. The other furniture choices were selected

to convey the primitive Mediterranean feel, and the look is finished and refined with lush draperies and art.

Throughout the home Leslie Sinclair of Segreto Finishes not only put her touch on the walls, but she actually tied together the work of the multiple designers. In her vision, the wall finishes serve as a connecting factor, lacing together the different styles and designs. The authentic plaster legitimizes the old-world elegance of the home.

Outdoors, Nancy Albritton of American Marazzi Tile lent her invaluable expertise in designing the back porch, summer kitchen and pool bath. The back porch flooring is Tuscan Brown, a concrete tile made in Texas from Marazzi Tile. Especially created for outdoor living spaces, Tuscan Brown is mixed with an Indian slate named California Gold Slate, which is used as a border. The summer kitchen also features floor to ceiling custom made mahogany cabinets built by Anthony Lanier Custom Cabinets. The appliances outside include a Wolf grill and Subzero outdoor refrigerator. Seafoam Blue granite countertops from Walker Zanger are accented by a mixture of slate tiles and backsplash tiles in a brick shape from Marazzi Tile.

The pool bath floor tile is an Italian full-bodied porcelain tile made in Italy from Marazzi's Stone Collection in Ivory and accented with Eclipse Verde 2x2 tiles. The countertop is again granite named Verde Vecchio from Walker Zanger. Other accents here are green glass dots and tile liners from Marazzi's Forest Impression series.

The home in its entirety stands as a glorious reminder of what is possible—not only when gifted and inspired builders and designers lend their expert hands to the completion of a common project, but of what is possible when the goal is lofty and the team is comprised of visionaries. The Pink Ribbon House is yes, of course, magnificent, but more importantly, what it stands for is magnanimous beyond measure: Hope for a cure and help to find it. ●



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