



Dan Smith and Jonlee Andrews' house on Sheridan Drive at 1st St. is a complete rebuild in the Arts and Crafts style. The house's exterior is comprised of Sto, a material that resembles the stucco used in Arts and Crafts structures. Small-pane divided-light windows let natural light pour into the house and are period appropriate.



A gallery of Bloomington
homes where repose rules.

Comfort Defined

By **Lee Ann Sandweiss**
Photography by **Steve Raymer**

What makes a home comfortable—a place you feel relaxed the minute you step inside and want to stay awhile? Is it a soothing color scheme, indoor greenery, furnishings that envelop the body, or special amenities added during a renovation—such as a screened porch, or a fireplace in the bathroom? For this year's homes issue, *Bloom* set out to answer that question. The inviting abodes featured here run the gamut of architectural styles—from one of Monroe County's oldest structures to a spanking new condo. As different as they are, they share that unmistakable "Ahhh" quality that comes from the homeowners making choices that define comfort for them. So although you may have your nest feathered to cozy perfection, fess up—you still like to look, right? Such is human nature. So turn the page and come on inside.

A Peaceful Place to Be on Vinegar Hill

“They left no stone unturned” summarizes the approach Dan Smith and Jonlee Andrews took when they decided to renovate the historic house at East 1st Street and Sheridan Drive.

Well, almost.

“The slate entrance is original, as are the fireplaces,” says Smith, referring to the few stones that stayed put. “But otherwise, it’s a complete rebuild in the footprint of the original house.”

Smith and Andrews bought the house the first day it went on the market in 2004 and embarked on a 16-month odyssey to make it their dream home. Built in 1952 by quarry owner Albert Hoadley, the house had interesting exterior lines, but it also had a lot of dated interior appointments—and termites. The couple contacted James and Val Gray of Stone Cabin Design to make their vision reality.

“We respected the history of the neighborhood and wanted something that would fit in, but with an Arts and Crafts look,” says Smith.

When completed, the house had grown from its original 2,000 square feet to 3,200, largely due to an upstairs addition that now includes a reading room and workout studio. The stately staircase and all woodwork and flooring are of burnished Santos mahogany.

“We designed the house around how we live, so we were realistic about the choices we made,” says Smith, who is dean of IU’s Kelley School of Business. “We both work long hours. So our study is prime real estate—downstairs in a room that gets great light.”

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1. “Everyone ends up in the kitchen,” says Andrews. And what a kitchen! The countertops of Santa Rosa granite include a U-shape bar that allows friends to gather and sip wine as a meal is prepared.

2. A subtle earth-tone palette creates an aura of warm serenity throughout the house. Smith and Andrews credit Dorie Williams of Bloomington Paint & Wallpaper with guiding them through color

choices. Arts and Crafts period furniture, much of which the couple had already owned, perfectly complements the architectural design.

3. Since both Smith and Andrews travel a great deal, the luxurious but understated master bedroom suite features the kind of amenities that would be found in a posh hotel. Not visible in this photograph is a two-sided fireplace that can be enjoyed from both the bedroom and the bathroom.

4. and 5. The great room features a 23-foot vaulted ceiling and a wall of windows that provide an abundance of natural light. The home’s open floor plan makes entertaining large groups a breeze.



The great light is enhanced by the addition of 75 Pella “true divided light” windows that are not only energy efficient, but also more consistent with historic architecture.

Andrews, who got the ball rolling with the purchase and renovation, is thrilled with the results. She loves the fact that she and Smith can walk to their IU offices—she is associate chair of the MBA program and is on the faculty in the Kelley School’s marketing department—and come home at night to play with Kelley, their yellow lab mix.

“Even though we loved our house in the country, I often thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be nice to live closer to campus?’” she says. “This is such a wonderful location. It feels very private for being in the middle of town.”

The time that Smith and Andrews used to spend driving to and from campus is now spent enjoying their beautiful home. One of the projects most recently completed is a free-standing screened porch that will allow them to spend summer evenings outdoors without the annoyance of flying insects.

Though down time is a rare commodity for this busy couple, they do have a preferred way of relaxing: cooking for friends. “Our favorite thing is to go to the Farmers’ Market on Saturday morning, get fresh ingredients, and have people over later and cook for them,” says Andrews. “That’s our idea of a perfect evening.”

California Dreamy

Lee Guth's house would look great on a Malibu beach or nestled among the redwoods in Northern California. But it's to be found tucked in the woods on Bloomington's south side.

Built in the early 1960s, the low-slung, four-bedroom ranch pays homage to the designs of architect and developer Joseph Eichler, who was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright and who brought modern style to California's mass housing market through his sleek tract subdivisions of the 1950s and '60s. Guth, who bought the house 15 years ago, says he loved it from the minute he laid eyes on it. Once you step inside, it's easy to see why.

The outdoors and indoors converge in the house's light-filled atrium, at the center of which is a soaring fiddle-leaf fig tree. Guth, a psychologist and expert on color vision at IU, might easily moonlight as a horticulturist, judging from the lush, exotic vegetation that fills the space—orchids, palms, African violets, even a vintage bougainvillea. "It was almost dead when I moved in, but I brought it back to life," he proudly explains. In addition to nurturing the indoor garden, Guth laid the atrium's beautiful slate floor himself.

The interior décor reflects Guth's passion for vintage Danish Modern furniture, which complements the house's mid-century design. Over the years, he





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1. The airy atrium is an interior tropical paradise filled with exotic plants, twinkling lights, and one-of-a-kind statuary. "It's especially beautiful at night," says Guth.

2. Guth found the wall sculpture now displayed above his living room sofa in a cluttered New York City antique shop. The massive walnut coffee table was made by a local craftsman, and the modernist throw came from Textillery Weavers.

3. Guth stands next to a fine example of a Chinese scroll painting. "This was purchased several years ago in Beijing, when it was still possible to find great values for original art by accomplished artists," he says.



has collected pieces from all over the United States, Europe, and Asia. Guth's special fondness for Paris and Beijing is apparent from a number of striking French and Chinese decorative pieces in his home, and he has spent as much time in those places as possible.

"I always end up missing the U.S., though," he confesses. "There is a creative energy here that is unique. The traditions of France are wonderful, but this country tends to forget its past and embrace new ideas."

As far as embracing new ideas for his home goes, Guth demurs. "A little exterior maintenance is all it needs. It's complete."



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4. An eye-popping collection of orange mid-century ceramics fills a cabinet in the dining room. Guth found the Danish Modern dining set at an auction in Bloomington. The platform fireplace allows glowing embers to be enjoyed from three sides.

5. Found at a flea market in Massachusetts, a vintage painted wood mural has a Roaring '20s feel. One of Guth's prize orchids serves as a stunning corsage for the piece.



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6. The house's wood exterior renders it nearly invisible in its densely wooded lot. Guth enjoys being surrounded by nature and the privacy his home's setting provides.

7. Guth found this 1890's Art Nouveau "moon maiden" sculpture in Paris.





1. Cobalt blue bottles catch the light in the house's only bathroom.

2. Campbell, Spiaggia, and Belle, their 9-year-old border collie, relax in the living room. One of the last areas of the house to be restored, it features the original ash flooring and hand-carved Greek Revival woodwork. The antique religious statuary on the hearth originally belonged to Campbell's late parents.

3. The Edward Borland House is one of several surviving examples of Federal and Georgian homes built in Bloomington between 1820 and 1850.

4. The back of the house, which now functions as the main entrance, features an upstairs sleeping porch.

The house had served as the offices of the Furst Quarry company and had been empty for some time...



An Historic Hideaway

It isn't stretching the truth to say that the historic Edward Borland House (c. 1830) played matchmaker to Duncan Campbell and Cathy Spiaggia.

The couple met when Spiaggia went to look at a bungalow on Bloomington's west side that Campbell was selling in order to purchase the Borland house. Spiaggia admits that she was attracted to more than the bungalow. Although she ended up buying it, she moved in with Campbell shortly after—into the Borland house.

"The bungalow wasn't suitable for me at the time, since I still had two teenagers at home," says Spiaggia, a singer and education consultant. "But I bought it [then rented it out] and we used the money to finance this house."

That was 21 years ago. During those years, the couple meticulously restored virtually every inch of the 2,300-square-foot historic treasure. Campbell, who directs the historic preservation program at Ball State University, did much of the work himself. The couple married in the house in 1995. One of the few remaining unfinished areas of the house—the central hall—still bears the graffiti of good wishes scrawled by guests on their wedding day.

"We've seen the historically appropriate wallpaper we'd like, but it's going to cost about \$4,000," says



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Campbell. “So we’ve taken some time making our final choice.”

One of the oldest structures in Monroe County, the Federal style “I house” (two stories, central hall, one-room deep) was built by Edward Borland, who immigrated to Bloomington from Pennsylvania and became one of the town’s leading citizens. He is credited for building the first IU buildings at what is now Seminary Square, and his two brothers were among the university’s first trustees.

Once situated on a 2,000-acre working farm with orchards, the house has six fireplaces, much original cabinetry, carved Greek Revival woodwork, and rare cast-iron “export” locks made in England in the early 19th century on nearly every door. That Spiaggia and Campbell are just the house’s third owners undoubtedly contributes to the fact that so much original detail has remained.

“It was all here,” says Campbell. “The house had served as the offices of the Furst Quarry company and had been empty for some time when I first saw it. Fortunately, it was structurally sound. There were six layers of linoleum in some places and carpeting in others, but the floors are original.”

While the house’s interior is now essentially finished—with the exception of that elusive wallpaper—the outside is a constant issue. “With a structure this old, repairs and maintenance are ongoing. It needs to be tuckpointed, and that will be a huge, expensive job,” says Campbell.

However, the romance of their meeting through the Edward Borland House persists and seems more resilient over time, just as Spiaggia and Campbell turn from the subject of tuckpointing to point out the lush carpet of vintage bluebells blooming in their yard.

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5. Made in England in the early 19th century for export to the U.S., rare cast-iron locks are fully functional and on nearly every door in the house.

6. The kitchen cabinets and the island were built by Campbell, a skilled carpenter as well as an architectural preservationist. “In the winter, the wood stove gets a lot of use. We burn a couple of cords every year,” he says.

7. Of their decorating scheme, Spiaggia says, “We buy what we like—it’s a mish-mash.” The pleasingly serene mish-mash here in the couple’s bedroom includes closet

doors painted by Bloomington artist Jim Andrews, a Shaker-style bed found in Bedford, side tables from Shakertown, Kentucky, and a quilt acquired in North Carolina.

8. The charming dining room features original cabinetry. A work by Paoli folk artist Lois Doane hangs above the fireplace.

9. Tucked in the corner of the dining room, a discreet staircase leads to the second floor. A painting by Bloomington artist Rosemary Miller is displayed nearby.



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The Big Easy

Karen and Bill Hicks are empty nesters. But, at almost 5,000 square feet, their nest is spacious enough to accommodate a huge returning flock on holidays and special occasions.

Bloomington residents for 31 years, Bill and Karen raised 12 children in a sprawling five-bedroom house on Browncliff Road before moving to Hoosier Acres, where they lived for another ten years. Their decision to move to the new Rosewood at Hyde Park development was based on a desire to streamline and simplify their living space.

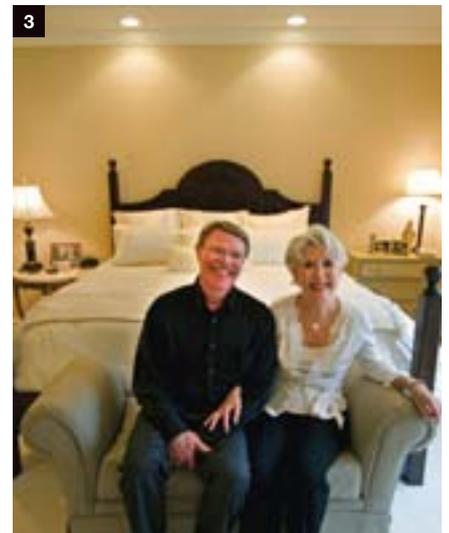
“We wanted to liberate ourselves from yard work,” says Karen. “This is perfect, because the view from our back deck makes us feel like we’re out in the country, but we’re just a stone’s throw from IU and College Mall. We couldn’t downsize in terms of space too much, because when some of the twelve children and eleven grandchildren come home, there needs to be room for everyone.”

The Hickses moved into their brand new condominium in July 2007. They credit builder Steve Newsom for making excellent choices of durable and aesthetically pleasing finishing materials, such as Kumaru floors of spiced chestnut, Amish-built cabinets by John Stoll, Jr., and granite countertops.

With the assistance of Epp Raun, the interior designer who had worked with Karen on their two previous Bloomington houses, the living space radiates an easy elegance and personal style. Both Karen and Bill are of Irish descent and have been to Ireland on numerous occasions, including an extended stay when Bill, who teaches at the IU law school, was a visiting scholar for a term at Trinity College in Dublin. Nearly every room of their home contains an original work by an Irish artist. Devout Catholics, they also collect unique pieces that reflect their faith, such as a wooden statue of St. Francis of Assisi, carved by a 90-year-old Franciscan nun in Wisconsin.

After spending most of their 41 years of marriage in more traditional subdivisions, the Hickses have been delighted to find a high level of neighborliness at Rosewood.

“Our neighbors love to gather and attend different functions together,” says Karen. “Rosewood has a real sense of community where people watch out for each other.”





Though their nest is empty, at about 5,000 square feet, it is spacious enough to accommodate a huge returning flock for the holidays...



1. Amish-built cabinets flank the fireplace, the mantle of which is also Amish-made. An abstract oil painting of sheep by Anna Kostenko hangs over the fireplace. A spacious outdoor deck off the living room overlooks a wooded area.

2. The maintenance-free lifestyle that the Rosewood at Hyde Park community offers was a major attraction for Bill and Karen Hicks. Their home backs up against a wooded area that provides a sense of country living while still in town.

3. The Hickses, shown here in their elegant master bedroom.

4. The hexagonal dining room radiates intimate elegance. The gold carved cabinet belonged to Karen's grandmother.

5. Bill's wine collection is housed in a custom-made cedar wine cellar where the temperature reads a constant 58°F.

A New England Charmer

“We used to walk this area, and we had an eye on this house,” says John Abshire. “One day, I told the owners, ‘If you ever want to sell, let us know.’”

Such is how dream houses sometimes become reality residences, as many Bloomingtonians can attest. A lot of great houses trade hands without going on the market.

After years of running a business in Hilton Head, South Carolina, John and his wife, Patty, decided to retire and spent two years touring the country in their motor home. Both native Hoosiers, they ultimately felt drawn back to Indiana. “Bloomington was always in the back of our minds,” says John, who received his business degree from IU in 1956.

Upon returning to Bloomington in 1989, the Abshires bought a house on High Street. While walking their dogs, they frequently ended up on South Jordan, where they spotted a charming brick ranch that oozed New England charm. In 1997, their friendly proposition to buy the house was accepted by its original owners David and Virginia Rogers, who now live in Naples, Florida.

At 2,700 square feet, the house is considerably larger than it appears from the street and features three bedrooms and two baths. It was constructed in 1964 by Tim and Henry Winger, a successful Bloomington father-son team.

The Rogers hired nationally renowned landscape architect Frits Loonsten to design the backyard terrace, which is casually elegant—a private, vernal paradise where the Abshires enjoy grilling, and entertaining friends.

“Loonsten was hired by Herman B Wells to make sure new landscaping at IU was in harmony with the campus’ woodland quality,” John explains. “The stone that Loonsten used for our terrace came from the Woolery Stone Quarry.”

On the Abshires’ watch, preserving and expanding on Loonsten’s original landscape design has been a major focus. In recent years, they have redesigned the front yard, adding a perennial garden and additional blooming trees for spring-time color.

Inside, the house is pretty much as it was when it was built. Aside from painting and basic maintenance, the Abshires have done little except for remodeling the master bath, which is painted a rich cinnabar color and features a sunken tub.

“The house was in perfect shape, which is a tribute to how well it was built and cared for. We haven’t had to do much,” says John. “We just live in it and enjoy it.”

And what might their reply be if someone strolling by should ask if they plan to sell?

“We see ourselves here forever,” says Patty.



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1. "The blueprints call it the 'keeping room.' The term dates back to colonial times when houses just had one big room and all activity was centered around a large fireplace," says Patty. With its massive fireplace and comfy furniture, the Abshires' keeping room is a favorite place to relax. The family portrait on the back wall was done by Trisha Weiser Wente, a local artist.



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2. The master bath was designed by Becky Gavin of Gavin Design, and Gilbert Construction did all the remodeling, which included moving the toilet and adding a shower. "I bought the wood cabinet in Bloomington—it was just the right size to fit in that space," says Patty.

3. John and Patty Abshire enjoy a spring day on their Frits Loonsten-designed terrace with their golden retriever, Peyton Manning.

4. The Abshires have traveled to Italy and France many times and love the French Country look. With each trip, their collection of blue and white porcelain pottery has grown.

5. The Abshires' home was designed by architect Alvah Judson Rogers, who moved to Brown County from California in the 1940s. Built in 1964, the house was completed near the end of the architect's career.