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Bloom's 3rd annual home special

# art lives here

A collection of homes where self-expression reigns.

1. English antiques accentuate this Sterling Woods home.
2. A Kongolese statue impaled with nails discourages bad spirits from roosting in this modern nest.
3. The cerulean ceiling of a turret bedroom is decorated with cherished ephemera.
4. One of five restored carousel horses that prances through this wondrous abode.

In every home, you expect to find a sense of the owner's personality. The owners of the Bloomington homes featured here take that concept to a new level. All have seized homeownership as an opportunity to let their creativity run free. For them, home is the quintessential blank canvas for self-expression and aesthetic gratification. Whether by imbedding an antique or found object into the house's structure or by using gallery-like space as a backdrop for exotic artwork, these homeowners share an uncompromising insistence on authenticity and beauty in their living spaces. You'll discover, as we did, that every square foot invites you to slow down, savor, and look....



1. The Chaiken-Martin home is a monument to creativity and ingenuity.

2. Laura Chaiken, Chris Martin, and daughter, Autum, stand in the woods surrounding the contemporary castle they built from the ground up.

**“I like round things. Modern homes tend to be linear and flat.”**

## A Castle in the Forest

It reveals itself one colorful piece at a time. Approaching through the dense woods, one is intrigued by the sudden appearance of a brightly painted turret—and that is just the beginning!

Artisans Laura Chaiken and Chris Martin started building the house in the summer of 1988, living in tents and campers as the project literally got off the ground.

“We moved in around Thanksgiving, but we had no plumbing,” Martin recalls.

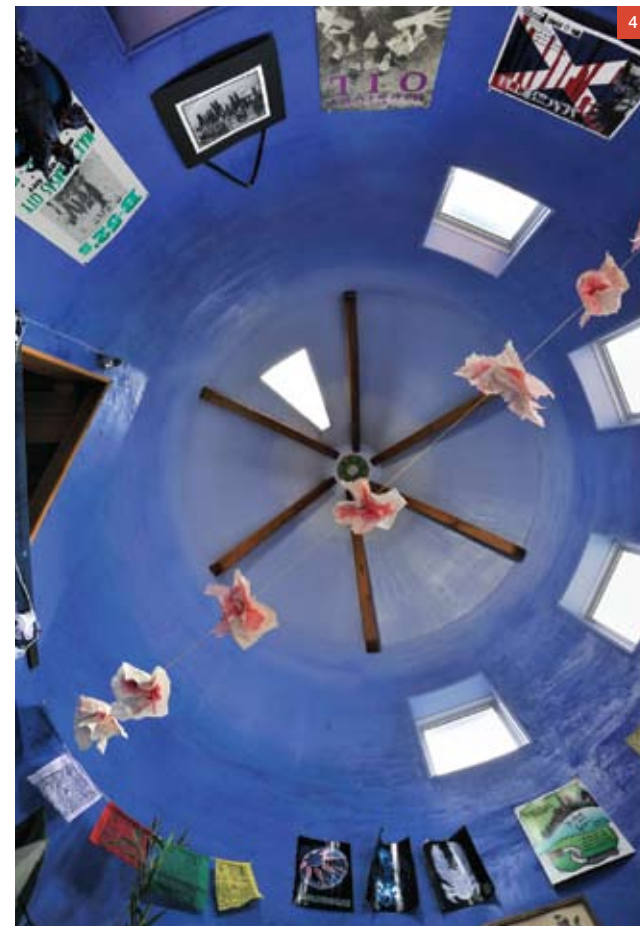
Twenty-one years later, their home stands as a monument to their creativity and ingenuity. Though the house is less than 2,500 square feet, it seems palatial because of the use of vertical space. The eclectic mix of room shapes—most notably round turrets—and building materials (found objects, salvaged wood, handcrafted tiles) offers the first-time visitor an amazing journey.

“I like round things. Modern homes tend to be linear and flat,” Martin says. “Building ‘round’ is rather difficult, but it’s a satisfying challenge. The



3. The master bedroom is one of the home’s four round rooms.

4. When daughter Autum looks up from her bed, located in a turret, this is what she sees.



5. Chaiken makes decorative light-switch plate covers in her basement studio for the family business, La Rua Enamels.

6. A serene sitting area is nestled in the curve of the chartreuse living room.



1. Cheerful vintage pottery riffs on the bold, bright colors that the family loves, such as the periwinkle kitchen countertop.
2. The 1930s Magic Chef stove is a charming focal point in the kitchen. Martin fashioned its copper hood.
3. Martin built the Rumford-style fireplace from an 18th-century design and laid all of the tile. The painting above the fireplace was done by Laura's father, Dr. Israel Chaiken, a Chicago dentist. The Indian busts were a TJ Maxx find.
4. The vibrant turquoise walls and aquarium (seen reflected in the mirror above the sink) give the downstairs bathroom an aquatic feel. The room also features an antique bathtub and tile work done by Martin.



advantage of building slowly, as we have, is that it provides the opportunity to consider choices carefully and add features that wouldn't be possible if the builder is on a tight timetable."

The house's foyer is indicative of the kind of aesthetic treasures and delights to be found within. An ornate Gilded Age iron grate set in the floor is not just decorative, it conceals the cistern—the system that catches rainwater, which is the family's water source.

Above, a salvaged Gothic-style window allows daylight to pour into the entrance and kitchen area. Periwinkle countertops and tangerine walls pop against the burnished cherry cabinets made by Martin. An arresting 1930s Magic Chef stove—with a "virtually uncontrollable oven"—features a copper hood also fashioned by Martin.

The rooms on the first floor present a cornucopia of creative construction and whimsical inclusion—from the aquarium in the turquoise bathroom, to the mixture of tiles that adorn the fireplace, to the sputnik light fixture in the turret. Chaiken made most of the house's switch plates in her basement studio, where she runs the family business La Rua Enamels, specializing in these colorful, imaginative adornments which sell at arts show around the country.

Wending up the staircase to the second floor is an adventure, and the arrival does not disappoint. Standout features include the conical ceiling in the master bedroom that Martin has plastered to resemble nautilus shells and a second turret that serves as their daughter's bedroom.

Autum, a junior at Bloomington High School North, enjoys a suite of rooms where she can relax and study. Her circular sleeping quarters resemble an enchanted, fairy-tale tower. Sharing her parents' penchant for embellishment and personal expression, Autum has bedecked her personal space with mementos and playbills from theater productions she has seen or ones in which she has appeared.

"One of the best memories I have is my bat mitzvah celebration when we had 105 people here at the house," says Autum. "My friends say that it looks like a castle and that I'm lucky to live here."



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## A Collector's Dream

"I wanted space and he needed walls."

That's how Tine Lindemann describes the spacious, contemporary home her architect father designed for her and husband George Malacinski in the Pointe Cove neighborhood.

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's design principles, the 3,000-square-foot airy, open-floor plan satisfies Lindemann's love of wide-open spaces and Malacinski's need for places to display his collections of restored carousel horses, handcrafted furniture, and Middle-Eastern textiles. Additionally, in a nod to Wright, the house embraces the beauty of its wooded setting, which comprises nearly an acre.

"Before we broke ground, my father-in-law considered the prevailing breezes this lot gets, and he designed the house so that the breezes go right through it," says Malacinski.

The couple were newlyweds when they purchased the land in 1999, and both draw a blank when asked when the house was completed. They agree that it was sometime in 2001.

"It's a big blur. We never imagined it would take so long," Malacinski muses.

Today, with specific obstacles long forgotten, he and Tine couldn't be more thrilled with the fruits of their planning and patience.

The house's broad foyer, which is flanked by two symmetrical wings, serves as a stable to two antique carousel horses painstakingly restored by Malacinski, who has restored five horses in all. His most recent "rescue" is a chestnut beauty named Hugo, which was purchased at an auction in Connecticut.

1. The Lindemann-Malacinski home is based on Frank Lloyd Wright design principles and surrounded by an extensive rock/shrub garden.

2. Tine Lindemann and George Malacinski stand in front of the "welcome" credenza, which was built by Malacinski, as was the intricate clock. The spooled tapestry is from Turkmenistan. The antique wooden Donald Duck was a local find.

3. The dining room's clean lines and blonde furnishings set off the brilliant colors of the hand-painted Finnish stoneware and Middle-Eastern tapestries.

4. Malacinski has found and restored five antique carousel horses. He has painted them and his handmade signage in colors that complement his extensive collection of Middle-Eastern tapestries.



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The house's broad foyer... serves as a stable to two antique carousel horses painstakingly restored...



1. The guest bedroom features a canopied bed built by Malacinski in his garage workshop.



2. Built of recycled wood, the tall, painted jewelry chest was a wedding gift to Tine from George. Its side doors were specially designed to hold her necklace collection.



3. “I enter a different world when I come up here,” says Malacinski of his second-level study. Cloistered and quiet, the room resembles the interior of a nomad’s tent, bedecked with tapestries and rugs from Central Asia.

4. The wool pom-pom slippers were purchased by Malacinski while biking in Greece. Overnight guests get to select a pair to wear during their stay.



“Hugo was really dilapidated when I found him,” says Malacinski, as he points at photos documenting the horse’s restoration. “I estimate that he, like the other horses, is from the early 1900s.”

A semi-retired IU biologist, Malacinski says that his love of woodworking started when he was a boy watching his father, who was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. He especially delights in building furniture—from the canopied beds that grace the bedrooms, to massive credenzas and chests, to whimsical clocks and signs. Most are decorated with intricately carved carousels.

“It takes forever, but if it was easy, I wouldn’t do it,” he says. “I start with a vision and pursue it.”

Perfectly complementing the color palette of the carousel horses and Malacinski’s handmade objects is his vast collection of Middle-Eastern textiles and artifacts. This is no accident.

“The Middle-Eastern collection came first. I transferred the repetitive designs, such as those found in the rug and tapestry borders, to the wood pieces I’ve made. Also the textiles completely inspired my color choices in the wood pieces I’ve made. I love these colors,” says Malacinski, referring to the rich green, burgundy, navy blue, and cream hues.

The overall effect is one of aesthetic harmony. And, although every room is filled with collected and handmade treasures, the house retains what Tine wanted in the first place: a sense of space.



## The House that Kim Built

It started with a 200-year-old chair. Then Kim Turner’s imagination took over.

“Before I even chose a house plan, I planned the look and feel of our entire home around this one chair,” Turner says of the winsome antique she found in London. “It is a William IV library chair, and I connected with it the moment I saw it. I love the lines of it—not too feminine, just masculine enough.”

Turner’s description of the chair’s appeal is evident everywhere in her home’s design and décor. While many beautiful, unique objects can be found in each room, the house has an underlying strength that is evoked by the solidity of its building materials—hardwood, brick, and Italian slate, to name a few. Most first-floor rooms have antique doors found in England, evoking a sense of history rarely found in new construction.

“I prefer to reuse things that have existed for a long time, or new products that have the quality and class to last generations,” says Turner, owner of Kim Turner Interior Design. “I like to keep it real—I am not a fan of faux.”

Turner got her start in design while working for Sunrise Publications, Inc., where she had the opportunity to work with artists from around the country. Now in her tenth year as an independent interior designer, she has project-managed numerous residential and commercial projects in Bloomington. She finds it especially rewarding to be with a project from start to finish—from groundbreaking until the last window treatment is perfect.

In September 2001, Turner took on the role of general contractor for her family’s new home



1. The Turner home in Sterling Woods.

2. Designer-decorator Kim Turner was the general contractor for the family home built in 2003. She oversaw every facet of its construction.



3. Earthy materials and colors dominate the living room. The fireplace surround is Italian marble; the walls are covered with tobacco-brown grass cloth. Turner’s eldest son, Keaton, found the antlers in the woods near their home.

4. Framed pressed-leaf clippings and foreign currency from family vacations hang above the living-room couch, occupied here by Hank, the Turners’ Labrador retriever. Gallery trim rail on the first floor allow for artwork to be hung from chains.

5. The 200-year-old chair that inspired the design of the entire house sits next to the fireplace in Turner’s study. The antique fireplace mantel and a map of the riding country of York, England, were purchased in London.

and oversaw every detail of its construction—from installation of the sewer pump to the positioning of an antique fireplace mantle in her study. Of paramount importance were the quality of light and the utilization of space that frequently is overlooked. To maximize both, she altered the original plan designed by Stephen Schultz, founder of Southern Comfort Homes, to include more windows and add a sitting area near the kitchen. There are also ingenious touches such as filing cabinets tucked into dead space under a staircase and a narrow spice cabinet beside the refrigerator.

“My first meeting with the draftsman was on September 11, 2001,” she recalls. “I suppose I could have thought this was inauspicious, but I have faith in our country, and I’m not a superstitious person.”

Eighteen months later, the Turners moved into the French chateau-inspired house in Sterling Woods. At nearly 7,000 square feet, the house has plenty of space to accommodate the busy, close-knit family—Kim, her husband Scott, and children Keaton (20), Madison (18), and Spencer (16).

The Turner home appears complete as it is, but Turner has a vision for the future.

“I have a dream of one day glassing in the back patio to create a greenhouse that is additional living space. I love to grow things and I have always wanted a greenhouse.”

1. The Turners spend much of their time in the spacious kitchen-family room area. Kim utilized every inch of space for functionality. Linear spice cabinets flank the refrigerator, which also features chalkboard panels. “I love to write on the chalkboard—whether it is a birthday wish to my kids or a shopping list,” she says.



“I like to keep it real—I am not a fan of faux.”



2. “Our daughter, Madison, is the biggest Carrie Underwood fan ever!” says Turner. Madison’s cheerful spring-green bedroom is bedecked with mementos of her favorite singer—including a photo of her with Underwood and



a guitar signed by the singer, both of which hang above her bed.

3. Turner purchased the Chinese lamps from a Los Angeles artist who is a favorite among Hollywood celebrities. An antique inkwell from Turner’s collection serves as a vase for flowers.

4. A vintage serving tray serves as a backdrop for a delicate calla lily arrangement in one of Turner’s antique ink wells. The flowers were daughter Madison’s senior prom corsage.

5. A feast for the eyes on the dining room table: flower arranging is one of Kim Turner’s hobbies, but she says she can’t take credit for the cake.



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## A standout on a block of traditional ranches...



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## A Metal Postmodern Cottage

Marissa Moorman was in Chicago getting ready to board a plane to Portugal when friends called and said, “Buy it.”

Moorman knew what they were talking about, and she knew they were right. She currently lived in the neighborhood adjacent to Grandview Hills and had walked by the house many times.

“I wasn’t really planning to move, but the home-improvement project in my current house was, let’s say, stalled,” Moorman explains. “I was at the airport about to depart and searched homefinder.com on a lark—and there it was. I asked friends who lived nearby to check it out, and they got right back to me and said that I had to make an offer.”

A standout on a block of traditional ranches, the house is a metal postmodern cottage-cum Zen temple-cum-Soho loft. Designed by Marc Cornett, then of Kirkwood Design, and built in 2002, it had one previous owner when Moorman bought it in 2005. The three-bedroom, two-bath structure seems much bigger than its 2,200 square feet, largely due to the 25-foot ceiling and open floor plan. A wall of windows runs along the south side of the house and overlooks a large deck and inviting yard.

“I love the openness,” Moorman says. “Yet, because the windows on the north side are small and high, there is also a great sense of privacy.”

With its exposed ductwork, poured concrete floor, and stainless-steel accents, the house has a decidedly industrial aesthetic and sense of urban chic. Blond wood and minimalist furnishings create an aura of Zen-like serenity. Moorman, who teaches African history at IU, has given it a multicultural vibe with her careful placement of African artifacts and textiles.

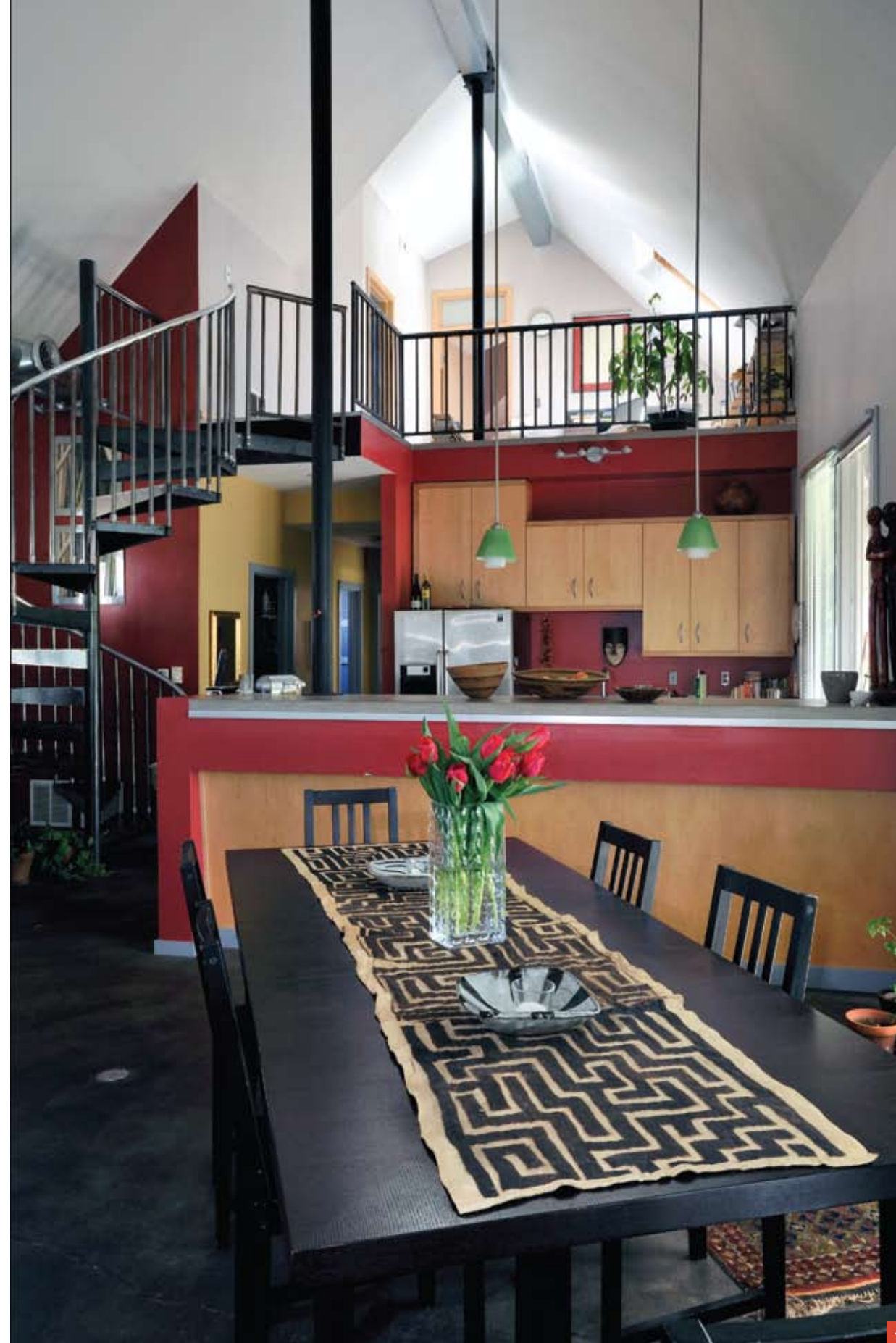
The master bedroom, a bathroom, and office are on the loft level of the house, which is reached by a steel spiral staircase. A skylight directly above Moorman’s workspace provides natural light year-round.

“I love it up here. It’s like being in a tree house,” she says.

That the house is passively solar adds to its appeal. “We rarely have to use the AC in the summer,” says Moorman, who shares the house with her daughter, Zola, 5, and cat, Miso.

Moorman halfheartedly laments the house’s lack of storage space—there are few closets and no basement. But that seems like a minor inconvenience when compared with the house’s overall coolness and feng shui.

“What’s not to like?” she asks. ✧



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4. Moorman’s collection of African artifacts, such as the table runner from Congo and the Angolan monkey mask over the sink, make bold textural statements against the home’s stark angular design. The upper-level loft is reached via a steel spiral staircase.

5. A carved Kongolese statue impaled with nails is said to drive away bad spirits.



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