

# Homes & Real Estate

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2005

Section F: Sikorski's Attic 2F ♦ Real Estate Classifieds

The Gainesville Sun

## HomeWork



Jacuzzi

High-end spas such as this Jacuzzi Morpheis are gaining with home owners who want a total relaxation experience involving water, light and sound.

### So nice to come home to

Style-oriented Europeans have transformed a distinctly American invention into a work of relaxation art.

Bath and spa-maker Jacuzzi has teamed with Ferrari designer Pininfarina to create whirlpool baths that are expected to make a splash among high-end tubs once it reaches the U.S. market in March.

The new appliance, dubbed Morpheis, elevates the premium whirlpool experience beyond the notion of warm water swirling in a tub. Well-placed jets of water heated to a constant temperature to gently pummel aches and pains into submission. Each model of this high-tech tub uses multicolor fiber optic lights in the jets and LED lights in the arch to merge water and light into a soothing experience.

The sleek acrylic design is featured in white with chrome fixtures. There are three models available in oval shapes or to fit in corners. Retail prices are expected to be in the \$19,000 to \$22,000 range. For more information, visit [www.jacuzzi.com](http://www.jacuzzi.com).

The Associated Press

### Safe chimney, happy house

The fire may be delightful, but remember that it can be dangerous. This winter, keep your fireplace and chimney properly maintained and cleaned to prevent hazards. National home improvement expert Lou Manfredini offers these tips on keeping a safe fireplace:

- **Have your chimney and fireplace inspected and cleaned by a professional each year.** Visit [www.csa.org](http://www.csa.org) to find a certified chimney sweep.
- **Install a chimney cap** to keep birds, other animals and debris from entering your chimney.
- **Before lighting a fire**, be certain that the flue is open.
- **Repair or replace the flue** if you feel cool air seeping in through the chimney.

### 'Getting organized' expert will speak in Gainesville

Special to The Sun

Deniece Schofield, a nationally known author and expert on home and time management, will conduct two seminars titled "How to Get Organized" in Gainesville on Thursday.

In both sessions, Schofield says she'll offer to those in attendance:

- **Hundreds of no-nag ways** to keep your home neat, your kids happy and you and your spouse calm — all at the same time.



Schofield

- **How to eliminate** all scraps of floating paper.
  - **How to calendar** and schedule your time.
  - **Household hints** for more efficient use of your space and time.
- Schofield and her husband, parents to five children, make their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but Deniece has appeared throughout the United States and Canada, conducting seminars and lectures or appearing on TV and radio. She's the author of four books on saving time and space, "Confessions of an Organized Homemaker," "Confessions of a Happily Organized Family," "Kitchen Organization Tips and Secrets" and "Springing the Time Trap."

SEMINAR on Page 2F

### Get organized: A seminar

- **What:** Two-hour seminar by Deniece Schofield, home management expert
- **When:** 10 a.m. to noon and 7-9 p.m., Thursday
- **Where:** Quality Inn, I-75 and Williston Road.
- **Admission:** \$25 a person; no reservation required. Call (800) 835-8463



Photos by BRYAN TUDEEN/Special to The Sun

Donna Cohen designed this study in the Designer Showcase House as well as the music room and dining room. "I wanted it to be a very European, chateau-style house. I wanted it to be casually elegant, pretty but functional," says Cohen, who coordinated the nine decorators.

# DESIGNER showcase

Local designers create a French Chateau-style home that's 'casually elegant but functional'

### Want to take the tour?

■ **What:** The 2005 Designer Showcase House, featuring a 6,500-square-foot home, decorated in a "elegant but functional" French-Chateau style. The home is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday and will be the venue for several events, including an Evening of Jazz next Friday and the "Invest In Youth Kick-off" for the YMCA is set for Wednesday, Feb. 2. Luncheons featuring fashion shows and other special programs will run Tuesday through Thursday for four weeks. The Designer Showcase home is available for rental on a limited basis. All proceeds benefit Peaceful Paths, North Central Florida's domestic abuse shelter, and the North Central Florida YMCA.

■ **When:** Now through Feb 13  
 ■ **Where:** The Charleston Community, a subdivision located west of Gainesville, on County Road 241, just north of NW 39th Avenue

■ **Tickets:** For the general home tour, tickets are \$10. Seating for all luncheons and special events will be by advance purchase and reservation only, \$25 per person.

■ **For more information:** Go online to [www.gainesville.designershowcase.com](http://www.gainesville.designershowcase.com). For special-event and luncheon reservations, call 372-3663.

By PAULETTE PERHACH  
 Special to The Sun

It's 6 o'clock, and people are starting to arrive at the party where everything is for sale — even the house.

This is opening night at the Designer Showcase House, a fund-raiser for Peaceful Paths and the North Central Florida YMCA. The volunteer designers can mostly be found in their rooms as the party starts, straightening light shades and adjusting accessories. It's almost perfect, but still a work in progress. Even behind the shower curtains, there are no heads on the faucets. It's been a mad dash to get it all right for opening night.

"Everyone's frazzled, but it's a good frazzled. It's fun," says designer Jodi Rascati.



The 6,500-square-foot Showcase House is located in the Charleston Community subdivision in NW Gainesville.

Just two days ago the house didn't even have carpet. The guests arriving to see the beautifully-put-together home have no idea that earlier that day, decorators, committee members, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, landscapers and painters were all there in a race to complete the home. The cleaning crew had to tidy around them.

"Last week was the wildest ride of my life trying to get this

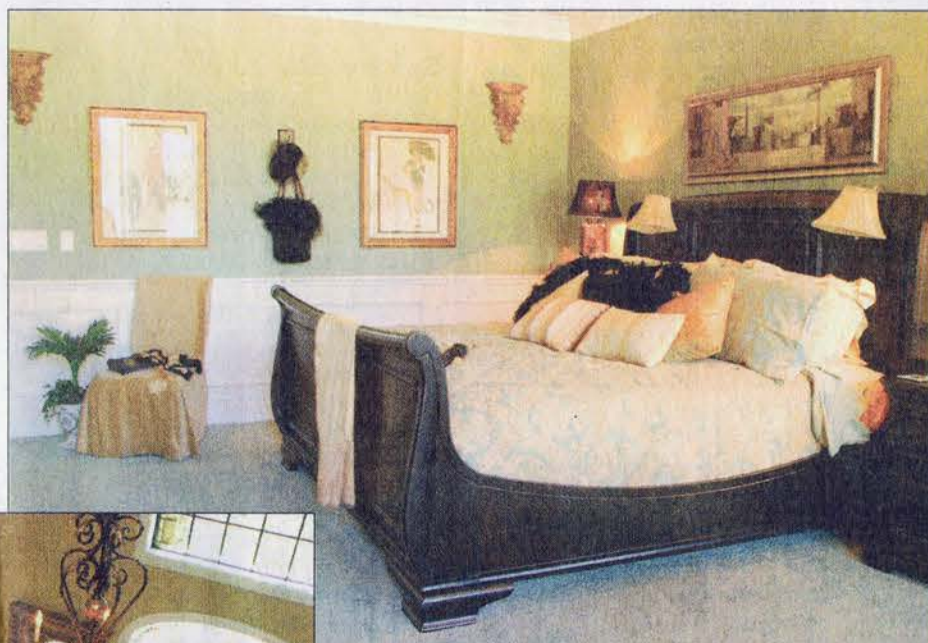
house together. This morning I walked in and there was a bath tub in the middle of the bathroom floor," says Project Chair Susan Parrish. "It's very common to have things being done at the 11th hour. The builder did a phenomenal job. That's just the way it goes."

Parrish has worked all day with the rest of the crew, broom in hand. At 5:30, painters are still touching up.

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SUZANNE PALMA/The Gainesville Sun



The large master retreat includes its own sitting room with built-in bookcases and a spacious bathroom.



A grand sweeping staircase flows off the entryway.

Every room in the house is filled with accessories and furniture that are all available for purchase.





## SHOWCASE: 'Casually elegant, pretty but functional'

Continued from 1F

But 6 o'clock is show time. Time is up for the designers. Now all they can do is enjoy the wine and food.

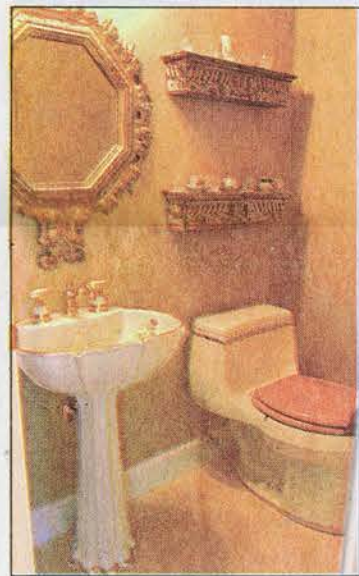
"People really pulled together and worked so beautifully together on this project," says Parrish. "Even among the workers, everyone wanted to do this for the charities involved."

Their work is rewarded with comments from the guests — oohs and aahs, "It's beautiful," "How elegant," "I want my house like this." For those who like what they see, anything is up for sale. Many items still have price tags on them.

The 6,500-square-foot house offers a floor plan with grand sweeping staircase and European design specifically developed for the Charleston community, a new large-lot residential area west of Gainesville, just north of NW 39th Avenue, off County Road 241. It stands as one of the few houses completed in the subdivision so far.

In the Showcase home, the comfortable family area with an island kitchen lends itself to relaxation and entertaining. From the family room, you can see much of the secluded five-acre estate, which could be end up being occupied by anything from a pool and patio to a horse farm. In the music room, elegant marble floors and a grand piano make the perfect space for after-dinner drinks or dancing.

The gourmet-style kitchen



Gold-toned accents, warm colors and elegant fixtures continue the European chateau-style theme into this bathroom.



The second floor is the perfect retreat for a large family or multiple guests, with its own computer room, left. Brian Scarborough is seated at the desk.



This bedroom features a light-filled niche fitted with a writing desk.



In the music room, elegant marble floors and a grand piano make the perfect space for after-dinner drinks or dancing. Helping to coordinate the Designer Showcase House were, from left, Brian Scarborough, Susan Parrish and Donna Cohen.

Photos by BRYAN TUDEEN/Special to The Sun

includes a butler's pantry and all Thermador appliances, including a wine cooler. The large master retreat includes its own sitting room with built-in bookcases and a spacious bathroom with a closet large enough to house its own boutique.

The second floor is the perfect retreat for a large family or multiple guests, with its own computer and media room.

Every room in the house is filled with accessories and furniture that are all available for purchase. In addition, one of the bedrooms was turned into a boutique with donated items for sale, including shoes, purses and jewelry.

The home will be open for an entire month, with home tours, luncheons, and special events running until Feb. 13. All the proceeds from the tours and from the boutique will go to benefit Peaceful Paths and the North Central Florida YMCA.

Donna Cohen, an interior designer who works with Peter Dautel, the home's builder, came up with the idea to use the house as a showcase. As a board member of both Peaceful Paths and YMCA, she knew exactly which charities to go to. Since it was such a big project, it was perfect for the two charities to split the responsibility and the proceeds.

As the designers chair, Cohen also coordinated nine decorators, assigning each one their own room to decorate, in keeping with the general theme of the house.

"I wanted it to be a very European, chateau-style house. I wanted it to be casually



The comfortable family area with an island kitchen lends itself to relaxation and entertaining.

elegant, pretty but functional," says Cohen.

When Cohen went to Dautel with the idea, he thought it was perfect.

"It's got so many different lines and different rooms, so many different areas to create themes in," Dautel says. "The decorators had a field day with the different textures and trim we used."

Cohen then sent out letters and made calls to designers she hoped might participate. The decorators volunteered their time, resources and expertise to create a beautiful place for the public to tour.

"It's really a chance for them

to show what they can do," Parrish says of the decorators. "And it's for a very worthy cause."

Peaceful Paths is the domestic abuse network that serves Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties.

"We pride ourselves in being a social change organization," says Theresa Harrison, executive director of Peaceful Paths. "We provide safety, shelter, and outreach to the victims of domestic violence. We also want to spread the message

## THE SHOWCASE HOUSE DESIGNERS

**■ DONNA COHEN** has been practicing interior design in Florida since 1983. She has been doing both residential and commercial design in Gainesville since then, renovating several departments at Shands at the University of Florida and doing model homes for builders in Gainesville as well as remodeling residential interiors, which is a particular favorite of hers. Cohen says her goal is to provide the client with a warm, functional, yet elegant environment that a client will feel at home putting their feet up or possibly hosting a formal party.

The music room, dining room and study were decorated by Donna Cohen, with the furniture being lent by Shannon Interiors. The model house next door to the Showhouse (also open for tours) was totally designed and decorated by Donna Cohen.

**■ AIMEE FLURIACH** is licensed by the Florida State Board of Architecture and Interior Design and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Florida State University. She has been designing projects in the Gainesville area for 15 years. At present, she specializes in new construction specifications and selections for residential homes and commercial projects. Her most recently completed commercial project is the Millennium Bank Building located in the Town Center at Town of Tioga.

"I thoroughly enjoy working on a building project from concept to completion, which is exciting and challenging. I try to pass that enthusiasm on to my clients, hoping to make the construction process productive and gratifying."

She would like to thank Town of Tioga and Dibros Construction for the model furniture displayed in the breakfast room of the Designer Showcase House.

**■ CAROL SMITH** decorates more for fun than profession. As the manager of Morrell's Complete Home Decorating Center, she knows the importance of customer satisfaction.

"I try to work with the customer and see what their style is to get them the best pieces for their home," she says.

In the past, she has decorated the homes of her clients, but finds now that she just doesn't have the time. She did, however, recently finish decorating her daughter's home in California. For the Showcase House, she decorated the family room with furnishings from her store.

**■ ELIZABETH LABBE** graduated from the University of Florida in 1991, worked with GRU right after graduating on their new administration building downtown, and then took some time off to raise a family. She went back to design work once her children were in school. She mainly does residential work, but has done some retail, commercial and hospitality. She runs a one-woman design office out of her home.

**■ ROBYN DENNY MACKAY** is an interior designer licensed by the Florida State Board of Architecture and Interior Design. She is a professional member of both IIDA (International Interior Design Association) and ASID (American Society of Interior Designers). She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Florida Atlantic University and a Bachelor of Design degree from the University of Florida.

She has been practicing both commercial and residential design since 1987, beginning her design career in Orlando where she specialized in commercial design for such clients as Disney, Sea World and the Orlando Magic. She relocated to Gainesville in 1998 where

## TIPS FROM THE DESIGNERS

**■ Donna Cohen** (head designer): Sometimes it is better to call a decorator for an hour and spend from \$100-\$150 than to go and buy that "fabulous armchair/sofa/entertainment center, etc." on sale that goes nowhere or is too big or the wrong color when you get it in your house. A professional can often save you money and you will be a lot happier.

**■ Elizabeth Labbe** (guest bathroom): I think that the bathroom is the easiest room to go bold in, because it's smaller than other rooms. So if you want to experiment with boldness, do it in the bathroom.

**■ Harriet Jones** (master bed and bath): Use whatever color soothes you in your bedroom and try to make it into some kind of theme.

**■ Jodi Rascati** (teenage girl's room): Make the furniture fun but sophisticated. Remember there's no rules anymore; just have fun.

**■ Robyn Denny MacKay** (office nook): Make sure you provide adequate storage and support for all your equipment. That should be your first consideration, then plan the office space around that.

**■ Aimee Fluriach** (kitchen and breakfast room): A picture is worth a thousand words. Collect photos of interiors you like to help express your ideas to others and keep photos and samples of your selections. Review them often to remind you of your design goals.

**■ Carol Smith** (family room): Comfort is the most important thing to think of in the family room. In other rooms, you can go for just looks, but the family room is where you want to have style and comfort.

**■ Cathy Shannon** (teenage girl's bathroom): As in the Designer Showcase home, when there is a connecting bathroom, it should extend the theme of the bedroom into the space making the guest feel that they have their own special retreat.

that domestic violence is a crime."

Tim Blenco, regional director of the North Central Florida YMCA, says he thinks the two charities are a natural to work together.

"If we can really get kids to understand and embody the YMCA principles — honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility — then that goes a long way in prevention of domestic abuse," he says.

she continued working in the commercial field. In 2000, she expanded her design services to include residential interiors.

**■ JODI RASCATI** started in the decorator business 14 years ago. She first worked at "Glen Addie Collection" assisting with the decorating for personal clients. Then after returning to school, she began working at Shannon Interiors, assisting with decorating and running the showroom, assisting with numerous duties pertaining to decorating client's homes and parade houses, while also developing a rapport with many old and newcomers of Gainesville and the surrounding area.

**■ CATHY SHANNON** became involved in interior design when she and her husband started Shannon Homes more than 20 years ago. Cathy's husband, Mike, indicated their success is due mainly from Cathy's design of the plans with concentration on simple lines, use of space, architectural elements used and the assistance with the selection of final components such as wallpaper, paint, flooring and lighting.

Cathy's plans for the future include a larger store, expanding to a 35,000-square-foot facility. These plans are now under way with the grand opening of "Outrageous Bargains" slated for the summer of 2005.

**■ HARRIET JONES** graduated from the University of Florida with a teaching degree in 1975. She started decorating in the eighties while working with her husband as a builder and developer. She began working at Carpet One and bought the business in 1996. She has decorated banks, model homes, residences and several locations at the University of Florida. She works with a full staff of decorators at Carpet One.