

WEDNESDAY

GuideDaily

INSIDE

CLASSICAL MUSIC: Richardson Symphony opens season 3E

MOVIE REVIEW: Zellweger plays a caseworker in *Case 39* 4E

GREEN LIFE: Company makes eco-friendly design easy 5E

SHOPPING: Christmas Tree Shops is a store for all seasons 8E

High style

This Turtle Creek high-rise gives a lofty setting for the owners' collections, including art and wine

HOME



Photos by COURTNEY PERRY/ Staff Photographer

The circular pattern in the entryway door is made from the bottoms of wine bottles.

By BARBARA RODRIGUEZ
Special Contributor

Everything is looking up for the Turtle Creek Association's 10th Annual Home Tour — literally. Among the six high-rises on this year's tour is a stunning aerie at the Mayfair that boasts a wine “cellar” several floors above ground.

The Mayfair home, designed and built-out nine years ago as the building was rising, is unique for many reasons, beginning with the double entry doors hung with ancient brass hinges and inset with glass panels made from wine-bottle bottoms.

See **TOUR** Page 6E

The wine “cellar” holds 12,000 bottles. The walls are made of stone, which helps maintain the temperature at 65 degrees.

Tour features lofty Turtle Creek setting

Continued from Page 1E

The home will be on full display during the Oct. 10 tour, with a fleet of docents throwing open cabinets and closets. This full disclosure comes with the blessing of the owners (who prefer to remain anonymous), whose spirited love of fine art, flea markets, family history and entertaining has inspired a home that is at once awesome and inviting.

Working closely with architect Cole Smith, custom cabinet builder James Hejny of Ennis and Dallas decorator Bev Heil, the owners of the Mayfair home purchased the shells of two units to create a 4,800-square-foot showcase filled with travertine marble, Bordeaux-patterned parquet floors and authentic eight-layer Venetian plaster walls, coved ceilings and columns. Where unpolished, the plaster has a sort of matte glow (enhanced by Thomas Grant chandeliers); the polished plaster above the entry's carved Italian wood chandelier has the high gloss of marble.

A collection of large canvas works by South American and European painters pulls visitors along the gentle curve of a hallway. Viewers may linger in the living room over the Van Gogh-like art of Amanda Dunbar in impressive 18th-century gilded wood frames, 17th-century Louis XIV tapestry pillows and early 20th-century French Empire furnishings.

Just as one thinks to return to the hall for another look at Lorenzo Jaramillo's mesmerizing archange painting, the enchantment of family collections in the library — leather-bound books, a bejeweled fez and pre-Columbian artifacts — distracts the visitor again.

Steps inside the front door, a 1987 painting by Santiago Cardenas captures in a single white line the full figure of a woman on a rich red canvas. In the living room, a Napoleon III Rococo style mirror makes its own high-rise statement between windows with a southern view of downtown. Alberto Bertoldi's painting of clouds opens up an interior wall of the family room with a breathtaking view of Italian sky. A river of silver collected from around the world — Russian samovars, French chalices, Peruvian coco-leaf urns, Israeli candlesticks — flashes alongside the formal dining table.

The home's color palette of platinum, matte gold, patinated copper, faded blues and russets is the backdrop for lived-in rooms that, while filled with the priceless, are never precious.



Soft colors and a variety of finishes give the rooms an aura of comfort.

Photos by COURTNEY PERRY/Staff Photographer



The view overlooking downtown.

Architectural antiques beckon, too. Often, they're as useful as they are decorative. An 18th-century gilded wood altar has been converted to a guest bed headboard. Another is a bathroom hutch.

Two cherubic-faced girls carved into pillars purchased in Colombia have become the twin anchors of a bedroom wall unit.

Custom cabinetry is a signature of the homeowners' devotion to form and function. The refrigerator hides behind an elaborate walnut armoire

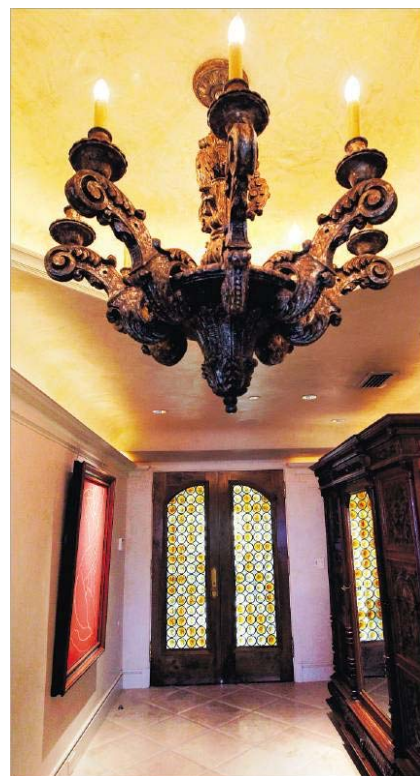
Homes in the sky

The 10th annual Turtle Creek Association Home Tour is the primary fundraiser for TCA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing Turtle Creek's 87 acres of greenways, parkland and the surrounding corridor.

The tour is Oct. 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$60 for nonmembers, \$40 for members, and may be purchased through the Turtle Creek Association website, www.turtlecreek.org, or by calling 214-526-2800.

The six featured residences are in the Claridge, 21 Turtle Creek, the Mayfair, the Centrum, the Vendome and La Tour. Parking will be available in the 200 Crescent Court Parking Garage.

A limited number of \$100 tickets are offered for an intimate buffet dinner after the tour at the Tower Residences at the Ritz-Carlton.



The entryway's double doors and artwork hint at the owners' collections on display throughout the house.

Where's the wine cellar in a high-rise?



Photos by COURTNEY PERRY/Staff Photographer

Custom cabinets and an eclectic mix of family treasures give the library a clubby feel.

Continued from Page 6E
façade. Machines and utensils that would interrupt the chef's workflow are garaged. Obviously the cook in this kitchen knows the way around eight gas burners and understands the need for a second water source adjacent to the stove.

The kitchen may be designed for cooking, but it's also for the birds. Three papier-mâché hens sit watch, each plump body swaddled in a different international newspaper.

Built-in systems for organization and storage are the behind-the-scenes

highlights, including an entire room of floor-to-ceiling storage for dishes, glassware and silver. A carved screen in the family room hides a pull-out rack hung with table linen. As for the his-and-hers dressing rooms, his is humble only by comparison to hers, which features a packing island built for the owner's petite height.

At this point, a visitor wowed to exhaustion heads to the second-floor wine cellar, with its brisk slap of 65-degree air. The 19th-century Parisian doors open into an oenophile's fantasy world, a 1,100-square-foot Austin-stone lair.

Entry here alone is worth the price of tour admission. You may be able to imagine the fitted-stone walls, the candles in the 19th-century French bronze chandelier, the distressed wood table lavishly set for 10, maybe even the baptismal font that serves as a sink in the powder room. But if you think you can imagine what 12,000 bottles of shelved wine look like, think again.

Tucked into James Hejny's walnut racks, the bottles wrap the room, climb to the ceiling, arch above lanky library ladders, and maybe on into heaven. Given time enough, you

might one day be able to count them all, but you'd never be able to calculate their weight.

Temperature aside, weight is another reason wine is usually stored below ground. Had the Mayfair been fully constructed at the time of purchase, there would have been no way to make this portion of the owners' dream come true. Perfect timing, a board vote and reinforced beams equal a lot to cheer about when you're looking to assemble a stash weighing 80 tons. Salud!

Barbara Rodriguez is a Fort Worth freelance writer.



The dining room table seats 10 comfortably.



This elaborate walnut panel conceals the refrigerator.